



The Vital Spark

August 25, 2015



A Message From Our Senior Pastor,

Rev. Jacob Thorne

This past Sunday morning was a wonderful, wonderful day of worship at both services. At one point in the sermon, I mentioned that we would share soon the details regarding the most recent conversation I had with the church cabinet. In a world that is ever changing, one of our goals is to be continually adaptive and not reactive. Accompanying such desires is the need to have more ministry and fewer meetings. The details of what arose out of this conversation are included below:

We discussed the need to be a fluid, changing, and responsive church.

We are aware that the traditional model of church governance we have used, while it has served us well, needs to be reevaluated.

We agreed that individuals, on the whole, are fearful of joining church committees and being burdened with long term responsibilities/missions that do not align with their passions or interests.

We agreed to explore, and be in conversation with others, about the possibility of creating a “Core Leadership Team” model of ministry.

The Core Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Senior and Associate Ministers, would be composed of six individuals: The current board chair and vice-chair, the finance and facilities chair, the elders’ chair, a representative from the first service, and a representative from the second service.

While it would need to be staggered at first, eventually, each position on the Core Leadership Team would serve a two-year term allowing for a sense of continuity and innovation.

The Core Leadership Team, while remaining in continuous conversation with the congregation, and in conjunction with the Senior Minister, will help discern and direct the vision and mission of the church. The Core Leadership Team will also work to identify our key ministries/priorities, enabling broader and deeper participation of our church community members AND non-members/friends.

The Core Leadership Team will strive to identify individuals who can serve and lead on short-term ministries and activities.

The board, if it decides to choose this path, will vote to suspend the current constitution and by-laws for two-years, allowing for a two year trial, and period of continuous evaluation, for this new model of ministry.

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Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:45 a.m. Faith Learning

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Prayer Concerns

Scott Douglass; Wil Gearhart; Beulah Nelson; Bill Tichacek; Kathy Bumeter; Paul Shabel; Jerome Dupuis, father of Rich Dupuis; Bill Gregg, brother of Karen Kelly; Zoe Donsky, family of Sandy Schleusner; Brandon Hamm, friend of Sandy Schleusner; John and Lee Smith, friends of Chris and Gary Meier; Chris and Hugh Berry, mother and father of Christine Meier; Bob Staicoff, father of Steve Staicoff; Becky Viola, friend of the Finch family; Carol Long, friend of Sarah Walker; Lisa Williams, sister of Brenda Angeli; Art Newton, brother of Jess Newton; Scott and Brian Degitz-Fries; those impacted by the fires in northwestern United States; Jean Landon, cousin of Sheryl Silvey; Byrne family, friends of Sheryl Silvey; Kay Henry, friend of Kay Gauble; Harold Ramo, father of Cherie Ledbeter; Josephine Jacobsmeyer, sister-in-law of Beckie Jacobsmeyer; Nick Whitworth, nephew of Kay Gauble; Anela, Anna and Anthony Polizzi, children of Donna Haley-Polizzi.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Katherine Prescott upon the loss of her younger brother, Rayford Prater, on August 13th, one day before his birthday.

Remember those of our congregation who cannot worship with us on a regular basis: Jo Anne Brown, Jack and Nel Radcliffe, Lucille Pressnell, Betty Bremer, Ruby Garrison, Barbara Wood.

Acknowledgements and Updates

I want to express a heartfelt “Thank You” for the many prayers, cards, phone calls and your concerns expressed after my recent fall. I feel truly blessed to be a part of our special church family. H.O. Nelson

Future Thanksgiving Feasts will be catered as determined by the results of the survey taken in May. The Fellowship Team and other teams will also be looking at those additional suggestions that were made for future church events. We sincerely thank everyone who took time and gave thought into responding to the survey.

