



THE WITNESS • APRIL 2024

Update: Next steps on sale of church property

We wanted to provide an update on where things stand in the contract process for the sale of the church property. We are progressing with Westborough Country Club towards the final sale of the property. The past few months have involved standard contract negotiations that were finalized on March 11. With both parties in agreement on the contract, Westborough deposited \$50,000 in earnest money into an escrow account.

We are now in Westborough's due diligence period which lasts until May 10. Any time between now and May 10, Westborough can accept the property. When they do, we can close any time within 30 days of the acceptance date. Given this timetable, the latest closing date would be June 9.

Whenever the closing date does actually occur, our 12 months remaining on the property would begin on that date. We could leave the property any time within those 12 months, if we so choose.

According to our commercial real estate experts, events are progressing at an expected pace for a sale of this size and scope. Thank you all for your patience and prayerful support during this time. When we receive more information, we will share it with the congregation.

-Mat DeKinder, WGCC Board Chairperson

MARCH 31: Easter Special Offering

Several times a year, congregations receive a special offering to support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

These gifts are given above and beyond the regular core support of Disciples Mission Fund.

The Easter Offering, received by congregations on March 24 & 31, 2024, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church.

Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

SUNDAY APRIL 14: FELLOWSHIP LUNCH TIME

ENJOY A SANDWICH AND SALAD AFTER WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

NO RESERVATION REQUIRED

Disciples Women: Learning, serving and more!

The Marthas met the second Thursday, March 14 in the Heritage Room. There were six attending, gathering to eat their lunches and to enjoy fellowship together. Hostesses were Anna Yount and Alice Yount, who provided the most beautiful spring-like decorations of flowers and bunnies and spring themed candy, mixed nuts, and all kinds of beautiful plates, napkins and the most delicious carrot cake. So sorry that Alice was not feeling well enough to attend. The devotional that went hand-in-hand with the study was given by Anna Yount. A very thought provoking study "Enduring Suffering" was given by Vicki Ott. The group considered how we fortify ourselves in troubled times and also acknowledged God's reassurance that He will always be there for us!

New study books, "Just Women," for next year were given out to most members. Members brought items for Doorways and this offering was blessed for those in need.

Bev announced that Derek Bastian of Rock Hill Ministries will be the speaker at the DW Luncheon on April 4 at noon and Linda Tobias from MMCC will be here for the May 2



At the general meeting in March in the Chapel, Susan Moore presented a hands-on lesson in paper making.

luncheon. The Martha Group will be Hostess for the April and May Luncheons.

Tabithas had to cancel their March 14 meeting due to inclement weather. Their next meeting will be on April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

At the general meeting on March 7, Susan Moore presented an interesting program on paper-making. Everyone had a chance to make their own sheet of paper and the option to incorporate zinnia seeds into the paper to plant later.

The next general meeting will be held at noon on April 4 in the chapel, at which time a slate of next year's officers will be presented.

Diane Mark and Bev Richmond

April project: Horizons STL in Kirkwood

As we move forward with our service into April, our monetary-only donations will be for Horizons STL in Kirkwood. Horizons mission is to serve the underserved children in the Kirkwood area in a summer program. They are 100 percent donation-funded.

Horizons was one of our service projects last year. A few years ago Horizons was known as SPROG. We provided lunches then; they no longer request lunches. Our donation helps fund their service to vulnerable children.

Checks may be made to WGCC. Please write DW April - Horizons in the memo line. Thank you for your thoughtful giving.



The coffee's on us!

Sunday Morning Fellowship Coffee returned in March.

Each Sunday from 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. all are invited to stop by.

Come a little early for worship. Enjoy coffee fellowship and chat with friends.



Doorways donations: You did this!

Thanks to Disciple Women inviting the congregation to join us in our March service project for Doorways, we met our goal with overflowing generosity.

Toothpaste, toothbrushes, ...and toothbrushes for kids, too, bar soap, feminine products, shaving cream for men....and some just for women, hair brushes, combs, nail clippers, shampoo, body wash, laundry detergent, toilet tissue, metro bus passes ...and many other items we didn't ask for...BUT you knew what folks need and you provided.

