



Spotlight on Crestwood: The Mission Center

Dear Crestwood family,

No matter how long you've been a member of Crestwood, there's probably a lot you don't know about our wonderful church! Gaye Holman was a member of Crestwood decades ago, and has recently rejoined our church after moving back to Lexington. She realized the church has changed since she left, so she is going to write a series of articles highlighting a different aspect of our church and its ministries. We hope you enjoy reading these periodic articles and learning more about Crestwood!

With Joy,

Kory

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When I returned to Lexington and Crestwood after a thirty-five-year absence, I expected to step back into the church I remembered. Instead, I immediately got lost in the newly configured physical structure and became confused by things I didn't know. Covid restrictions didn't help much.

Determined to find out what Crestwood offers today, I set off to explore my old church with new eyes. With support from Kory, Trish, staff, and others, I am asking endless questions, and I am amazed by what I am finding. Crestwood may be the best kept secret in Lexington!

I will share my explorations as I wander, and hope you will pick up some new insights as I share my new knowledge in the coming weeks.

I was inspired to start my project at the gym one Sunday morning when I stepped out of our Sunday School class in the Bradford room to see fifteen or so youngsters dressed in loose white uniforms kicking and moving in unison on the gym's wooden floor. Karate at Crestwood? Yes, and much, much more. Our rooms and spaces are used seven days a week, I learned.

Most of the weekly groups meet in the Mission Center, the large north addition that has been added in years since I was here before. It seems to be aptly named.

Perusing the church community calendar, I find that children's laughter rings through the halls throughout the week in addition to the active daily Childcare center located in Hopper Hall. There are meetings of three boys' and girls' scout troops. Youth basketball teams from the Glendover area fill the

gym.

The body as well as the spirit is made strong at Crestwood. There is a gentle yoga class, an OLLI (Osher Lifetime Learning Institute) fitness class, the aforementioned karate class. We even have a work-out room with exercise equipment (more on that at another time).

Artistic endeavors are included as well. There are regular practices for the Kentuckiana Chorus which treats our church to a free concert each Christmas. There are regular practices for the Adventure Theatre, an OLLI writing class, and the one I want to sneak in to hear, Firehouse Pickers (mandolins).

That's not all. Other groups see Crestwood as friendly hosts. There is the Garden Group of Lexington, the Suburban Women's Club and a monthly meeting of retired federal employees (NARFE).

Perhaps most meaningful of all is our willingness to open the doors to those struggling with burdens. We host various groups of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), AL-ANON (help to families and friends of alcohol and drug-laden people), and a Step Study (for co-dependents). There are various meetings for Parkinson's patients and their families – exercise and movement classes as well as support groups for each.

I started out to explore all the weekly activities at Crestwood, but became overwhelmed just by the number of programs we make available to the community. I will look into Crestwood-sponsored activities at a later time. Outside organizations are not charged for the use of our building. Our facilities manager Brianna May coordinates the space and activities in it.

Here is what our senior minister, Kory Wilcoxson, has to say about the obvious success of the Mission Center: *When the Mission Center was built, the purpose was for it live out its name as a mission to our community. The building doesn't belong to us; it is God's gift and we are the stewards of it. Our job is to open the doors and invite people inside. To that end, we have hundreds of people in our facility each week, using this space for a variety of purposes. We truly want Crestwood to be a community church that extends the hospitality of Jesus Christ to every person.*

My goodness, what a gift I have learned about. Truly God is at work through Crestwood.

Soon I'll be looking at something else new to me - the Giving Lane. What is it? How does it work? Who runs and organizes it? And how do we handle donations?

If there is some area of the church you would like to know more about, please share your ideas with me. Let's explore together.

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