



# Be in our Squares

Gashland United Methodist Church  
7715 N Oak Trafficway - Kansas City, MO

Caller: Lynn Nelson 2nd Fridays 7:30-10:00PM

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NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2024

More than 5 squares celebrated Christmas night with us from all over the metro. We danced 4 squares all night. It was more than I could have hoped for and was the best crowd we'd had since before COVID. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this dance a success. I know many of you were busy enjoying your families and even on the road to or from holiday get togethers and you were certainly missed.

Thank you so very much for my Christmas gift. It was unexpected and very much appreciated. I will definitely spend it on something special this winter and with our upcoming travels, there will be lots of unusual shopping options.

Bryant Cayton was at graduation in a sling and unable to dance but was at least able to be with us and hopefully it won't be long until we get him in a square. Cheryl Gray has been able to come to a couple of functions on limited activity and we're hoping to get her back to dancing very soon. Dan Robinson came through his surgery well and is looking forward to calling for us while Lynn is in S. TX. Dan has a long road to full recovery so, please, help him out whenever you can, i.e. with carrying equipment etc. I know he won't ask for help but would appreciate it. Dorothy Claussen has started a round of chemo treatments and would appreciate your prayers. Daniel Lott is recovering from left shoulder and hand surgery and getting ready for the right shoulder.

Our graduation party on December 13th was a huge success. We graduated 9 new dancers and there were a total of 33 in the room. We even had a couple from the HOA Federation in attendance. There were lots of snacks, fun skits, smiles and laughter. The new dancers were presented their club badges and diplomas and welcomed into the club and our activity. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to get them through lessons and to make them feel a part of our club. Special thanks to Steve and Beth Zuhlke for the use of their home once again. Their hospitality is greatly appreciated.

That being said, we need to be looking for a new lesson location. It needs to be free or at least, very inexpensive. The Zuhlkes can accommodate 2 squares but if we get any more than that, we will outgrow their living room. Wouldn't that be a wonderful problem to have? Several people have commented that they have people interested in lessons, and while I know you can't count on them until you actually see the whites of their eyes, we do have to be prepared. We also want our new dancers to be able to angel for the review. If you know of somewhere or have a connection with someone who does, please see what you can arrange. Leann and Steve Z know what type of area we need, so keep them in the loop.

Next year, my plan is to only do one class. We will plan to start on Wednesday, April 24th. This should allow us to complete lessons just at the beginning of the new season and they will be able to jump right in at the beginning of the square dance year. Our club is one of the few clubs in the state of Missouri that is growing and that is due to all of you and the job you do recruiting new dancers and making them feel welcome and part of our group right from the get go. And remember, although we don't have any youth members currently, we are a family club and encourage youth both in our lessons and in our club. I have some criteria for youth students so I would need to vet them, but it's not an arbitrary age limit. Just let me know.

I encourage our new dancers to dance often to lots of different callers and in the front of the hall. When the music starts, that's your cue to square up. If you aren't comfortable visiting alone, ask someone to join you. That's why we have Telegram. I've heard that the comment was made that some of our new dancers didn't feel like they were ready for a "real" dance. Trust me, you're ready. New dancers aren't proficient right out of lessons. That comes with experience so get out there and dance often and to lots of different callers. One of the biggest parts of learning to dance is known as "muscle memory". As you learn to respond to the commands, your body begins to take over and you react without thinking about it. That only comes with experience. As I said many times during lessons, it's all about repetition. So get out there and start having fun!!

If you have any questions, get in touch with Leann. We speak daily and she keeps me up to date on all the club happenings. Don't forget she will need your help at dances, too. She will be sending out the reminders for visitations and we request that you [please respond, whether you can go or not](#). That helps us know if we have enough or need to cancel and allow those who said yes to make other plans.

Be in our Squares  
8510 Sandusky Ave  
Kansas City, KS 66112Sa

*Next Dance:*

**December 25th**

**Merry Christmas**

*Happy Birthday and*

*Happy Anniversary*

*From your friends at*

*BNR Squares*

TO:

As you know, we usually have a pot luck in June and at that time we plan our themes for the next season. Carol and I have chosen Saturday, June 8th. More details will follow as the day gets closer but we want you to put it on your calendar and plan to join us.

You have been doing a great job with our visitation program and with getting the visitation cards signed. As clarification, in order to get the card signed for Heart of America, we have to have a minimum of 6 members in attendance. Kathy Bean and Leann Chapman have these cards and if they aren't able to visit, they make it a point to get it to someone who will be there. The "Friendship Visitation" program for the NW District allows us each to carry a card and get it signed, even if we are the only one in attendance. If there are several of you, only one person need get the card signed and then put the total number of members in attendance in the appropriate spot on the card. You're doing a great job with visitations. Keep up the good work and maybe we can keep 1st place in the NW District.

#### Past Visitations

12/11 KC Plus 3  
12/15 Ramblers 18  
12/22 Stewartsville Cut-Ups 4  
12/31 St Joe Squares 13  
01/05 Live Wires 9  
01/06 Pistols 'n Petticoats 15

#### Future Visitations

*01/12 Our Dance - cancelled*  
01/20 Crosstrailers  
01/28 Savannah Sashayers - Mike Hogan  
02/02 St Joe Squares  
*02/09 Our Dance - Dan Robinson calling*  
02/16 Ramblers

#### Future Themes

2/09 Elvis Dance—Dan Robinson  
3/08 A Night At the Movies  
4/12 Black Light Dance  
5/10 Hawaiian Dance  
6/08 Summer Pot Luck

#### Special Dances

*(those in blue sponsored by us)*  
4/19-20 HOA Fed Dance with Ken Burke  
10/18-20 MO State Festival Sedalia

Our next dance is February 9th. Dan Robinson will be doing his famous "Elvis Dance". This is always a fun dance and we're lucky that he is doing it for us. Maybe 50's costumes would be in order. You decide. Your usual finger foods will be great.

As always, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do for me, for the club and to promote our activity. I remain convinced we've got the best members in the activity.

***Happy Valentine's Day!***

*Lynn*