

THE WITNESS

The quarterly newsletter of Westwood Christian Church



IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCING DREW

LOVE DANE

**KAREN SIPPY
MISSION TRIP**

**FINANCIAL
SNAPSHOT**

BOOK ENDS

**NEXT 3 MONTHS
CALENDAR**

**CHURCH LIFE
PICTURES**

At a Glance

This quarter we have so much to celebrate, and so much to look forward to! In this quarter's *The Witness*, you will find an introduction of our new Family Minister, a sneak peek of Love Dane, an article from Karen about her mission trip to Uganda, and a look at our financial status through the first 6 months of the year.

At the end of *The Witness* you can find some books I read, along with a calendar of the next few months, and pictures throughout of the last few months!

Introducing Drew Larson

I certainly hope this isn't actually Drew's introduction for you, but Drew Larson joining Westwood as our part-time Family Minister is a really big deal for us. We spent a long time looking for and praying for the right person for this job, and we are so excited to have him on the team. Adam has already enjoyed having someone else in the office to bounce ideas off and Drew has already begun leading and caring for our Family Ministry teams.



Drew grew up in Louisville, KY and graduated from Taylor University in 2004 with a degree in journalism. Originally trained as a writer, Drew came to Madison in 2011 to work for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's national communications team. He enrolled at North Park Theological Seminary to get his Master of Divinity and joined Westwood as Family Minister in 2024. Drew also holds an MA in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University. In his spare time, Drew loves staying active (baseball, basketball, rock climbing), reading, board games, and playing guitar (very) averagely.

But we felt Drew was the one for this position because of his natural bent for discipleship, formation, and caring for people. He has already begun flexing those muscles with the team, and we are very encouraged for him to help our families with the important task of equipping our families to develop and disciple their children to love and follow Jesus.

Drew would love to get to know you, and you can reach him at Drew@westwoodchristian.com. With this being a new email address, some of his emails have gone to spam, so be sure to check that!



**EVERYONE AT TEDDY BEAR CAMP
RECEIVED A TEDDY BEAR**

**NATHANAEL IS A PHILISTINE AND
EVAN IS GOLIATH, I LOVE SEEING OUR
STUDENTS SERVE AT CAMP!**

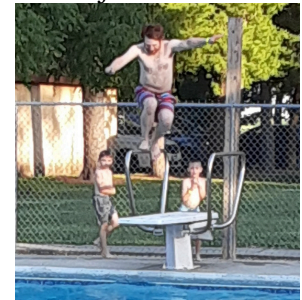
Love Dane: A United Week of Serving and Loving our Neighbors

3 years ago, Westwood helped pilot a new community event called For Dane. From that first year on, we've been a part of serving our community alongside other churches. This weekend of service has led to incredible relationships between churches, churches and community partners, and built many memories for us here in Westwood as well. I am so excited for this year's service weekend.

I met with Tom Loomis a few weeks ago to talk through the project Midvale Elementary has for us to work on and, like most of the years, it's mostly gardening, weeding, and beautification. This year, we're going to be cleaning up the entire front of the building, which is overgrown with tree saplings in the lily garden, clean up the rain garden, and help with mulch for the playground.

This week of service is one more way that we show our neighbors in Midvale Heights that we care about them. When we serve the community without a question of what we gain from this, we show them the love that Christ shows us. We can take comfort knowing that when a few hundred students, teachers, and staff get to their school in September, it will be ready for them, in part, from the collective work of the churches in their community.

Jeremiah 29:7 - But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.



Karen Sippy's Mission Trip to Uganda

On June 28 myself and five others traveled to Uganda as part of a nonprofit called Beyond Beauty for Survivors. This is a nonprofit dedicated to helping and empowering women and children who have been affected by human trafficking. Along with us, we took 16 suitcases filled with many donations some of which included: resources and teaching supplies for a school and orphanage, reading materials, clothing and shoes for the children, medical supplies for medical outreaches, reusable feminine hygiene products, sewing fabric and patterns, as well as gifts for our women's conference.

The first four days were spent at an orphanage and school. We met all the teachers and children, we were able to gift the teachers with some new resources and supplies, as well as provide help and guidance from some members of our team who are teachers. We also put on a kids camp talking about the fruits of the spirit, playing games, and singing worship songs. We also did a medical outreach and HIV testing for the children and the community. -major praise- no children at the orphanage tested positive for HIV!

