



The Vital Spark

October 20, 2015



A Message From Our Senior Pastor,

Rev. Jacob Thorne

Dear CCC,

As we head into fall, there are a number of different ministries, events, and activities taking place. I want to share some of the highlights in today's article:

The Core Leadership Team (CLT), which will begin in January and serve as the interim church board for the next two years, consists of the following members: Glenna Allen, Mike Grogan, Tracey Hammack, Linda Helm, Doug Hoover, Laura McDurmont, and Michael Richardson. For more information regarding the new governance structure, please see Doug Hoover's article, current board chair, in this issue.

Darla is overseeing the formation of our new sacred conversation groups. The goal is for each group to meet twice before the end of this year. We have had a good response, and there is still time to sign-up and participate.

This Sunday we will look at the story of Job. The following Sunday, November 1st (hard to believe), we will honor the saints in our lives. And November 8th, we will begin a new three-week sermon series that will lead us into the season of Advent entitled, "Voyaging."

On the morning of November 22nd, we will have one service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a congregational meeting and the hanging of the greens for those who wish to stay and help.

On the evening of November 22nd, we will celebrate with our annual Thanksgiving Feast.

We have had several members recently join CCC. A new membership class is in the initial stages of being formed. We will examine the ways in which we approach our history, theology, biblical interpretations, spiritual journeys, and faith community.

And finally, just a reminder that several of us will be attending the Regional Assembly in Columbia this Saturday. In this gathering, the Areas will officially vote to cease and merge into one region.

As you can see, there is a lot taking place. I am thankful to serve a church that has such continued enthusiasm and energy.

Blessings,

Jacob

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:45 a.m. Faith Learning

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Prayer Concerns

Wil Gearhart; Kevin Ledbetter; Katherine Prescott; Ron Hollon; June Douglass; Bill Tichacek; Kathy Bumeter; Rev. Gail Holstein; Paul Shabel; Jerome Dupuis, father of Rich Dupuis; 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; Harold Ramo, father of Cherie Ledbetter; Wilbur Bosecker, brother of Wanda Morgenthaler; Katherine and Wesley Suter, David Robb, relatives of Mitzie Bryant; Lisa Williams, sister of Brenda Angeli; Mike Radloff, son-in-law/brother-in-law of Leon/Linda Whitney and Susan McGehee; Sarah Turner, granddaughter of Karen Kelly; Kelly Smith, daughter-in-law of Ron Smith; Julie Swaney, Pam Welker and their families; Ginger and Dave, friends of Lynn Richter; Barry Kausler and Tom Gray, friends of Mary Gordon; Skylar, student of Robin Edman; Sandy Runquist, friend of Liz Dupuis; Nova family, friends of Sarah Walker; Fike family, friends of Anne Bube; Justin Yung, friend of Karen Kelly; Herb Smith, father of Becky Dale; Steve Smith, brother of Becky Dale; Rozann Watts, friend of Joan Tichacek; Jean Landon, cousin of Sheryl Silvey; Dwayne Chadbourne, son-in-law of Linda Smith; Bill Gregg, brother of Karen Kelly.

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

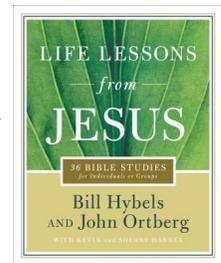
Dear Special Friends,

Thank you so very much for all your prayers, calls and cards and for all of the concern which was so uplifting. I love you all.

Beulah Nelson

Soul Searcher's Bible Study

The Soul Searcher's Bible study will be starting a new series of 36 studies by Bill Hybels and John Ortberg entitled *Life Lessons from Jesus*. We invite men and women of all ages to join us at 1:00 p.m. every Thursday in the church library. Pull up a chair as we dig into the life lessons Jesus captured in the Bible throughout the gospels so that we may all grow in our ability to reflect the character of Jesus. For more information contact H.O. or Beulah Nelson at 314-434-3680.



CPR/AED Certification Class

There is a class scheduled for Thursday, November 12th, at 6:00 PM for any of you who wish to take a CPR/AED class. It will be in the classroom at West County Station #2 located at 13790 Manchester Road. The cost is \$35 each, and there are 'scholarships' available. Please let us know by phone 636-256-3686 or sign up on the back of the Sunday bulletin tab if you want to attend this class. Space is limited to 15 people. Rich and Liz Dupuis

Stable Ministry Corner

During the Stable set-up, a home burned in Valley Park. The family lost everything and was in desperate need of clothing. The mother and daughter came and picked out clothes for themselves as well as the dad and brother. They were very happy with the generosity of the Stable.