Literally you donated hundreds of items. You gave from your heart.

Pat Roseman

Celebrating their lives

Chris Webb

We give God thanks for the life of WGCC member Chris Webb, who passed away Tuesday evening.

Please hold Sara, and all of Chris's family in your prayers as they grieve their loss. Funeral/Memorial arrangements are still pending.

Chris was diagnosed with Frontotemporal Dementia, which is the same disease that Bruce Willis recently was diagnosed with. FTD is the most common dementia for people under 60, and it impacts personality, behavior, language, and movement.



Alice Pauline Smith

Alice Pauline Smith passed away on March 22, 2024, in Springfield, Missouri. She was 99 years old.



Pauline had two beloved husbands. Her 55-year marriage to Walter Smith ended with his death in 2001. Eleven years later she married Donald England. Don passed away in 2021.

Pauline was a world traveler, an expert bridge player, and loved a party. She was a 62 year member of Webster Groves Christian Church and was active in PEO. She appreciated live theater and music.

A visitation and a memorial service will be held at Webster Groves Christian Church. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 pm on Friday, April 5. The memorial service will take place at 11 am on Saturday, April 6.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Webster Groves Christian Church.

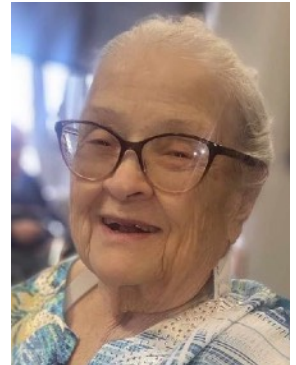
Almarie Dieckow

Webster Groves Christian Church lost a dear friend when Almarie Dieckow passed away earlier this week.

Almarie came to St. Louis from Texas and received her PhD in music at Washington University. She would serve 25 years at Webster Groves Christian Church as organist and music director.

“She created and produced the most incredible Christmas concerts and she drew huge crowds to that church because they knew that she would bring St. Louis symphony soloists and liturgical dancers and soloists,” her daughter, Denise Lutz, posted on Facebook.

“One of her special singers was Kay Martin Love and there were many others who learned through her that they had beautiful voices and would go on to careers they might never have enjoyed without her guidance and support.”



WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

**Our mission: Following Jesus' teaching
and sacrificially serving the people
who are the most marginalized.**

A new home for Shepherd's Center

We are happy to announce that the Shepherd's Center will be moving into an office classroom suite in Webster Groves Presbyterian Church (45 W. Lockwood) this summer.

The Shepherd's Center is very grateful to Webster Groves Christian Church for the past five years of in-house partnership and 25 years as a founding sponsoring congregation. The center looks forward to continuing that relationship in the future.

The target timeframe to relocate to Webster Groves Presbyterian is early August.

If you have questions about the center, email shepctr@shepherdscenter-wk.org or call 314-395-0988.



Invites you to our
Second Annual

TOPGOLF FUNraiser

at

**16851 N. Outer 40 Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63005**

No golfing experience necessary!
Bring your family and friends
to support Room at the Inn.

**April 28, 2024
4-7:00 pm**

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| 3:45 pm | Doors open/registration/cash bar |
| 4:00 pm | Short program |
| 4:30 pm | Play time begins! Appetizers arrive at each bay |
| 5-6:00 pm | All American dinner open to all ticketed guests
(dinner includes chicken fingers, beef sliders, mac and cheese,
chips, fruit, soda/tea/coffee and a cookie) |

*Cash bar and ala carte menu items will be available for purchase between 4-7 pm
and can be delivered to your bay.*

RESERVATIONS

★ \$625 Family/Couples Special ★

Reservation includes your own bay of 6 players with dinner (a bay holds up to 6 persons)

\$125 Individual reservation with dinner • \$50 Dinner reservation only

RSVP by April 15th - please include all names of players with your registration.



