

The Connection

Country Club UMC

May 2017

Growing in Grace Together with God and with One Another!

PASSING THE BATON

Pastor Jenn has received a new pastoral appointment to serve Hamilton United Methodist Church, Hamilton, MO. Our time together is ending and we want to thank Pastor Jenn and her husband, Rusty, for sharing their passion for God. We've shared much together during Pastor Jenn's service here and we wish her the best in her next church. We are also excited for our church and for all that God has in store for us in the next phase of ministry.

Our next pastor, Rev. Keith Morgan was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He finished his undergraduate degree at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and earned a Master of Theology degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.



Rev. Morgan's ministerial appointments include Webster Hills UMC (associate), South City Cooperative Ministry (serving Dr. Fry Memorial and Shaw Avenue United Methodist churches), Arlington UMC, Bridgeton, Missouri, and St. Luke's UMC, Kansas City. Pastor Keith is married to Karen House, who holds a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Perkins School of Theology, where they met. Karen currently plays the organ for our 8:15 worship service and is the choir director and organist for Grace UMC in St. Louis. They have two children: Nicole (30) living and working in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Bryant (27) living and working in St. Louis.

Special Events

Wed., May 3—
5 pm Music Team
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Th., May 4—
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Sat., May 6—
12 pm Oboe Recital Mark Adair
2 pm Oboe Recital Ashley Atshue

Tue., May 9—
7 pm Ad. Board

Wed., May 10—
5 pm Worship Team

Fr., May 12—
2 pm Violin Recital Omar Abdul-Amir

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SHORTRIDGE ARCHIVES ARE DEDICATED

For more than 30 years, as our Church Historian, Charlene Harris Shortridge collected our church's committee minutes, bulletins, newsletters and newspaper clippings, building blueprints and photographs. She created an archive of church history to preserve the story of our congregation for future generations. With this wealth of information, she wrote the history of United Methodist Women, the history of the Meriweds class, and with husband Robert, documented the complete history of Country Club United Methodist Church from 1914 to 2004.

Unfortunately the only place to store these records was in a small closet on the third floor of the church, which also included an access to the roof. Not a perfect space for archival material.



Now the church archives are available for all to enjoy, housed in a handsome new bookcase in the Family Foyer. Jan Ahern, our current church historian, has organized the records into binders so the material is easily accessible for researchers and history buffs.

We are pleased to dedicate the Shortridge Archives in memory of Robert and in honor of Charlene. Thanks to them, we can know about the people and events from our past that make our church what it is today.

Ann Vernon

Sunday school beginning May 7

Several people mentioned to me that, while *Creed* is excellent, we didn't spend enough time on the subject of forgiveness. Now we have a chance to take care of that. Beginning May 7, a new inter-generational five-week class will begin in the chapel. Whitney Miller and Kyle Whiston will lead Adam Hamilton's *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*. You may obtain the book online from Barnes & Noble or Amazon, or from The Well, which is the bookstore at COR, the Church of the Resurrection. I'll pick up some copies from COR for people who'd like them, and will let you know the price of the book on Sunday.

Susan Fershee

RENOVATION SENSATION!

The Priorities Team is very pleased and thankful to announce that construction phase of our interior renovation of the first floor is complete and is already drawing rave reviews for its fresh, bright, well-illuminated functionality and welcoming appearance.

Hospitality area: A neutral berber carpeting has been installed and a new “coffee bar” built into the east limestone wall. Yes, the carpet will probably easily camouflage coffee spills! The recessed and pendant LED lights throughout the area are especially welcome. The niche and cabinet beyond the Sacristy door will house the media equipment for monitors to be installed in this area. Conversation areas with comfortable chairs will invite members and guests to sit and chat while they enjoy some coffee. The historical books and children’s books are now readily accessible in the cabinets at the north end.

Administration Office: New double French-style doors of the centrally located church office assure good visibility of the 57th street entrance and provide a safe, efficient, and well-illuminated work space.

Family Bathroom: Hurray, we now have an ADA-compliant bathroom offering a pull-down baby changing station and a toilet with grab bars accessible for anyone in a walker or wheelchair.

Hallway: The cramped pass-through has been expanded to provide much-needed space to move from the Hospitality area, to the office, to the Family Bathroom, to the main entrance to the Sanctuary. And with the LED ceiling and wall fixtures, this area will remain well illuminated.

Men’s Room: The configuration remains the same, but the fresh paint, new floor tile, new faucet, new towel dispenser, and new partitions create a much more pleasant environment for our gentlemen.

East Hallway: The brown tile is gone and the dark hallway is now cheerfully illuminated.

Staircases: The brown tile was chipped and ugly, so the berber carpet was extended up to the 2nd floor landing and down to the Education wing entrance to improve the appearance and safety of these stairs.

Ladies’ Room: The new carpet continues into the Ladies Room; new faucets will be added soon.

Pastor’s Study: The former storage area has been transformed into a cheerful, comfortable area for our pastor to prepare the worship service, to counsel individuals and couples who are planning their wedding. A new door, which can be locked from the opposite side, was added from this study into the Ladies’ Room to comply with “Safe Sanctuary” guidelines.

New Fellowship Area: The old, frayed carpeting and heavy drapery material have been removed. Fresh paint, new berber carpet and bright new lenses in the ceiling LED fixtures are much needed additions. A dishwasher, microwave and a residential size refrigerator will be added soon.

Chapel: We wanted to preserve the sacred nature of this space, yet bring it more fully into the life of our church. Extending the new carpet into the chapel from the New Fellowship area brings the spaces together visually and expands the reception area for weddings and memorial celebrations. By removing (and re-cycling) the pews the chapel can now host a wide variety of activities such as Bible study, small group discussions, and provide a more intimate worship environment. While we initially hoped the light woodwork could be stained or replaced with dark wood, we discovered neither of these approaches are currently functionally or economically feasible.

