



The Vital Spark

December 22, 2015



A Message From Our Senior Pastor,
Rev. Jacob Thorne

As I write this article, we are just three days away from Christmas morning. Soon, the Christ child will be welcomed into the world once again and we, as disciples, will seek to be once again the light of the world shining in the darkness.

Being the light of the world, and serving as a witness for Christ is not easy. I mentioned in my last article that now, as we move into our third year of ministry with one another, we are entering a time when the real work of ministry takes place. Our focus this coming year will be to grow deeper and wider—creating, in part, worship services that are even more powerful and disciples that are even more committed.

There is an intentional process for the path of discipleship—a path that includes both worship and workshops.

In terms of worship, we will launch a new sermon series on the first Sunday in January: A New Year: A New You. The sermon titles for the first five Sundays are: Taking the Plunge, Renewing the Covenant, Assessing the Risk, Sharing with Others, and Moving beyond the Crowd.

In terms of workshops and learning, we are launching, at the same time, a new Tuesday night class, beginning January 12th, called: The Threat and Promise of Christian Discipleship.

This new class, taught by the Reverend Dr. Bob McClelland, a dear friend of Community, will focus on the ways in which Jesus, a charismatic figure, attracted large crowds of people. The crowds became the “followers” of Jesus who came to hear his teachings, watched him perform miracles, brought their sick to be healed, and enjoyed the company of other “followers.” Many folks come to church for similar reasons. People like good preaching, enjoy good music, and associate with others of like-mind.

But, and this is the focus of the class, Jesus never “bet” on the crowd! He put his money on twelve individuals who gave up everything to follow him. They were the “Disciples.” The disciples were called to leave the comfortably familiar, spend time with him, and learn the art of Kingdom living. It was with them that he entrusted his mission and message.

Come explore and learn with us as we reflect on what it means to live in the Kingdom of God. [“The Threat and the Promise of Christian Discipleship,”](#) begins Tuesday, January 12th, 2016 at 7:00 in the evening and will run for the next four

Continued on page 3

Sunday Morning Schedule

Quiet Christmas

Blended Worship Service on December 27th at 10:00 a.m.

January Schedule

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:45 a.m. Faith Learning 10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Prayer Concerns

Jerry Campbell; Brenda Angeli; Beulah Nelson; Wil Gearhart; Katherine Prescott; Bill Tichacek; Kathy Bumeter; Paul Shabel; Jerome Dupuis, father of Rich Dupuis; Zoe Donsky, family of Sandy Schleusner; Brandon Hamm, friend of Sandy Schleusner; Elsie Orr, John and Lee Smith, friends of Chris and Gary Meier; Chris and Hugh Berry, mother and father of Christine Meier; Wilbur Bosecker, brother of Wanda Morgenthaler; Mike Radloff, son-in-law/brother-in-law of Leon/Linda Whitney and Susan McGehee; Sandy Runquist, friend of Liz Dupuis; Angie Hobson, friend of Sarah Walker; Judy Whitworth, sister of Kay Gauble; Jean, friend of Mary Gordon; Ginger and Dave, friends of Lynn Richter; Carla and Leonard, friends of Liz Dupuis; Steve Webb, friend of Cindy Herman; Jessica Turner, granddaughter of Karen Kelly; Rev. Larry Thomas; Elsie Orr, friend of Christine Meier; People in San Bernadino; Heather Snell, friend of Kay Gauble; Forsch family, friends of Shelby Lipe; Sarah Wilson, daughter of Jim Dale; Ron Rogers, friend of Kay Gauble; Herb Duncan, friend of Doug and Lori Hoover; Paul, friend of Sarah Walker; Sarah Turner, Laura and Lexi, Karen Kelly's relatives; Jennifer Weikart, friend of Lea Ann Ravens; Jamie Hoffman, granddaughter of Leta Edmonds; Patrick and Mary Ann Malloy, son and daughter-in-law of Diane Malloy; Karla Morris, friend of Kay Gauble; Gen Walker, friend of Joan Tichacek; Reed Ravens, great grandson of Sybil Wasson; Jean Landon, cousin of Sheryl Silvey; Gary Rapp, brother-in-law of Margo Keen; Danita Keemper, friend of Sandy Schleusner; Sandy Degitz, sister-in-law of Susan Degitz; Kim Wilke, friend of Wendy Finch; Mary Ellen Turner, mother of Kara Fechner.

With much sadness, we share with you news of the passing of our CCC Member Barbara Wood on December 20th. Barbara was a long time member and she will be missed.

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.

Acknowledgements

Thank you so much for the support you have given to Kindness for Colton! We appreciate all the individual donations, people that attended the Trivia Night, and all of you that have supported us through prayer! We hope the trivia night was enjoyable. It was fantastic to see so many of our CCC family there! Our first event for the Kindness For Colton organization raised over \$12,000 which will enable us to start helping NICU/PICU families. Please continue to pray for us as we reach out to those families. Colton's life will continue to be a light and a blessing! Feel free to follow our organization at www.kindnessforcolton.org.