Karen Sippy's Mission Trip, cont'd

It was so wonderful being able to develop such great relationships in such a short time. Seeing all the smiles on the kids faces brought me so much joy but also humbled me as I heard so many of their heart breaking stories. Some were abandoned, some were found digging through trash just to survive, others were left by family that could not take care of them, and many have been trafficked at very young ages. It breaks my heart to see what they've been through.

The remainder of our trip was spent in a very poor community. We put on a women's conference speaking about freedom in Christ. We also provided gifts for each of the women who attended, some of the items in the bags included, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and reusable feminine products. These products, which seem so easily accessible for us are not so for them. With being in such poor communities, needing basic necessities, sometimes women are given some of these items, seemingly out of kindness but to find out later they are trapped, and end up being trafficked. By providing these items this hopefully will prevent some of these women from falling into these same traps. Beyond beauty for survivors has also developed a partnership with a nearby couple who has started a free training program to train women in becoming hairstylists and seamstresses. Beyond beauty's goal is to help these women, children and their communities become self sustainable both with providing jobs or resources that are reusable. This trip was mainly a vision trip to see what areas need more help and support and in what ways we can do better to help support and serve this small corner of the world.

During our time in this area, we also taught Sunday school, did a medical outreach as well as street evangelism and prayer.

Although we were able to get a lot accomplished on this trip, none of it was by our doing, all of the donations gathered, the needs met, all the food supplied and everything else was all because of God, we we were simply his vessels, and allowed him to work through us. I am so grateful for this opportunity and immensely thankful for everyone that supported me and our team both financially and through prayers and donations! I'll end this article with a verse that God kept placing on all of our hearts.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

- Karen



Financial Snapshot

Thank you for your faithful support of Westwood as we continue to look toward the future and what God has in front of us to do! If you would like to set up regular monthly giving, you can do so at westwoodchristian.com/give.

Through April, our finances were looking very strong. We were under budget on expenses, and giving had been what we expected. Our giving took a dip in May, but June recovered and we are still close to what was anticipated; the gap between anticipated and actual, year-to-date, is just over 2% or about \$2,000.

Our investments, spread across various short term CDs and a ready-access fund through Christian Financial Resources, total over \$240,000, and our checking account has over \$18,000 in it.

We have sent \$12,540 all over the world in support of our missions partners. We've contributed over \$700 to people in need of financial assistance, and we've made some important upgrades to the church building, including a new sump pump in the boiler room and fixing the back door to close more securely.

July is the first month we will be paying a salary for our Family Minister position, and that will cause the rest of the year to look more dour as our expenses further outweigh our current giving. But your previous giving and your investments are allowing us to chart new waters, trusting that God will provide.

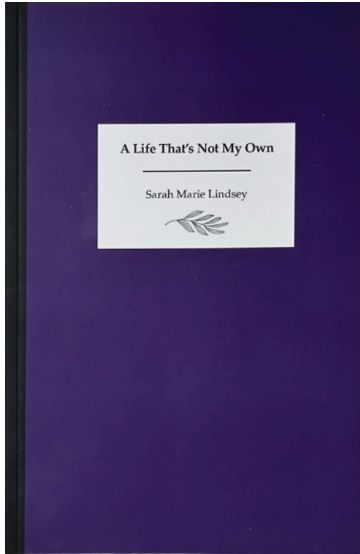
In smaller, and perhaps more tangible numbers, our monthly expenses for the rest of the year are expected to be \$18,000. To this point, our monthly giving has been \$15,504. Despite the difference there, please know: **this is incredible support**. This far outclasses most churches our size, and compared with national averages on giving per attendee, we are, once again, a weird church—in a good way. Your generosity is humbling.

We are in a stable position, and our financial situation is what we expected it to be when we presented the budget at our congregational meeting last fall. While we anticipated the gap, and we are prepared to handle it, you can see that there is opportunity for more giving and support. If you are not giving, please consider supporting Westwood financially so that we can continue to help men, women, and children bear witness to God. If you are giving, but haven't considered increasing your gift, please consider it. Cost of living, and therefore all sorts of expenses, continue to rise in Madison, and your partnership is just as pivotal as ever.



Book Ends

Below are some reviews of what I am reading. I would like to read more! Have something you think I'd like or get something from? I'm happy to hear it, even if I don't get to it soon.



