



Vital Spark July, 2016



CCC Family,

This has been an exciting summer full of energy and enthusiasm. This past week was one of my favorites: Vacation Bible School! I loved seeing our children, youth, and adults get excited learning about Jesus. I loved the fact that we had a mixture of church members, new friends, and even complete strangers participating all week long. I loved that a five-year-old who has only been to our church only one another time said to her mom after the first day, "That was the best VBS ever." I loved that on the way to VBS one morning when I asked our seven-year-old neighbor how she liked everything, she said, "I can't wait until next year's VBS." The excitement, if you cannot tell, was contagious. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, helpers, and amazing co-directors, Laurie Clifton and Susan McGehee, for making it all such a great success.

This summer I have also seen a new sense of energy and excitement in our worship service. One morning, we had a couple on their way to vacation

visit from another DOC church. After the service the husband, who served as a former regional minister, said to me, "This is the best DOC church service I have been to in years...It's so good to see a Disciples church doing well...I want to have our new associate minister come visit on a Sunday morning and see what you are doing..." Of course, this comment pleased me immensely. And it also reminded me how easy it is to forget what a special and unique church we have.

At our Core Leadership Team meeting this past Monday night, reflecting on the success of the summer, I asked the team to join me in the support and discernment of moving to one service year round. This is not a decision to make lightly. I realize it means change and change can be scary. I also realize that at the start of the summer, as I stated publicly, it was not my intent to merge into one service permanently. But the energy of a full sanctuary, the sense of being one church, and even the logistics (with the vacancy of the associate minister position) have all convinced me that moving towards one service is the direction we need to go. When a visitor joins us on Sunday morning, it is so refreshing to see a full sanctuary bubbling with energy. And yes, I hope we can find a way to continue the cookies and refreshments afterwards.

As much as I can claim, I believe that God is nudging us towards one service. Yet, such discernment should be done as a community. Over the next several weeks, please, please, feel free to contact me, or any member of the leadership team, and share your thoughts. We particularly want to hear what you feel has worked best this summer and how we can continue the renewed sense of unity and excitement. And please know that we always welcome anyone who would like to join the worship committee and help design our future services.

Finally, don't forget that we will celebrate Darla's final party with us this Sunday, July 24th. Ending a ministry well is an important part of the farewell process. After Darla's final sermon, we will all gather in the Wunderlich center where we will share a meal, be entertained by a short program, and wish Darla the very best as she makes the journey to her new church in Indiana.

See you Sunday!

Blessings,
Jacob

**Stable Sale Coming
in August!**

Our mighty Stable Crew is
at it again! They are busy



working on the next Sale which will run August 2nd through August 6th.

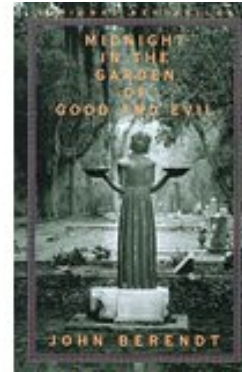
Sign-ups are available to help work at the Sale, or to bring food for the workers. Please consider helping support this mission work for CCC!

CCC Book Club

Join us for our next Book Club discussion in the Library on Monday, August 15 at 1:30pm.

We will discuss the book "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" by John Berendt.

Please call Brenda Richardson with any questions at 636-386-5279.



Disciples Women Update

Our outreach project for **August** is collecting food for **Circle of Concern**. For **September**, we will be collecting school supplies and kid friendly snacks for our area schools. Snacks need to be store-bought and individually wrapped. Some examples would be fruit snacks, cheese and / or peanut butter crackers, fruit cups, pudding cups. There will be a box labeled "September Outreach" in the Narthex, please put your items in that box. As always thank you to all of you who give so generously.



Save the Date!

September 11 will be an all-church service day at CCC as well as the Blood Drive!

More details will follow but please put this on your calendar so that we can get as many to participate as possible!

News from Facilities and Finance

Dear CCC Family and Friends,

Through careful stewardship of your pledges and gifts for 2016, I am happy to report to you that at mid-year CCC has operated with a surplus of some \$7,000. To be clear, we had lower than projected expenses which helped with the surplus. As was expected, contributions during the summer months have slipped from our projected amounts. We anticipate we will catch up in this area with the coming of the fall season. I assure you, however, that we were able to keep all our commitments that you asked us to make regarding CCC outreach requests and maintenance demands.