With love to all,

Alyson, Josh, Wyatt, and Pax Voelkerding; Jane and Ron Newton;
Sara, Jeremy, Harper and Camden Newton; Dick and Diane Hall

Dear Church Family,

So many beautiful cards with inspiring messages, phone calls, visits, flowers. Thanks so much, you have kept my spirits up. I am praying that the results of my recent X-ray will show that bones will be healed and I can get back to church shortly. I've missed each of you.

Love,

Katherine Prescott

Christmas Eve Services at CCC

All are invited to celebrate with us on Christmas Eve at either our 3:30 p.m. (family friendly) or at 7:00 p.m. (more traditional) service! There will be a variety of special music featured at both services and we will end with candle lighting sung to a favorite carol, *Silent Night*. The offering collected at each service will be donated to Memorial Boulevard Christian Church Food Pantry and Week of Compassion. We hope you will make plans to join us.



MLK Weekend Intergenerational Mission Trip

Please join us for the CCC Winter Mission Trip!! We will be traveling two hours away to Jacksonville, Illinois over Martin Luther King Weekend (**January 15th –January 18th**) to help build a new church! All ages are welcome! Ideally we would like there to be 1 CCC adult on the trip for every 2 youth under 14 years of age. There are shower accommodations and we will be sleeping at Central Christian Church. We will be helping Lynnville Christian Church, which was established in 1833 by one of our Christian Church founders, Barton W. Stone, to build a new sanctuary and community hall. The outside structure has already been built, so we will be working inside the structure. Warm clothes will still be needed however! Please sign up by **Tuesday, January 5th**. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex or you may contact the church office. Questions? Contact Don Miller or Rev. Darla.



A Message From our Senior Pastor, (continued from page 1)

consecutive evenings, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend, but we ask that those planning to do so RSVP by calling the Church office or adding their names to the “Sign-up List” in the Narthex.

Bob, who regularly attends both worship services and Sunday School at Community, is the author of more than twenty books relating faith to life, many of which were published by the Christian Board of Publications. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister, studied theology at McCormick Theological Seminary, the University of Edinburgh, and earned his doctoral degree in the Science of Theology from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was invited to be a Merrill Fellow at Harvard University after careers in college and seminary teaching as well as pastoral ministry. He brings to his writing and teaching the experience of a former television talk show host and weather man, an insurance salesman, and an award winning watercolorist. He holds Signature membership in the Missouri National Watercolor Society. Together, he and his wife of over sixty-two years, have blessed the world with three magnificent children and nine incredible grandchildren; all of whom, he concedes, are better looking and smarter than he is.

We are, at Community Christian Church, on the move. We are growing disciples, calling disciples, and living out our vision statement: Boldly Changing Lives.

Thank you for being on the journey.

Blessings,

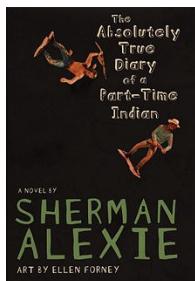
Jacob

Sermon Titles, Worship Leaders and Greeters

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Sermon Series: A New Year; A New You	Taking the Plunge	Renewing the Covenant	Assessing the Risk	Sharing with Others	Moving beyond the Crowd
Worship Leader	Cindy Herman	Carl Quicksall	Doug Hoover	Molly Duncan	Leon Whitney
Children's Moment	8:30 Susan McGehee 10:45 Susan McGehee	8:30 Molly Duncan 10:45 Molly Duncan	8:30 Rev. Thorne 10:45 Rev. Thorne	8:30 Rev. Goodrich 10:45 Rev. Goodrich	8:30 Susan McGehee 10:45 Steve Staicoff
Elder	8:30 Linda Helm 10:45 Molly Duncan	8:30 Brenda Richardson 10:45 Jess Newton	8:30 Scott Douglass 10:45 Mike Hartman	8:30 Carl Quicksall 10:45 Deb Shabel	8:30 Betty Quicksall 10:45 Ted Herman
Deacons 8:30	Ron Smith Shane Matzen Linda Smith Carol Campbell Cherie Ledbetter Kevin Ledbetter Diane Malloy	Ron Smith Shane Matzen Linda Smith Carol Campbell Cherie Ledbetter Kevin Ledbetter Diane Malloy	Ron Smith Shane Matzen Linda Smith Carol Campbell Cherie Ledbetter Kevin Ledbetter Diane Malloy	Ron Smith Shane Matzen Linda Smith Carol Campbell Cherie Ledbetter Kevin Ledbetter Diane Malloy	Ron Smith Shane Matzen Linda Smith Carol Campbell Cherie Ledbetter Kevin Ledbetter Diane Malloy
Deacons 10:45	Jim Burchfield Cindy Burchfield Tracey Hammack Scott Degitz-Fries Matt Finch Dylan Finch				

Book Discussion Group

The January book selection is *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. Our hostess is Shirley Swanson and the group will meet from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 18th in the CCC Library. Please contact Brenda Richardson with questions.