Stable Sale News

VIVA LA STABLE VOLUNTEERS

There are three big Stable Sales a year at CCC and the last one just finished and the bottom



line financially said "Success, better than the previous year!" Wow, but throughout the year, week in and week out it is the volunteers who make this happen. Sometimes it is harried work and volunteers don't always have the time, but they give it anyway with heart. The gift of time is priceless. The Stable meeting in the WFLC is always welcome for more volunteers. Nobody needs to do everything, but with everyone plus YOU, something can be done. We meet every Monday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Take a dare and join us! Welcome!

This year we tried to be proactive with the sale getting it on Facebook pages, suburban papers, sending email info, Craig's List, etc. One man when asked how he got to the sale said he was checking out at a local hardware store... when the clerk told him about it! Circle of Concern clients came and picked up free items at closing and other donations were given to Compton Heights Christian Church (Isaiah 58), Memorial Boulevard Christian Church, UCC Pilgrim's Congregational Church, BRO, St. Cronin Parish in the city, St. Mary's Hospital baby ward, and other on-the-spot needy families throughout the year. Thank you CCC for all your donations.... keep them coming!

Volunteers are the backbone of the Stable --- others might consider this work a bore, but these people's regular efforts are proudly appreciated. Major Stable Workers: Joan Tichacek, Maribeth Hollon, Betty Quicksall, Liz Dupuis, Earl Primeau, Jim and Cindy Burchfield, Cindy and Ted Herman, Floss Haniford, Denise Owens, Jean Ann and Marlan Graham, Sharon and Bill Turnbough, Kristina and John Houghton, Brenda Richardson, Molly Duncan, Connie Watson, Lisa Belue, Karen Kelly and Merne and Ed Earl. Many more volunteers helped during the sale and many many more helped by volunteering their cooking talents, providing food. Wanda Morgenthaler and Linda Newton were in charge. Grateful is a very good word for all of them.

The Stable we say was the place of God's beginning, Jesus' birth. It's also one of the places of CCC's service.

Volunteers you are.... God's Winners by far! Viva la Stable Volunteers!

The Stable Ministry at CCC

Book Discussion Group

The November book selection is *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* by Heidi W. Durrow. We will meet at the home of Linda Smith from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16th. Please contact Brenda Richardson at 636-386-5279 with questions.

Sermon Titles, Worship Leaders and Greeters

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22
Sermon Title and Text	Unintentional Sainthood Revelation 21: 1-6a	Voyage: Setting Sail Genesis 6: 9-22, Jonah 1: 1-3, Luke 5: 1-5	Voyage: Surviving Storms Genesis 6: 11-12 Jonah 1: 4-12 Matthew 14: 25-33	Voyage: Sharing the Journey Genesis 7: 13 Jonah 1: 7-8 Acts 2: 41-47
Narthex Greeter	8:30 Rich and Liz Dupuis 10:45 Deb Shabel and Brenda Richardson	8:30 Ruth Morrison 10:45 H.O. and Beulah Nelson	8:30 John and Kristina Houghton 10:45 Tracey Hammack	10:00 Jess and Linda Newton; Bill and Sharon Turnbough
Worship Leader	Darlene Goodrich	Cindy Herman	Molly Duncan	Ted Herman
Children's Moment	10:45 Rob Brown	10:45 Steve Staicoff	10:45 Susan McGehee	10:45 Rev. Goodrich
Elder	8:30 Linda Helm 10:45 Ron Newton	8:30 Earl Primeau 10:45 Laura McDurmont	8:30 Cindy Herman 10:45 Rob Brown	10:00 Jess Newton
Deacons 8:30	John Houghton Kristina Houghton Laurie Clifton Wanda Morgenthaler Alec Belue Ella Miget	John Houghton Kristina Houghton Laurie Clifton Wanda Morgenthaler Alec Belue Ella Miget	John Houghton Kristina Houghton Laurie Clifton Wanda Morgenthaler Alec Belue Ella Miget	At 10:00 a.m. John Houghton Kristina Houghton Laurie Clifton Wanda Morgenthaler Alec Belue Ella Miget
Deacons 10:45	Beth Bean Wendy Finch Beckie Jacobsmeyer Keith Boyce Andrew Boyce			

Sunday Morning Pastor's Class with Rev. Thorne

Rev. Thorne's Sunday morning Pastor's class just began a new study called:

"The Art and Practice of Prayer - 7 films on Embracing Divine Presence"

Have you ever asked: What is prayer?

Do you want to deepen your prayer life?

Do you want a more intimate relationship with God?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, come join us this Sunday morning in Pastor Jacob's Sunday School Class. We will learn from others, reflect on what is said, and experience forms of prayer that are both individual and communal.



