

Dear Beloved Community,

On August 17, we had a **Membership Merry-go-round!**

Nine new members joined! Dan Hughes, Charles & Judy Warren, Stacy Aldridge, Macy Lamb, Justina Lamb, Debbie & Homer Peters, and Sergio Rodriguez (shown here in order).



**Why** would they want to join a church!? In Luke 12 (vs 49-53), Jesus tells anyone who would listen that he came to bring a baptism—and baptism is a sign of membership into the body of Christ, that is, the church—of fire and division! Division of father against son, daughter against mother! Earlier he had given his disciples authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and promised woe upon woe to those who were following him (chapters 10 & 11). Life with Jesus sounds dangerous and painful! Kind of like a playground merry-go-round can be...just google it or recall your own playground experience and you know how scary that whirling disc of screaming or silently clinging kids can be. No wonder some hesitate to jump on! And yet, kids say it's fun & tell of it with big smiles on their faces...



Also, on August 17 we celebrated the golden, long years of membership of Joe & Mary Ann Stallings (shown here at Lakeside Worship, 2024). The Stallings have moved to Atlanta to be closer to their daughters & family there. Whether singing in the choir, enjoying small group suppers, or helping on medical mission trips their smiles & sense of fun blessed us all! **Why** join the church? It IS full of saints **and** sinners. But as we encourage folks on & give them a hand...and help those getting off to softly land, it sure can be a sweet, timeless spin!

In the peace and joy of Christ,

***Becky Purcell***