The Fellowship Team

Eagle Scout Project

If you haven't had an opportunity to see the most recent Eagle Scout project to benefit CCC, take a moment the next time you are at church to look at the new seating and plantings around the cross area between the church and the WFLC. Evan McDurmont and his family, friends and several CCC volunteers, worked extremely hard and put in many hours to complete this project. We look forward to being able to enjoy this area in a meaningful way very soon. Thank you Evan!



Stable Ministry Corner

Now that the Stable Sale is over, we are looking for helpers to sort items. No matter what your age, there is something that you can do!

The stable needs any style of kids clothing hangers. There is a box next to the grocery cart in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you!



Bible Study Groups at CCC

Men's Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 p.m. On September 14th, this group will begin discussion of the book *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered*.

Women's Bible study on Tuesday evenings (except the 2nd Tuesday) at 7 p.m. The ladies are currently watching a DVD presented by Rob Bell, with discussion to follow. No "homework" is required for this study.

Soul Searchers is a weekly study that meets every Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the church library. This group is also studying *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered*.

Adult Discipleship Happenings

Dinner for 8 to 48 at LimeLight Events, (a new venue operated by CCC member Julie Swaney) on September 19th at 6:30 p.m., 1378 South Fifth Street, St. Charles in the Three Flags Center. The evening will include a delicious catered meal, soft drinks, dessert and music by Steve Staicoff for \$20.00 per person.

Sign up this

Sunday in the Narthex.

Pizza and Movie Night at CCC

This Saturday, August 29th at 6 p.m. we will be showing a wonderful old classic *The Keys of the Kingdom*, starring Gregory Peck and depicts the trials and triumphs of a genuine Christian who follows Jesus in spite of the church. A memorable and inspiring film.

Book Discussion Group

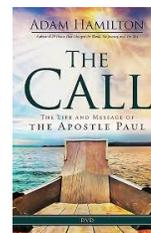
Join us on September 21st to discuss *The Orphan Train* by Cristina Baker Kline. We will meet in the CCC Library from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Brenda Richardson at 636-386-5279 with questions.

Weekly Sermons, Worship Leaders and Mowing Team

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Sermon Title Text Pastor	Mind the Gap James 2: 1-7 Rev. Jacob Thorne	A Divine Perspective Mark 8: 34-38 Rev. Jacob Thorne	First Things First Psalm 1 Rev. Darla Goodrich	A Healing World James 5: 13-16 Rev. Jacob Thorne
Narthex Greeter	8:30 Rich and Liz Dupuis 10:45 Deb Shabel and Brenda Richardson	8:30 Katherine Prescott and Ruth Morrison 10:45 H.O. and Beulah Nelson	8:30 John and Kristina Houghton 10:45 Tracey Hammack	8:30 Jess and Linda Newton 10:45 Bill and Sharon Turnbough
Worship Leader	Betty Quicksall	Scott Douglass	Howard Goodrich	Leon Whitney
Children's Moment	8:30 Rev. Thorne 10:45 Rev. Thorne	8:30 Molly Duncan 10:45 Molly Duncan	8:30 Susan McGehee 10:45 Steve Staicoff	8:30 Ron Newton 10:45 Rob Brown
Elder	8:30 Darlene Goodrich 10:45 Cindy Herman	8:30 Ron Newton 10:45 Molly Duncan	8:30 Molly Duncan 10:45 Earl Primeau	8:30 Rob Brown 10:45 Jess Newton
Deacons 8:30	Mike Meusey Tim Vincent Shane Matzen Max Meusey			
Deacons 10:45	Mel Fairchild John Schlueter Les Swaney Sandy Schleusner Jessica Schlueter Anna Fairchild			
Mowing Team Section A Section B Section C	Ron Smith Mike Hartman Jeff Clifton (to be mowed by Sept 5)	Bill Turnbough Jeff Knollman (to be mowed by Sept 12)	Bob Branstetter Lee McDurmont Mel Fairchild (to be mowed by Sept 18 at 4 pm due to a wedding)	Dan Angeli Jim Morgenthaler Marlan Graham (to be mowed by Sept 26))

Pastor's Faith Learning Class

This Sunday the Pastor's Class, led by Rev. Thorne, will begin a new discussion using the DVD entitled *The Call, The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*, by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome to come learn about being Called to Follow Christ, Called to Go, Called to Suffer, Called to Love, Called to Give and Called to Be Faithful. After watching a short video each week, you are sure to enjoy and learn from the discussion that will follow.