Our entire church family is much appreciated and deserves thanks for its patience and prayers, but there is a small army of CCUMC members with whom we worked who were involved more extensively on this lengthy and challenging project who deserve your thanks:

Designer of Record: Lisa Duncan

Design and Esthetics: Lisa Duncan, Terri Norris, Billie Breeden, Sydney Ann Atkins

Physical and Mechanical: Kirk Duncan, Ken Starkey, Marsha Campbell

Priorities Team: Jack Campbell, Jim Phillips, Linda Neal

Treasurer: Terry Ahern

Governance: Doug Montgomery and Administrative Board members 2016-2017

Prayer-in-Chief: Pastor Jenn

General Support and Prayer Warriors: Lydia Istomina and the many Prayer Teams

Ultimate Authority: Jesus Christ

Linda Neal

Youth and Children's Ministry



The 57th St. Strings Academy is expanding in May with the addition of another studio. Mary Grant (garciam@juno.com) is bringing her studio to join Ann Calvert's.

Mary is a violinist with the KC Symphony and has been teaching violin classes and private lessons for a long time in Prairie Village. The church which she was using has closed and sold

their property. She and Ann are personal friends and will work very well together.

This will expand our current Academy to 45 students attending the church each week.

Mary will meet with her students during the already scheduled times set aside and will teach in the youth room on the 3rd floor. The carpet will help with sound and acoustics.

Although Ann does not plan to hold classes/lessons during the summer, Mary does. The same arrangements will be made with Mary as is with Ann for access and use of the facility.

In the fall they would like to expand the studio again with the addition of one more day, Monday - Thursday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. This will expand the numbers to potentially 60 plus students and their families coming to church weekly.

I would like to suggest that we think about hiring, and/or recruiting, a receptionist for these hours to assist with hospitality. It would be a great job for a college student. Would there be monies in the Hearson Fund to help cover this? I mention making it a hired position because we have not been able to secure volunteers in the past. I think it would truly be a great way to connect with people and open the church doors for them.

Pastor Jenn



Special Session of the 2019 General Conferences Comes to St. Louis, MO



*Photo by Maile Bradfield, UMNS
Bishop Bruce R. Ough, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area,
presides over the May 19 afternoon session of the 2016
United Methodist General Church in Portland, Ore.*

The Council of Bishops (COB) has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Missouri Annual Conference was notified on Monday afternoon of this news by Bishop Marcus Mathews, Executive Secretary for the Council of Bishops. While it comes as a surprise to us, the MO Conference looks forward to show radical hospitality to our guests in the days of this Special Conference.

What is the process following the Commission's work to the General Conference?

Only the General Conference can speak for the United Methodist Church. Since we are not sure what the Commission will present to the General Conference, it is hard to say what the process will be at this point. Nothing is set in stone until after the General Conference body votes on any proposed legislation (Feb. 23-26, 2019) and even then, depending on the nature of the change, it *could* require all of the annual conferences to ratify the change (a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in all annual conferences). If this is the case, you can expect this to be a LONG process and we won't know immediately, even after the special session meets in 2019, what impact their work will have on the work of the local church.

What now?

Bishop Farr calls the Missouri clergy and churches, regardless of opinion, to engage in unceasing prayer. Missouri will be joining the "Praying Our Way Forward" initiative, 75 weeks of focused prayer for The United Methodist Church. The initiative invites the whole Church in the work of immersing the Commission's efforts in prayer. The Missouri Annual Conference has identified the week of September 17-23, 2017 for this purpose. But, you don't need to wait until September to begin the good work of prayer. Here are three ways you can begin immediately:

1. Pray daily in our effectiveness in reaching our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
2. Pray daily for the work of the Commission on the Way Forward.
3. And, lastly, as you are able, consider a weekly fast for our Church's future and mission.

- See more at: <http://www.moumethodist.org/newsdetail/umc-bishops-call-special-session-of-general-conference-for-2019-8058581#sthash.DjRlRcTa.dpuf>

Welcome home to your
neighborhood church in
Brookside



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SPRING TIMES!

Weekly Schedule

9:15 am Fellowship – Family
Foyer

9:30 am Sunday School for all
ages

10:45 am Worship in Sanctuary

Monday—Wednesday

4:30 to 7:30 pm KC Urban
Strings Studio Lessons

Wednesdays

10:30 am Prayer Group

Evening—Bell and Chancel
Choir rehearsals TBD

Thursdays

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Church Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8 am – 12 pm

The Connection

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When the heater is turned over to AC, it always seems to be either too early or too late, but never just in time. Most of our building(s) are very similar to your house. We just move the thermostat from heat to cool and adjust the temperature, and if it ain't broke we have AC. And if the weather turns a little cool, we can turn back to heat. Easy Peasy... yet not so easy in the Sanctuary.

The main, and oldest, building has a very large water circulating system that is either HOT water, or COLD water, but it can't go back and forth without a serviceman spending at least a day to switch the old system to the new season requirements. So, here we are trying to guess again the best day to turn on the COLD. It will happen soon, so, when the weather turns cool, bring a jacket to church and pray that Pastor lights a fire in the Pulpit that day! Your Trustees at work.

Kirk Duncan

May Birthdays and Graduation:

- April 22: Clare Bell
- April 27: Rusty Klein
- April 30: Ken Starkey
- May 2: Gary Mehl
- May 3: Dick Shirley
- May 5: Donna Calvin
- May 13: Kyle Whiston (graduation from Rockhurst U!)
- May 21: Bob Menchetti (No. 90; born the day Lindbergh landed in France!)
- May 25: Mary Ellen Olsson

