



Be in our Squares

Gashland United Methodist Church
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NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2021

It's been a long time coming but we are finally back to dancing. It has been so good to see so many of you back on the dance floor. And it's been amazing how well everyone has done after not dancing for so long. If you have stayed away because you were afraid you had forgotten everything you ever knew, don't. We're all a little bit rusty, but it comes back quickly and we will all work together to knock the rust off. After all, we only do this for fun so don't let it stress you out.

I would consider our September dance a success. We had a nice crowd and Deborah Carroll-Jones was a real crowd pleaser. It was a great way to kick off a new season. We will repay the Santa Fe Trailers October 2nd.

I'm happy to report that as a group, for the most part, we have remained pretty healthy over this hiatus. To the best of my knowledge, none of us has tested positive for COVID. Let's hope it stays that way. Sadly, there have been some low points. In May, we lost Idamae Gillmore. She was a very special lady and is sorely missed. June Tygart has been having some health challenges and spent some time in the hospital but is now back at home recovering under the watchful eye of her daughter. Dorothy Claussen had an automobile accident and has been experiencing a lot of back pain. She is scheduled for a procedure in the near future to help alleviate some of that discomfort and we hope it will be completely successful. If I have omitted anyone, I apologize. It's been really hard to keep up with everything when we aren't getting together.

On June 16th we started a set of lessons with 6 students - all part of the same family. A couple weeks later we added 1 more for a total of 7 very enthusiastic new dancers in our class. They're picking it up quickly and having fun doing it. We share lots of laughter each week and I look forward to each lesson with great anticipation. It won't be long and we'll have them out on the dance floor. With the COVID situation and June's health, we decided not to impose on her this year for a lesson location. Marla was kind enough to offer her home and it has worked out very well. I'm always amazed at the generous hospitality of our members.

Speaking of generous hospitality, we also had a club gathering at the home of Carol Hershey for the first time since December of '19. It was just a social gathering but we discussed what we would do for our Christmas charity this year. It was suggested that I contact the church and ask what they would like for us to do. The board has asked that we donate underwear and sweat pants for elementary aged school children. We will gather them all up at our holiday party and I will deliver them to the church. Hopefully, we'll have a good amount of clothing to donate to demonstrate the generosity of square dancers. Please put the afternoon of December 5th on your calendar and plan to join us.

As a reminder, the holidays will be here before we know it. In December we change our dance from the 2nd Friday to Christmas night. I know many of you will have family obligations and be unable to attend but for many who find themselves alone, that is a very long and depressing evening so we are a welcome escape and usually have a nice crowd. Also, at our gathering last month, we decided to again cancel our January dance in anticipation of inclement weather. Please adjust your calendars accordingly.

Be iN ouR Squares
8510 Sandusky Ave
Kansas City, KS 66112

TO:

Next Dance:

October 15th

Fall Harvest

Happy Birthday and

Happy Anniversary

From your friends at

BNR Squares

Some of you may have noticed there's a bit of a different look to the newsletter. I'm not sure what happened, but all my previous newsletter files have disappeared leaving me to recreate it. One of the things that I have decided to change is the "Birthdays and Anniversaries" section. Sometimes I am guilty of not getting the newsletter out in a timely manner for one reason or another and members who are celebrating during that month get belated greetings, not only from me but from other members due to my inefficiency. This year I've decided to make the full year's information available to all members, along with the club roster.

It's been 2 years since the Missouri State Federation has had a state festival thanks to the pandemic. Due to the cancellation last year, we lost our usual dates at the convention center so this year and next, the festival will be the 2nd weekend in October, rather than the 3rd. We are changing our October dance date to the 15th to accommodate the state festival and give as many of you as would like, the opportunity to attend. This year's featured caller will be K.O. Jeanes from Texas. K.O. is a great caller and I know you will enjoy him. Attending the annual festival is always a lot of fun and gives you a chance to see and dance with people you only see once a year. Be sure to plan to stay for the "Doin's Dance" on Sunday morning. This isn't officially part of the convention but a fund raiser for the state magazine. All proceeds go into the operating budget to help keep subscription prices down. In my opinion, this dance is the most fun of the entire weekend and I wouldn't think of missing it. The program is very relaxed and you never know what might take place.

We have always had a very successful visitation program. I try to schedule a visit to another area club once a week. If we want visitors, we must visit. Please let Leann know if you will be able to join us on our visits or not. Even if the answer is no, she needs to hear from you. Sometimes if we get enough "no's" there aren't enough "yes's" left and the visit can be cancelled, allowing everyone to do something else if they wish. It takes 6 club members for the visit to count toward the Heart of America visitation program. On the other hand, please obtain a visitation card from Carol Hershey for the NW MO visitation program. Even if you visit by yourself, if you get the card signed, it will count.

Past Visitations

9/19 Savannah Sashayers 5
9/24 Dan's Dancers 5

Future Visitations

10/2 Santa Fe Trailers 7pm start
10/8-10 Missouri State Festival
10/15 Our Dance

Our next dance is our "Fall Harvest" dance on October 15th. John and I go to the hall early and fog the hall, hallway, restrooms and kitchen so you can feel safe to attend. There is also plenty of hand sanitizer available and we encourage everyone to use it frequently and there is a mask mandate not only by the city, but by the church. At this time we will not have refreshments and I ask that everyone bring their own beverage in a covered container.

Happy Halloween!

Lynn