Library News

NEW IN OUR LIBRARY.....CHECK OUT DISPLAY TABLE IN MEMBER CENTER

A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) AND COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

History in Stone and Stained Glass

Forward From the Past

Lectures in Honor of Alexander Campbell 1788-1988

The Disciples Collages: A History

A Handbook for Today's Disciples

Recipes from the Heart and Home (by Disciples Women)

Joined in Discipleship the Maturing of an American Religious Movement

*The Barclay Family: Five Generations Contributing to United States Diplomatic and
History*



Church

Disciples Women in October

Priscilla Circle will meet in the CCC Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9th and Rebecca Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. on November 16th in the CCC Narthex.

Our November service project is collecting stocking stuffers and Size 3 diapers for BRO (Board of Religious Organizations). Donations can be placed in the marked box in the CCC Narthex. 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 Service Project

Spinning a Yarn?

The Disciples Men's Ministry is helping with a ministry effort called the DOC Yarn Project. With this program, inmates in Bonne Terre and Potosi knit hats, booties, scarves, animals, and such, for local hospitals and food pantries. There about 100 inmates participating in this program, and there is a need for, as you would guess, yarn. So, look in your basement for those extra balls of yarn, or pick up some when you are next at the store. Any color will do. Then, through October, just drop it off in the box in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your assistance and generosity for this important ministry effort. See Tim Vincent if you have any questions.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

As the temperature outside drops and the leaves begin to drop as well, it's time for us to start preparations for our largest annual church family gathering, the Thanksgiving Feast. This year's dinner will be held on Sunday, November 22 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Wunderlich Family Life Center. This has become an exciting tradition where we can all gather together with our guest family members and church family.

The results of the survey that was taken last June showed that the majority of our members would prefer to have the Feast catered. Because we want everyone to be able to share this Fellowship time together, funds from the Fellowship budget will be used to partially subsidize the cost of the meal.

Tickets will be as follows:

Adults and children 12 years and older, \$8; children 5 – 11 years old, \$5; children ages 4 and under, no charge. Additionally, we're happy to say that there are funds set aside to be supervised by the pastors for confidential financial assistance for those guests who can't afford the whole cost for their family. Again, we hope our whole church family will join in fellowship at this time and give thanks to God together for our many blessings as individuals, as families, and as Community Christian Church.



We will do our customary assigned seating so our form will ask for names and ages of all attendees. We will sell tickets before and after services on October 25, November 1, 8, and 15 and will accept checks or cash. November 15 will be the deadline as we need to give the caterer an accurate count.

As we have for the past six years, the Fellowship Team invites you to share from your bounty by bringing canned goods for the Circle of Concern Food Pantry when you come to the Thanksgiving Feast. We will have the Circle of Concern grocery cart in the WFLC foyer to receive your gifts.

We hope to see everyone there!

Senior Citizen's Luncheon

The November Senior Citizen's luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 9th at 10:30 a.m. We will have a program about art and painting presented by Bob McClelland followed by lunch at "table talk" at 11:30. Please join us for these monthly luncheons of fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



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.

God's Kids' Choir practices are ongoing in preparation for singing at both worship services on November 8th and their Christmas program on December 6th.

Youth Group from 4 - 6 p.m. on November 1st and 4-5 p.m. on November 8th.

Sharing of an Intergenerational Meal on November 8th at 5 p.m.

Youth Lock In this Friday, October 23rd - please contact Rev. Goodrich for last minute RSVP's.

Youth Retreat - On **Friday, November 13** there will be an All Night Youth Retreat at the church beginning at 6:15 p.m. It will include a Hayride and Bonfire at Queeny Park, followed by discussion, exercises and reflections about recognizing and reducing stress and anxiety. This is geared for youth and the pressures and hardships they experience at school, with peers, family and cultural stressors. We will also make time for underground church, sharing a midnight snacks and watching an early morning movie. Please RSVP to the church office.

Operation Christmas Child



Help us reach our goal of filling 200 shoeboxes!

If you haven't picked up a red and green shoebox from the Narthex yet, we hope you will do that on Sunday. Directions for how to pack a box are included in each box. Please return filled boxes to the Narthex by Sunday, November 15th when we will have an opportunity to bless them during worship. These filled boxes will be donated to Samaritan's Purse for distribution to children around the world.

Financial Updates

We are doing well through September. While our giving is a bit behind budget, our expenses are considerably below budget—giving us a \$8,720 year-to-date surplus. Our hope is that giving will continue strong so we won't have the deficit that was projected for this year.

On another note—our stewardship campaign is complete. We thank you for your pledges and continued giving towards the support of our church. God Bless! While there was not as many gifts re-directed towards the operating budget as we had hoped, we have reduced some of our plans—and have taken a balanced budget for 2016 to the CCC Board for their approval and will come to you, the congregation for final approval.

