



Vital Spark May, 2016

Enjoy this issue of the Vital Spark-full of events, news and information about the life of our church and our members!

Read about all that is happening in our vibrant church!



News from our Pastor

Dear CCC Family and Friends,

Since our last newsletter, much has happened in the life of the church. In addition to the spring Stable Sale and God's Kids Choir performance, we have had baptisms, upcoming staff transitions, and opportunities for new ministries and connections.

In terms of baptisms, our latest class of ten youth, baptized this past Sunday on Pentecost morning, left me filled with both hope and joy. Darla and I spent Friday and Saturday with the baptismal candidates, reflecting with them on the meaning and call of discipleship. I mentioned Sunday morning that their insights, articulation of faith, and zest for living are impressive. They used such

words as "mystical, majestic, mysterious, compassionate, loving, and personal," when asked to describe God in one word. They have a seemingly unending amount of energy. And they want to belong to something that is greater than the individual self, which, perhaps more than anything else, struck me as a surprise. Our recently baptized youth, despite whatever the news may say about the upcoming "me" generation rooted in the narcissism of the self, is anything but. Rather, they yearn, at least here at CCC, to be a part of the body of Christ and the church, making a difference in their lives and the lives of others. For this, I am very thankful.

In terms of upcoming staff transitions, our beloved Jimmy Spear, after twelve years of faithful and dedicated service, has announced that he plans to retire (he will still substitute occasionally at CCC) in order to spend more time with grandchildren, family, and friends. We will miss Jimmy deeply. A celebration, in his honor, will be held immediately following the service on June 12th.

And **in terms of new ministries and connections** to the greater community, CCC plans to be present this year at the Ballwin Days Festival. Ballwin Days, a celebration in our community that has taken place for the past thirty-nine years, is June 10th-12th. This year, with the gracious financial support of the Disciples Women, we are going to have a booth! The details are still in the works. But here are some of the initial plans:

We will highlight one of the ministries that CCC does best, Vacation Bible School. Our plan is to have a table (along with a tent), with children activities/crafts that highlight the theme of VBS, Surf Shack. We will have games that give away prizes such as sunglasses, beach balls, and even drawings for several children to attend VBS for free. We will also have a big water cooler and dixie cups available for anyone, adults included, who need to relax and take a break.

We would love to have your support and, if it works with your schedule, your physical presence and help. Our tent will be setup and operating from 12:00-5:00 on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact me or Janet Staicoff. This is just one more way that we can be church beyond the church, connecting with our neighbors and friends.

As you can see, we have a lot taking place. Yet, while we are busy, we are also intentional-trying our best to both be and make disciples.

I'm glad we are on the journey with one another.

Blessings,

Reminder!

May 29th through September 4th we will be having one service each
Sunday at 10:00am.

Adult Faith Learning will be at 9:00am.

Children and Youth activities will be at 9:30am.



VBS is coming in July!

Don't miss out on the Early Bird registration by
June 11th and save \$5.00!

VBS dates are July 11-July 15 at CCC.

Applications are on-line on in the Narthex!

Year End Youth/Children/Senior Picnic on May 22nd

Right after service on May 22, join us for a picnic at WFLC for all the kids and their families to celebrate the end of the school year, and to honor our Seniors who are graduating! Sign-ups in the Narthex for a side dish or dessert.



Mission in Action at CCC-Updates from our Mission First Team

CCC has adopted The Knoeble Girls Dorm at Epworth Children's Home!
These are the "high risk" girls that go to school within their own dorm and do not leave the campus.

The contact people for our group are Molly Duncan, Tracey Hammack, and Lisa Belue. We have submitted our paperwork and were approved as continuous volunteers with the dorm. We will plan at least one activity per month with the girls. Each visit is usually about an hour or two depending on the activity and the current

situation within the dorm as it can change hourly! We also plan to send cards, etc to the girls during the month to let them know we are thinking of them or to celebrate a holiday or birthday if applicable. We may also have the opportunity to have a bigger event where other members of the congregation can come and participate as well.

Molly and Lisa had their first visit on Saturday, May 14th. Molly prepared a craft where the girls used t-shirts to make their own tote bags and Lisa brought art supplies as well. They also brought some sweet snacks to share and those were a hit with the girls! The girls shared ideas of what they would like to do when they get together and also what their favorite foods are which will help us plan for future visits.

When we spoke with Margaret, the volunteer coordinator, this week, she let us know that they are looking for adult volunteers to help coordinate their Christmas Adopt-A-Child program. The volunteers would help gather the needs for each child, communicate the information to the committee, and organize the collection and distribution of the gifts to each child. For many of the children, these are the only gifts they will receive. Lisa has adopted a child from Epworth each year for the past few years and it is a great program.

Epworth has another need that we think would be a great way for CCC to help out: they are trying to set up a small "store" where the youth could earn points and then redeem them for items from the store. The items they are wishing for are for the most part inexpensive and easy to purchase. We are discussing the possibility of the youth group holding an "item drive" or some way to collect so we can help them stock their store.

As you can see, even if you are unable to commit to a regular date with the Epworth residents there are many other ways for interested members so help out and make a difference in the kids' lives!

VILLAGE CHURCH
News from the Stable Ministry

They say it takes a village to raise a child, well, it takes a church to help pull off a successful Stable Sale. To those who gave donations, made pick ups, sorted, displayed/priced, sold or helped with clean up the Stable Ministry says THANK YOU CHURCH!!!

If you didn't get your donations included in May, the second Stable Sale Prep Week is the end of July with the actual sale August 2-6 . Summer is a busy time with some regular workers needing family break. If you could join us on Monday or Thursday next week from 9-3 in WFLC, it would really be welcome. If you are a youth who

needs service hours and who could help us this summer, you are welcome too.

Volunteers are needed because the monetary rewards go to support our church and outreach projects, but there is a lot of time/work involved. Do join the Stable network for together in service for Christ we are the village. We're so grateful and fortunate to all of you for being our church.



Bon Voyage to Jimmy!

Please join us for a reception to honor Jimmy Spear on June 12th after second service. Refreshments will be provided!

Jimmy is an extremely talented, one-of-a-kind piano player, and we have been so blessed to have him with us for 12 years!

If you would like to contribute to Jimmy's retirement gift, please make checks out to CCC marked "Jimmy Spear" in the memo and send to the office by June 9th.

Discount Six Flags tickets available in the office!

Ask in the office if you are interested in discount tickets good for July 11 through July 24, 2016.

Ballwin Days

June 10th-June 12th

Sign-up to help at our CCC Booth!

A Surf Shack themed booth geared towards kids that will highlight our VBS program!

This will be a fun outreach opportunity!

CCC Book Club for June

The book discussion group will meet on June 13 at 1:30pm in the church library. Come join us to

discuss "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah.

Any questions, call Brenda Richardson at 636-386-5279.



Our Retiring Sunday School Teachers

Thank you all for your incredible service and dedication to our CCC children!



We honor Carol Cook, Linda Whitney, and Stacey Rawls for their many years of teaching Sunday School. A special presentation is planned for Sunday, May 22 during the services.



Our High School Seniors who earned CCC scholarships!

Congratulations to:

Andrew Boyce
Alec Belue
Andrew Branstetter
Evan McDurmont
Stephanie Bube
Jamie Glynn
Zachary Rawls

Vital Spark deadline for articles in the next issue is June 15.

Thank you notes received at CCC

Members of CCC,

Thank you so much for the thoughts, prayers, and cards on the passing of my brother, Bill. I am sure he is now at peace. -Karen Kelly