Opportunities to help in our Community—Board Of Religious Organizations and Caring Solutions

The mission of the Board of Religious Organizations (BRO) is to coordinate the work of area churches, synagogues and civic groups in providing toys for children and families in need during the holidays.

Play is the “work of children”-their method of exploring and learning about the world. The gift of a new toy supplements the child’s learning by helping develop a child’s creativity during hours of imaginative play at home.

BRO does this work in our community with a spirit of service and cooperation by providing meaningful opportunities for seniors, retirees and service minded individuals to give back to their community.

In addition BRO provides gifts of hope to new mothers throughout the year, and, during the holidays, gifts to senior citizens served by area social service agencies.

BRO does all of this without regard to race, sex, handicap condition, age, sexual orientation, national heritage, ancestry or religion.

As with all service organizations, there are always needs to be met to keep the work going. Below is a wish list from BRO.

New and gently used toys and games for boys and girls ages newborn to 10 years.

New and gently used dolls. African-American dolls are especially appreciated.

New and gently used books for children ages newborn to 10 years.

Stocking stuffers for children ages 4-8 years. Card games, crayons, jacks, bubbles, small cars and trucks, small dolls, jump ropes, yo-yos and other small toys that will fit into stockings.

Items for baby layettes. Sleepers, onesies, bibs, quilts, receiving blankets, booties, socks, and knitted hats. Infant sizes 3 months to 9 months are most appreciated.

Toiletries for girls ages 9-10 years. Lip gloss, hair care items, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath gel, (travel sizes are welcome), colored washcloths, girls socks.

Toiletries for wheelchair bags for Seniors, tube socks for men and women, facial tissue soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes (travel sizes are welcome).

Office and other supplies. Copier/computer paper, packing tape, batteries (all sizes), large, high quality, trash bags.

If you are interested in helping BRO by making a contribution or volunteering, call their office at 314.865.1677, visit their website at www.brostl.org, or email them at office@brostl.org for more information.

Calling all Golfers! Caring Solutions invites you to play in the annual golf tournament to benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities!

Wednesday, September 16th at Forest Park \$125 includes lunch, great golf, dinner, auction and donation. Pick up a registration brochure at church. You can also register online at www.caringsolutions.org. For more info, contact Tish at Caring Solutions 314) 229-5233 or info@caringsolutions.org

OR ask Leon Whitney! He can tell you all about it!

(Not a golfer? Sponsorships of various levels available as are chances to win great prize packages. Need not be present to win.)

Caring Solutions appreciates Community Christian Church!



Children and Youth Ministry

We hope you will take a few moments, if you haven't already, to update your calendars for the following events which are planned for the children and youth of CCC.

Sunday Afternoons: God's Kids' Choir practice (4:00 - 5:00) in the choir room. The choir is for all children from age 4 through 5th grade.

August 30: FALL ALL CHURCH PICNIC at noon (right after church) 2 bounce houses, fried chicken & dessert provided. Sign-ups are in the Narthex.

Children's Ministry launches their new curriculum "DEEP BLUE" (for ages pre-K through 5th grade). A special video will introduce the material in Worship.

Faith learning begins at 9:45 a.m.

Youth and Parent 2015-16 Orientation at 9:45 a.m. (during Faith Learning in Wunderlich).

Bagels & toppings will be provided.

Sept. 12: OUTDOOR MOVIE & BONFIRE for Children, Youth and Families (6:00 - 9:00 pm). Movie TBA.

Sept. 13: First official Youth Group (4:00 - 6:00). God's Kid's Choir and Youth will share a meal with their families at 5:00 p.m.