Leon Whitney
Chairman, Facilities and Finance

A Message from CCC Board Chair, Doug Hoover

Dear Community Christian Church,

It has been an active and productive year for the CCC Church Board and ministry teams of Community Christian Church. The most recent accomplishments relate to the Board passage of the 2016 church budget and a restructuring of the Board to accomplish future activities and missions of Community Christian.

The Facilities and Finance committee has worked diligently to prepare a budget that allows CCC to continue to serve Manchester and the greater community. The long history of Community Christian Church and its impact on people of the area and world is a point of pride to us all. The 2016 budget was constructed through the evaluation of our current programs, sharing the ideas and visions for future programs, and the compilation of pledges and anticipated giving. The budget is presented to the board and ultimately to the congregation for final approval. On November 22nd, we will have a congregational meeting, following our single 10:00 a.m. service, to present and approve the budget. Our church work, as living witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ, will provide even greater opportunities to grow as a church and embrace new and exciting challenges for CCC.

The other significant board achievement is in the new approach to our church leadership. At the September 21st church board meeting, the board approved a two year pilot program that could change the way we articulate our church governance. For the next two years, we are going to move to a seven member leadership team. This Core Leadership Team will consist of seven members, serving a two year position. The seven members will be responsible for overseeing a specific area of ministry: Finance/Facilities, Elders, Personnel, Mission, Connections, Christian Education, and Worship. As you can see, these core areas connect in many ways to our current ministry teams. The Leadership team will coordinate with their ministry groups as well as bring other divergent groups together.

Many of you, rightly so, may say our current model has served us well, why change? Community Christian has a proud tradition and by evolving, we have the opportunity to move forward in a bold way. The size of the current board, as well as the difficulty in recruiting new people to serve in key positions, has inspired the idea that a smaller board can be more nimble, and responsive to the needs, visions, and challenges of Community Christian Church moving into the next chapter of our history. A smaller board will take on a greater responsibility and commit to a longer term. This requires a few people to take on longer term commitments, while allowing more people to serve in specific and time limited ways. Church goers can find unique missions that suit their interests and passions. They can be short-term projects or singular missions or activities. We will continue to share the activities and programs that have supported and served us so well. As interests change or evolve, a smaller board will be able to capitalize on the new missions and opportunities afforded CCC.

The new Core Leadership team will evolve as they discern the most effective way to guide the growth and service of Community Christian Church. It will be a “work in progress” and I don’t know all of the answers to specific questions. We have assembled a fabulous group to serve CCC as the Core Leadership team. The team will be open to questions and discussions as we move forward. At the end of this pilot project, we will be able to make educated decisions on adopting this approach permanently or returning to the current model of church leadership. I am so excited about what the future holds. Surely, with the Lord’s guidance and the support of a passionate church, we will soar to new heights as we “**BOLDLY CHANGE LIVES.**”

Yours in Christ,

Doug Hoover
Board Chairman

TRIVIA NIGHT!

**Come enjoy a fun night with friends!!
Profits go to Kindness for Colton Organization**

**Friday, December 11th, 2015
Doors Open at 6:30pm, Trivia begins at 7:30pm**

This is the first Annual Trivia Night to support the Kindness for Colton Organization. Donations and money raised will provide scholarships to families with children with multiple, severe, or unique medical needs. Applications for this scholarship can be found in the Mercy Hospital NICU and online at www.kindnessforcolton.org

50-50 Drawing, Silent Auction, and Raffle Baskets will be Available!!

Located at Maryland Heights Center
2344 McKelvey Road
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Reserve your tables of 8 for \$160 (Or partial table for \$20 per person). Register early!! Space is limited!!

Soda, water, and beer provided. Other beverages and snacks may be brought.

Detach and return with payment to:

Alyson Voelkerding, 11841 Smoke Rise Court, Maryland Heights, MO. 63043

Table Name: _____

Contact Phone #: _____ Contact email: _____

Payment Type: CASH or CHECK (made payable to "Kindness for Colton")
FULL Table: Payment of \$160, Partial table: \$20 per person

Questions? Contact Alyson at 314-269-6391 or email at kindness4colton@yahoo.com



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SAVE THE DATE



All CCC Adults should mark your calendars now for our annual Progressive Dinner which will be held on December 5th. Watch for a sign up sheet in the Narthex starting on November 1st and additional information in the bulletin and church updates by e-mail.

**Vital Spark Deadlines
 for November and December**

<u>Vital Spark Deadline</u>	<u>Vital Spark Publication Date</u>
November 19th	November 24th
December 17th	December 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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