



Vital Spark April, 2016

Welcome to CCC's newsletter for April-full of events, news, and information about the life of our church and its members! Please read and enjoy all that is happening in our vibrant church!



A message from our Pastor

CCC Family,

It is good to once again be back in the office and engaged in the life of our church and ministry. I want to share with you just a few of the highlights, and lessons learned, from my recent paternity leave:

- Our entire family is incredibly grateful for the love, support, and kindness we have received from each of you. The meals, the gifts, the cards, and the welcoming of Ella and Grace into our church family are all deeply appreciated.
- Taking care of two babies is quite a bit more than just twice the amount of work. Thankfully, we have not only our family, our friends, and our church, but also two terrific older "helpers," Annabelle and Clara.
- I still marvel at how well my wife can function, and remain cheerful, with such little amounts of sleep. She is definitely the one who does the majority of the work, especially at night.
- The addition of two more children will provide many more sermon illustrations.
- And finally, I can't wait to see them grow up and get to know our CCC family. All children, but perhaps especially pastor's children, are blessed to have caring

adults and friends guide them in the ways, teachings, and life of Jesus.

On a different note, I look forward to sharing with you this Sunday the start of a new sermon series (which will take place over the next several weeks): Confronting Christian Truisms. This Sunday, we will examine the Christian Truism: Everything happens for a reason.

Also, please be sure to note in this issue of the Vital Spark all of the many activities and events at CCC this spring-from the God's Kids Choir to the upcoming Stable Sale, we have many ministries to be thankful for.

Again, thank you for the gift of allowing me to spend time with my family during those precious first few weeks of life. It is a gift I will always treasure.

Blessings,

Jacob



VBS is coming soon!

Catch the wave of God's amazing love this summer at the "Surf Shack".
Preparations are well underway for Vacation Bible School.

July 11th-July 14th

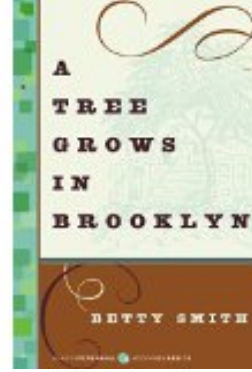
The children will learn that God creates, God helps, God loves, God calms, and God sends, as they experience Bible stories, crafts, music, recreation, science and snacks.

We have many leaders and helpers already in place, but can always use more help. If you are interested in helping during this exciting week, please contact one of the directors-Laurie Clifton or Susan McGehee.

CCC Book Club

Our next meeting will be on May 16th to discuss "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith. Join us at 1:30pm in the church library.

Any questions? Call Brenda Richardson at 636-386-5279.



Updates from our Mission First Team:

The Mission First team has been meeting regularly. One of our goals has been to take an in-depth look at the organizations that receive support from our mission giving and discerning if we are doing our best to support disciples affiliated organizations and others that do an excellent job of using their donations to fund programs while keeping administrative costs low. We took our recommendations to the Core Leadership Team and the following breakdown was approved for 2016. Through the generous contributions of CCC members we are able to support mission work at the local, national, and global levels. Here is the breakdown for the current year:

Mission Giving % for 2016

Ministry % of Mission Budget

INREACH

Pastor's Discretionary Fund	8%
	8%

LOCAL

Caring Solutions	5%
Circle of Concern	14%
Interfaith Partnership	1%
Neighborhood Houses	4%
	24%

NATIONAL

Bethany Fellowship	2%
Denominational Support:	
Disciples Mission Fund	7%
Christian Church of Mid Am. (Former SEGA)	37%
New church former SEGA	4%
National Benevolent Association	3%
Woodhaven Learning Center	2%
	55%

GLOBAL

Global Ministries	13%
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13%

TOTAL: 100%

Permanent Fund (CD to use interest on Mission)

We will give to a different organization each quarter

January, February & March= \$160 to Heat up St. Louis

April, May June TBD

July August September TBD

October, November, December TBD

There are numerous other organizations that our congregation supports through hours of volunteer work as well!