2016 Wall Calendars

The CCC youth are selling 2016 "God's Creation" appointment calendars. The calendar is filled with beautiful nature photos for each month, a Bible verse for each Sunday of the year and a listing of holidays. Please pick up a calendar this Sunday in the Narthex for \$10 and help support this youth fundraising project.



Facebook 101

Face your FACEBOOK FEARS by joining the youth on Sunday, January 10th from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. for FACEBOOK 101!

Receive instructions from young minds and from Julie Swaney and Rev. Darla. Stay and share an inter-generational meal with our youth and God's Kids' Choir at 5:00 p.m.



RSVP to the church office or sign up in the Narthex.

Sacred Conversation Circles Meet in January



Come and join us for the next gathering of our evening Sacred Conversation Circle on **Tuesday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m.** in the library. Our first day circle will be meeting **Tuesday, January 12th at 1:00 p.m.** in the CCC Library.

The circles are designed for those who wish to experience a safe and sacred space to talk about challenging issues in our world, and in our own lives, through the lens of faith. So far 16 people of varying ages and stages of life have signed up for Circles. If you wish to participate in either an evening or day circle please contact Rev. Darla Goodrich. Looking forward to the conversation together!

Disciples Women in January

On January 23rd we will again be putting together fleece blankets for the Linus Project. We will meet in the WFLC from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Our snow date is January 30th. You will need to bring two pieces of coordinating fleece, 1 1/2 yards of each, and a pair of sharp scissors to cut the fleece. If you don't have a chance to purchase fleece, please plan to come anyway. We have plenty of fleece to share, but we need you to cut and tie. This is a great time to meet and get to know the other women of the church. All ages are welcome! We will have coffee and juice. Feel free to bring a snack to share. See you on the 23rd. If you have any questions you can contact the church office.

Mission First Dream Team

Do you have a passion about CCC engaging in mission? Please join the Mission First Dream Team on Thursday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. for our second gathering as we discern CCC's particular gifts for mission, discern the needs of the community and prioritize mission ministry ideas for 2016. The role of the team will be to share and implement ideas as discerned through collaborative conversation with the Core Leadership Team. If you have any questions please contact Rev. Darla Goodrich. Hope to see you there!!



Children and Youth Ministry

Please update your family calendars for these important dates:

- January 3 - No Youth Group or God's Kids Choir (GKC)
- January 9 - Youth Group Reunion at Kreigers from 7 to 9 p.m.
- January 10 - Youth Group - Facebook Instruction Class from 4 - 5 p.m.
- January 10 - God's Kids Choir Resumes from 4 - 5 p.m.
- January 10 - Youth and GKC Intergenerational Meal from 5-6 p.m.
- January 15 to January 18 - Mission Trip to Jacksonville, IL
- January 17 - GKC meets from 4 - 5 p.m.
- January 24 - Youth Group (4-6 p.m.) and GKC (4-5 p.m.)
- January 31 - Elder's Chili Cookoff - Youth make cookies and pie, sell soda
- January 31 - GKC meets from 4 - 5 p.m.



Blood Drive Report

We would like to express our thanks to you for your dedication to the American Red Cross Blood Services. And on behalf of the patients they serve, they thank us for holding a blood drive this winter. Each and every day someone, somewhere needs blood. Without dedicated donors like you helping to build the vital link between the blood supply and those who need blood, the Red Cross could not carry out its mission.

Our blood drive resulted in 24 pints of life-saving blood collected. Because each donation could help up to three patients, these pints of blood could actually help up to 72 lives. Your donations have helped to make several people's Christmas a much healthier and happier one.



Mark your calendar for March 6th, 2016 for the first blood drive of the new year.

Liz and Rich Dupuis

Office Closed for Christmas Break



The church office will be closed on December 24th and will remain closed for the week between Christmas and New Years. We will re-open on Monday, January 4th. Urgent needs should be directed to Rev. Thorne or Rev. Goodrich by e-mail or phone call.

Office hours in 2016 will generally be 9-3:30 Monday to Thursday and 9-12 on Friday.



Merry Christmas!

And blessings to all in 2016.



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Rev. Jacob Thorne, Senior Pastor
Rev. Darla Goodrich, Associate Pastor
Julie Swaney, Office Manager
Beth Bean, Staff Accountant

Vital Spark Deadline for January

Article deadline is January 15th
for publication on January 19th

Offering Envelopes for 2016

Help us save on postage as we enter the new year.
The new offering envelopes will be available for pickup
this Sunday in the Narthex.

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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