A Life that's Not My Own by Sarah Marie Lindsey

Sarah Marie Lindsey had grown up always wanting to be a missionary. She went to college, married her college sweetheart, and got started with fundraising, all with the goal of helping people learn the beautiful mystery of the Gospel. And then she was diagnosed with a very severe and rare form of cancer. This book is a collection of Sarah's blog posts from her diagnosis until her death, with a post script by her husband.

In this memoir, Sarah blesses the reader with insights into the turmoil that is being a person of faith, living with a diagnosis that one may very well die. Her reflections offer a unique combination of unending trust in God, anxiety over the pain that she is in and the changes its causing to her body, and her hope that someday she'll be able to go overseas and serve in the mission field like she always dreamed of doing with her husband.

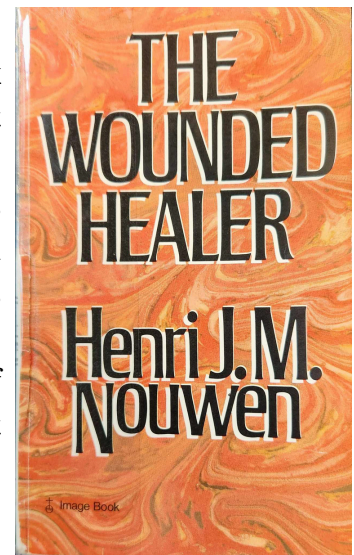
The amazing thing is that even though Sarah has passed, God is still using her story to inspire people to faith, hope, and love. She may not be serving as a missionary the way she anticipated, but I believe that Sarah's story bears witness to God in mighty ways.

The Wounded Healer by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Nouwen wrote this in 1971, and it was originally a book designed to help ministers prepare to serve the next generation, notably marked by fears of nuclear war and a sense that there was no assurance of tomorrow. In hindsight, his words were not only an apt description of GenXers and Millennials, but most impressively, the insights apply just as well to ministry to the coming generations.

Nouwen begins with understanding the state of mind of young people—an always helpful starting point in ministry. But he eventually moves to how the minister can help heal the wounds of those we come in contact with. Most importantly, the minister can use their own wounds to help others.

"He is called to be the wounded healer, the one who must look after his own wounds, but at the same time be prepared to heal the wounds of others."



Next Quarter Calendar

Please note: some events may change

AUGUST

/ 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2 Isaiah Douglas Birthday	3
4	5	6 Adam and Lauren Tomlinson Anniversary	7 Rob and Gloria Jean Ehlers Anniversary	8	9	10 Men's Breakfast Mug 'n' Muffin
11 ICOM Info Meeting	12	13	14	15 Linda and Lyle Laufenberg Anniversary	16	17
18 Family Ministry Meeting	19	20	21	22 Tom and Ann Sippy Anniversary	23	24 Love Dane Service Weekend
25	26	27	28	29 Jim Staniforth Birthday Bill Utter and Meg Schaeffer-Utter Anniversary	30	31

SEPTEMBER

/ 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Drew Schaeffer-Utter Birthday	3 MMSD First Day	4 Matthias Tomlinson Birthday	5	6	7 Nadine Miller Birthday
8	9	10 Marty Davenport Birthday	11 Jeremiah Douglas Birthday	12 Jim and Sharon Staniforth Anniversary	13	14 Men's Breakfast Mug 'n' Muffin Stella Muller Birthday
15	16	17 Martin Shields Birthday Keith and Merrlyn Schoville Anniversary	18	19	20 David Hagens Birthday	21 Church Outing: Forward Madison
22	23	24	25 Caleb Tomlinson Ashley Crutcher Birthday	26 Liam Schaeffer-Utter Eva Quarm Evan Quarm Birthday	27 Anna Marie Morra Birthday	28
29	30 John Cash Birthday	1	2	3	4	5

OCTOBER

/ 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6 Linda Auer Birthday	7	8 Ed and Jerri Mooberry Anniversary	9	10	11	12 Men's Breakfast Mug 'n' Muffin
13 Gloria Jean Ehlers Birthday	14	15	16	17 Sharon Staniforth Birthday	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Grace Odoi Birthday	25	26 Fall Family Outreach Event
27	28 Wayne Shockley Birthday	29	30	31	1	2



**GRATUITOUS
BABY PICTURE**

Westwood
Christian Church

5210 Odana Rd Madison, WI 53711

Need Something? Let me know!

Office: 608-274-0266

Cell: 603-402-6353

adam@westwoodchristian.com