Upcoming Ladies Event!

Ladies "on the Go", mark your calendars! We are going to the Missouri History Museum to see **The Little Black Dress Exhibit** on Saturday, May 14. We will meet and leave from church at 9:45am.

We will have lunch after, but not sure where that will be, but will let you know. There will be a sign up at church on Sunday or you can call me at 636-394-7036 or email me at lindanewton110@yahoo.com.

I hope this date works for you, we will have a great time. Linda Newton

SERVICE IN DEED AND IN SPIRIT

CCC's First Stable Sale is here! Sometimes life seems dreary with sameness. **Grab the idea of the Stable Sale, get a new vision!** Daily duties, daily joys, daily encouragement to others in Service are something God gives us to offer unto Him, acknowledging His love for mankind. The sale is all of this, but it needs your Commitment and Loyalty to add to this All Church Cause.

The offerings from the sale gave \$32,000 to the WFLC mortgage last year, and this year, already contributed, the refreshing new look and furniture of the narthex/halls rehab. The work starts this Tuesday April 26 at 9am and continues til 10pm. Come after work. Yes 10pm for all you nite time folks! First timers don't worry as mentors will help you get acquainted with the routine of Set Up and Display. Come Wed, Thurs, Fri continuing April 27 thru May 2.

The actual sale is May 3 thru 7. We should never lose sight of the fact that the Stable

needs so little, but it needs that little so much, and that little is YOU!. Please consider joining this service effort, tell your media circle of the coming event by inviting them to the sale, showoff your church. Money earned also helps support many other in-church needs, local nonprofit agencies plus Disciple SEGA, etc.

At the end Sat May 7 at 2 pm Clean Up starts and youth to seniors are needed, not for great works, but for perseverance to wrap up the sale, everything back in place. Isaiah says "make the rough places smooth" this is Helper You! Let's make this first Stable Sale a Success..... in Deed and in Spirit!



Our Disciples Women Outreach Project for April was collecting personal items for Circle of Concern. Thank you to all who donated. We will continue to collect items until the end of the month.

Our Outreach Project for May will be to give money to our ministers discretionary fund. The money collected goes to our ministers for them to use at their discretion for those with in our congregation. As always thank you for all you do for others. You are all a blessing.

St Louis Screening of the movie "Injustice Anywhere" and Activists' Night is Friday April 29 at 6:00pm at Union Ave. Christian Church. Janet Staicoff and Rev. Darla plan to attend and would love to have you join them.

Click on this link for more information.

<https://www.nbacares.org/files/file/injustice-anywhere-flyer-stl-v4-final-revised.pdf>

Summer Float Camp on the



Eleven Point Directed by Dan Angeli

"Four nights in a paradise that God has made us stewards of is a unique experience. The refreshing clear water of the Eleven Point and the many feeding springs are splendid for all. We camp at one place and canoe a total of 21 miles with a day dedicated to a tube float from Boze Mill to Riverton, featuring a three foot waterfall area. Will be leaving on **Sunday, July 24** and returning on the following Thursday. Cost is to be determined but likely in the neighborhood of \$225. This camp is aimed at 6th thru 11th graders. It is a lot of fun and the friendships made last a lifetime."

Please sign-up in the Narthex if you are interested in going!



Summer Camps

There are some great options for Summer Camps this summer through Disciples for Christ Mid America.

The full list is displayed in the Narthex for you to check out.

Here are four that Rev. Darla selected as popular options for our Middle School and High School Youth:

Inter-generational Camp (all ages) at MOVAL, June 14-18

MAD (music, art and drama for middle school) at NEOLA, July 18-23

Canoe Trip with Dan Angeli, July 24-30 (more info. above)

CRY Festival (High school) at Culver-Stockton, July 18-21

Summer Mission Trip

We are proposing the following dates for an inter-generational mission trip. If you (or your family wishes to join us) please let us know, by e-mail, and list the options below that work for you this summer. Usually our Mission Trips cost somewhere between \$150 to \$250 per person for all lodging & meals for a week. We are looking at Urban Spirit (a poverty simulation week in Louisville, KY), building a church in Lynnville, IL, or building homes in New Orleans. Scholarships are always available and discounts will be given to youth. Thanks so much!!