We of the Facilities and Finance Committee wish to thank all for your financial contributions during the first half of 2016. God continues to bless us in so many ways through your contributions.

The table below provides a summary of our budget to date.

2016 (through end June)	Actual	Budget	Better/(Worse)
Income	\$ 213,236	\$ 215,984	(\$ 2,748)
Expenses	\$ 205,966	\$ 217,220	\$ 11,254
SURPLUS/(SHORTAGE)	\$ 7,270	(\$ 1,236)	\$ 8,506

We thank you again for your continued support, talents and efforts for the Christian-directed work undertaken by CCC. Without you, it is impossible.

If you have any questions or suggestions for improving our budgeting approach, please contact any member of the Facilities and Finance Committee. We will be happy to more fully explain the CCC budgeting process.

John Houghton

(for the Facilities and Finance Committee)

Staffing Update

After careful discernment, conversation, and prayer the Core Leadership Team has started the process of hiring a new Director of Youth and Family Ministry. The primary purpose of this part-time position (with the possibility of eventually moving into full-time) is to guide, mentor, and educate our children and youth in Jesus' teachings and Christian discipleship. The end objective is to create a solid faith foundation that will sustain them through high school, college, and their adult lives. Our new director will design and implement a vision for ministry with children, youth, and their families that is consistent with CCC's mission and vision. He or she will exhibit a deep and growing relationship with Jesus Christ and the passion to help God's children of all ages grow in faith and discipleship. And he or she will also participate fully in the life and worship of the church.

For those who are interested, a full job description is available in the office. We are excited about this new position and the ways in which God will work in this process. As always, if you have any questions about this position, the process, or future plans please contact Jacob or any member of the leadership team.

God's Kids Choir News

God's Kids Choir will resume practices on Sunday, August 21st at 4:00pm. The show they will be working on is "Miracle at Midnight"

Kids ages 5 years to 5th Grade are welcome to join.

GKC meets most Sundays at 4:00pm during the school year. Learn about and celebrate God's word through music.



Surf Shack VBS 2016

Surf Shack VBS 2016 was a huge success thanks to the children (43) who joined us and the (22) youth/(20) adult helpers!

The children learned fun songs ("Shine Bright", "Pop Up", "Ocean"), made crafts, saw/participated in Science demonstrations, heard/participated in stories from the Bible, had delicious themed snacks, and had fun playing together in Recreation.

Thank you to: Katey Fairchild (Music Coord.), Sarah Clifton (Craft Coord.), Norm Pereira (Science Coord.), Megan Compton (Storyteller), Diane and Dick Hall (Snack Coord.), Cathi Chandler (Recreation Coord.), and Laura McDurmont (Water Day Coord.).

Thank you to the Guides: Emma McDurmont/Hannah Donsky (3's/4's), Debbie Gray (5's), Robin Edman (Kdg./1st), Pennie Anderson (2nd), and Ruth Leavy (3rd, 4th, 5th).

Thank you to Jenna and Allyson for being the characters/puppet in the Opening and Closing skits each day.
A big thank you to Stacey Rawls (Zac and Amanda too!) for coordinating and creating all the decorations!
We also had many other adult and youth helpers who helped the area coordinators and guides. Thank you!

Thank you to Jacob and Darla for helping in many ways throughout the week. Thank you to Julie and Beth for all their help in the office.
The VBS Mission Project was kid friendly food and school supplies for the Circle of Concern. We collected over \$300 (which will be given to COC), 75 food items, and 119 school supplies. Thank you to the families for their donations!

It was a wonderful week for the kids, youth, and adults! There was lots of fun, fellowship, and praising God!

Well Wishes for Rev. Darla

Darla's time with us is coming to an end, and we all wish her well in her new position, new marriage, and new start in Indiana!

Looking forward to Darla's "Going-Away Soiree" on July 24th after service, for those that are attending. We will have the opportunity to share a meal and send her off in true CCC style!

Thank you, Darla, for all you have done for our church community!



The deadline for articles for the August Vital Spark will be August 18th.



Disciple Men's Ministry Summer Barbeque

The DMM barbeque is just around the corner! Pre-sales will start Sunday August 7th.

The menu will include: Grilled chicken breasts, pork steaks, and kabobs! Stay-tuned for more details.

Thank you note received at CCC

"I was greatly humbled with the reception, cards, gifts, and beautiful plaque. Thank you Choir and Praise Team. Also, thanks to ALL! It was a good ride! Blessings to all!" -Jimmy Spear

Community Christian Church 636-394-2772