Join the 2024 Hike Against Hunger

Memorial Blvd. Christian Church is excited to extend a warm invitation to Webster Groves Christian Church to join in their **50th "Hike Against Hunger" Campaign.**

Date: April 27, 2024 (Saturday)

Time: Gather at 8:30 am - Sendoff Prayer 9:00 am - Picnic After

Distance: 20K or Less

Location: Tower Grove Park (The Stone Pavilion)

HIKE PROJECT

The project for this year is Improving Girls' Personal Health in Afghanistan between the ages of 10-19 by providing personal hygiene kits. The goal is to raise \$15,000 to provide 935 dignity/hygiene kits, where each kit costs about \$15 over an 11-month period.

MAP AND SIGNUP SHEET:

<https://bit.ly/2024-hike-wgcc>

Wanted: Green Team Volunteers!

With the arrival of Spring comes the need at WGCC for volunteer lawn mowers! We've had a great team in place for many years, but can always use more hands to help keep the church grounds manicured, mowed, and looking their best.

If you are able to help, please let the church office or Jeff Moore know of your interest.

We are an equal opportunity "employer!"

Give us a like; drop us a follow!

WGCC Sunday morning worship services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:30AM (Central Time).

All are welcome-- please invite your family and friends to tune in!

<https://www.facebook.com/WGCCDisciples/>

Make sure to "Like" the WGCC Page in Facebook, in order to receive all notifications of upcoming events!

Celebration for ARM Katherine Kinnamon

Our Associate Regional Minister for Commission on the Order of Ministry Rev. Katherine Kinnamon is retiring effective March 31.

We are grateful for her many years of ministry in Mid-America and invite all to join the celebration at Compton Heights CC in St. Louis on Sunday, April 7, during the 11 a.m. worship.

A reception will follow at approximately 12:30. All are also welcome to send a card to the church (2149 S. Grand, STL, 63104) to be presented to her.



Prayer concerns for WGCC

For John Burney, recovering from a fall

For John Dyess

For those struggling with mental illnesses

For Shah Smith's sister and her family, as she faces health issues and surgery; also for Shah's friend who is battling prostate cancer, and another friend facing cataract surgery

For John Gerdes' friend Steve, fighting a severe infection which led to heart issues

For Robin Woodrome's mother, Grace, undergoing a heart procedure

For the friends, coworkers, and family of Billie Swartz's friend, who passed away from bacterial meningitis

For the marginalized in the community of East St Louis

For James Burney, who was injured in the line of his police duties

For Susan Moore's father, Jack having health issues, and for the family as they discuss his future

For Kay Love--safe travels and knee surgery

For Shirley Arther, recovering from a fall

For the Burney's niece, Kristin, whose cancer has returned

For Deb Trautman's Aunt Mary, having health issues

For Alice Yount

For Denise Pahl

For Jeff Tedford, recovering from an injury

For Janice McFarland, recovering from severe burns and skin grafts

For Vicki Ott

For Breona Hawkins, as she continues on her pathway to ordination

For all who are grieving

For Barb Merrell's niece Regina, battling cancer

For Tim and Kathy Carson, as Kathy continues to battle cancer

For the families (now 20 of them!) served by the NOW weekend nutrition program of WGCC

For the WGCC Board and Congregation, as they meet and make decisions involving the congregation's future planning

For Barb Merrell

For Bill Woodrome

For Eva Moutrie

For Eulalia (Lee) Arnold Will

For Gregg Eiler's sister-in-law, as she battles breast cancer

Prayers for DeVere and Bev Shoop

For Mildred Baker

For Bill Sullivan

For basic needs of food, shelter clothing and healthcare for all

For the families served by Webster Rock Hill Ministries

For the MBCC Food Ministry, and neighborhoods of Memorial Blvd. Christian Church

Our Neighbor Fund helps neighbors near and far in a number of important ways! Please consider a generous gift to the Neighbor Fund during 2024.



The **Neighbor Fund** is maintained by our congregation, and is used at our pastor's discretion to aid those within our congregation and those from our wider community with one-time emergency assistance.

Our congregational budget includes money for the Neighbor Fund, but the majority of income from the fund comes from generous and faithful designated gifts by WGCC members. **In addition to your regular support of our budgeted mission and ministry, please consider a one-time or ongoing gift to the Neighbor Fund.**

Webster Groves Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

A Global Mission Congregation
1320 West Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis MO 63122



The SEGA connection newsletter is available at <http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/>

Webster Groves Christian Church

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