

## Bringing Back the Lost Sheep

The Karns congregation is a growing and vibrant body. We have many people and families who place membership with us. Many families stay for decades while others stay for a few years and move away. Some people, however, attend for a while and then seem to disappear from our midst. They quietly leave with no indication about why.

What should we (you) do about that? In Luke 15, Jesus tells the parable about the lost sheep. In the parable, the man with 100 sheep loses one and leaves the flock to search for a lost sheep. When he finds the lost sheep he puts it on his shoulders and takes it home joyfully.

That is what we, as a body of Christ, are called to do for those who leave our body. We must go after the lost sheep. We should take heed of those who are no longer attending regularly and search for them.

If you notice someone has missed services for more than two or three weeks in a row, seek them out. Call, email, message or text them to let them know you have noticed their absence and are concerned about them. Let them know that we love them and want to help in any way we can. Figuratively speaking, you should go out and carry them back to the fold.

If you are uncomfortable doing that, let an elder or one of our ministers know about the lost sheep. We try to keep up with our flock as best we can, but it takes the effort of the entire Karns family to find and bring back all of our lost sheep. Then, we can do as the man in the parable did. We can tell our friends and neighbors, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." (Luke 15:6)

For the elders,  
Tony Turner