Here are the dates proposed:

Option 1: Monday, May 30 (Memorial day) - Friday, June 3

Option 2: Monday June 13 - 17

Option 3: Monday July 24-30*

July 24-30 is also an option for a congregational canoe trip with Dan Angeli and Mid-America Disciples. See above article.

Any questions or concerns? Please contact Darla at darla@disciplesforchrist.org



God's Kids Choir News:

May 1st Performance

Dress rehearsal is from 2:30pm to 4:00pm

Tale of Three Trees Performance and Reception, starts at 4:00pm

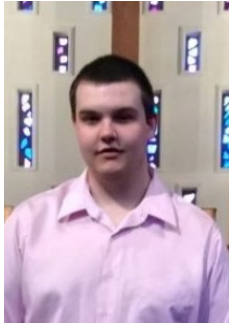
Come out and support our kids as they perform this lively musical.

Youth Schedule for May

May 1st-GKC Performance

May 7th-Stable Clean-Up

May 8th-No Youth due to Mother's Day
May 15th-Year-end picnic
May 22nd-Youth Lunch Bunch
May 29th-No meeting/Memorial Day
 Weekend



Spotlight on Allen Haus

Our Sound Technician, Allen, has been with us a few years now. Here's what you may not know about Allen:

During his years in high school, he spent much of his time in the drama and theater program. He found himself taking on the role of the theater programs lighting and sound design for plays and musicals in the drama program. He successfully managed two plays and three musicals. He quickly found himself as the Tech Manager for the auditorium and working for the school district as the liaison for the building while still a student. Allen chose to attend Webster University's School of Communications in the Fall of 2013 and began working on a bachelors in Audio Aesthetics and Technology with a minor in Mathematics and a minor in Media Communications. Allen is currently wrapping up his junior year at Webster and plans to graduate next spring. He plans to go on to graduate school for a doctorate in Acoustic Science. He is currently studying the acoustic absorption properties of petrified moss for product design in environmentally friendly acoustic paneling that can also filter air particles naturally.

Thanks for all you do for CCC, Allen!



Mother's Day Pictures

Mother's day is coming up May 8th and for our services that day we would like to show slides of pictures of our church members and their Moms.

if you want to participate, please send all pictures via e-mail, attached via jpeg to office@disciplesforchrist.org.

Please send them by May 4th!

Thank you notes received at CCC

"To the many members and friends of CCC: My

deep and genuine appreciation for the many cards and tokens of well-wishing which energized, encouraged, and supported me through my recent hip surgery and recovery. Most of all, for all the prayers which formed the hammock in which I was able to lie back, trust, and relax. God is good...and so are you!" -Bob McClelland



"A very sincere thank you for the many get well cards, phone calls, and words of concern and encouragement during my recent bout with pneumonia."
-H.O. Nelson

"I was wanting to thank you for the care package that the church sent me. I apologize about the tardiness of this, I have just been extremely busy with a bunch of activities here at college. I am really enjoying it; I have joined a fraternity and have become the Philanthropy and Fundraising Chair of it, I work at a restaurant down here, I play baseball for the club team here on campus (which is a lot of fun because we have traveled and played other college teams), I am apart of many different organizations and still manage to keep good grades finishing the first semester with a 3.76. Yet again, thank you for your continuous support." -Brice Bube

"I was so excited to receive my cookie and goody package! It is so kind of you to think of me. It is a highlight of my week to receive homemade goodies!
Thanks again!" -Elizabeth Gordon

Community Christian Church 636-394-2772