Blood Drive at CCC

Please sign up for the next blood drive on September 6th between 8 a.m. and noon on the back of your bulletin tab this Sunday or on the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

CCC Pastor's Blog



Did you know the CCC website now has regular postings to a Pastor's Blog? Be sure to check the website regularly for blog posts from Rev. Thorne and Rev. Goodrich. The most recent article by Rev. Goodrich entitled "[To Get or To Give: That Is The Question](#)" is sure to be thought provoking.

Senior Citizen's Luncheons

A new season of Senior Citizen's luncheons will begin on September 8th, 2015. For our first luncheon, Mary Saputo, a professional actor, will share a nostalgic presentation with us called "The Best of 1939." Mary is a professional actor and will have an entertaining and fun hour of information for us. We will follow the program with lunch and Bingo. Please join us at 10:30 a.m. in the CCC Narthex for this special event.

If you would like to help provide a food item for any of our luncheons this year, please contact Karen Grogan or Beth Bean or contact the church office.



Disciples Women in September

The monthly meetings for Disciples Women will resume in September. Priscilla Circle will meet in the CCC Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8th and Rebecca Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. on September 15th in the CCC Narthex.



The service project for September will be "Snacks for School". One of our local schools has asked if we could assist with providing a school snack for those children who can not bring their own snack. Some ideas for healthy snacks are, fruit cups, applesauce cups, individual bags of fish crackers, cheese and crackers, fruit snacks, and granola bars. Because of peanut allergies please nothing with peanut butter.

All women are invited to share in study and fellowship at these monthly meetings. Please contact Mitzie Bryant to learn more about Priscilla Circle or Diane Hall for information about Rebecca Circle.

Disciples Men in September

The next gathering of the Disciples Men's Ministry will be on Saturday, September 19.

We will have a great breakfast together, then have our quarterly meeting and a program about a special ministry making a difference in people's lives. This fun event will be held in the Wunderlich Family Life Center, with socializing and coffee beginning at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8:30 a.m. For additional information, please contact Tim Vincent.



Pastor's Article (continued from page 1)

There will be an intentional focus on more ministry and fewer meetings.

Some committees, such as Finance and Facilities, will continue. But most committees will be dissolved.

Communication, between the Core Leadership Team and the church, will be a strong priority.

In terms of a flow chart, imagine the Core Leadership Team in the middle of a circle, with all other ministries/missions of the church connecting to the center.

Is there any guarantee this new model will be more effective? No. But do I think we should try it? Yes.

We have to find ways to adapt to the changing culture. We need to be streamlined in order to empower leadership to dream, strategize, make decisions, and move forth. We want to plan for the future not just five years from now, but twenty-five years from now and beyond. We have a calling to live into our vision statement: Boldly Changing Lives.

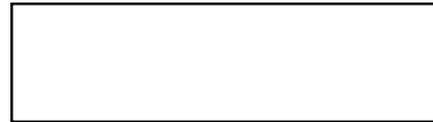
I anticipate, and hope, that members and friends of Community will have reflections, questions, and conversations surrounding this new model of ministry. Please, please, email me, call me, or stop by in the office (I'm always available for lunch/coffee as well). I am excited about the new steps in our church community and am grateful to be serving Community Christian Church.

Blessings,

Jacob



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To learn about Disciples Home Mission

www.discipleshomemissions.org

To learn about National Benevolent Association

www.nbacares.org

To learn about week of Compassion

www.weekofcompassion.org

Vital Spark Deadline for September

There will be one Vital Spark published in September.
The publication deadline is September 18th for the issue to be published on September 22nd.

CCC Office Staff:
Rev. Jacob Thorne, Senior Pastor
Rev. Darla Goodrich, Associate Pastor
Beth Bean, Office Manager

The Vital Spark is a publication of Community Christian Church. Our purpose is to encourage fellowship among CCC members and visitors and to announce upcoming events and activities.

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