



Vital Spark August, 2016



Dear CCC Family,

Over the last few weeks, we have spent a lot of time thinking, visioning, reflecting, discussing, and now voting on what the future of our worship services and church life will be. It has been an intriguing process. Dialogue is critical. Dialogue without opposition is not true dialogue. And dialogue with opposing views, when led appropriately (as we have done), can lead to even greater growth. The deepest lesson I have taken away from this process is that the CCC family as a whole is grateful, and thankful, to be in constant worship with those who are the same, different, more conservative, less conservative, more liberal, less liberal, older, younger, on the same religious path, or on a totally different path. What has echoed throughout is the desire of all to maintain our diversity-celebrating what we share in common, recognizing the ways we differ, and always welcoming everyone to the table of God every Sunday. No matter what the final vote tally is, whether we have one service or two, we will be just fine and even stronger for having been intentional about what it is God is calling us to do.

In terms of staffing, let me give a brief update.

We have hired a new organist/pianist, Sarah Nelson. Sarah joined us for the first time this past Sunday and did an excellent job. We look forward to welcoming her into our congregation and celebrating with her through the gift of music.

In terms of the next associate minister or youth minister/director, we are still in a process of discernment, both in what we are searching for and what best meets our

current needs. We have collected several profiles and resumes; the candidates are all qualified and personable. We are holding an interview this week, with a candidate who could possibly serve in either an interim or more permanent position. But there has been no final decision on whether this candidate, or any other candidate, will be part-time or full-time, permanent or interim. There are a number of issues to consider and we want to make the most appropriate choice, while being timely but not rushed. If you have any suggests/comments/thoughts please feel free, as always, to contact me or any member of our leadership team. We will continue to update as the process unfolds.

Finally, I want to say just a word about youth ministry in general. Last night, I led our CCC youth group for the first time. Youth ministry was where I started my ministerial career. And I was reminded once again how critical youth ministry is. Yes, youth are the future of our church. But equally important, if not more so, is the fact that the youth are, right now, a valued and active part of the church. Our job, or calling, as adults, is to help mentor these youth—teaching our youth to think theologically. Yet, at the same time, our job, as adults, is to learn from our youth—seeing, listening, and hearing new ways to think theologically. It's a two-way street and without one another, we would be less the richer.

Only through our individuality can we come together to compose the totality of the body of Christ.

See you this Sunday if not before.

Blessings,
Jacob



Mission Day-Sunday, September 11

Mark your calendar for this very special Sunday! We will meet at church at 9:00 a.m. for a brief service and then proceed to the various projects. The Mission First team has assembled a variety of ways to help so that everyone can participate, no matter age or physical ability! Here are some of the ways we will be serving:

- Helping with painting and yard work at Caring Solutions**
- Playing games with the residents of Epworth Children's Home and then hosting a bar-b-que for kids and staff**
- Helping kids decorate cupcakes and make cards to deliver to local first responders**

- Help with and participate in the Blood Drive at church
- Volunteering to help at Manchester Days
- Preparing a meal to serve at church Sunday evening for participants
- We would love for someone that is good with a camera that would be willing to go to the various sites and take pictures for a slide show (please contact Tracey Hammack)

There are sign-ups for all service projects in the Narthex and also a place to indicate if you need childcare that morning. We hope everyone that participates will be able to gather at 5 p.m. in the WFLC for a simple meal where we can share our experiences.

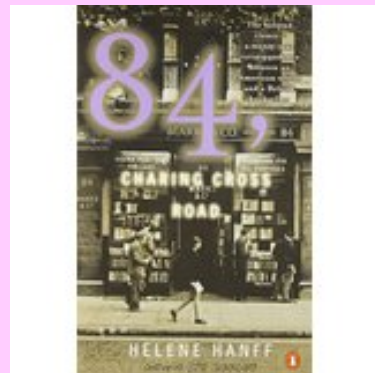
Please join us and Boldly Change Lives on September 11th!

CCC Book Club for September

Join us for the next book discussion on September 19th, in the CCC Library at 1:30pm.

We will discuss "84 Charing Cross Road" by Helene Hanff.

Call Brenda with any questions at 636-386-5279.



Vote now through August 29th

Vote one of 3 ways for your preference on having one or two services here at CCC:

Vote by ballot in the Narthex

Vote by e-mail to office@disciplesforchrist.org

Vote by phone to Julie or Beth

Fall Faith Learning

After our summer break, we are so excited to start Faith Learning classes beginning **Sunday, September 18 for children Kindergarten-5th grade** each Sunday. We will be using the Deep Blue curriculum again, with our friends Kat,

Asia, and Edgar. Each Sunday we will have exciting stories from the Bible through animated video storytelling, music, crafts, and games. All combine into a faith experience that helps children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today! We meet downstairs in the Story Room, so if you are in Kindergarten-5th grade you are officially invited!!

Also starting Sunday, September 18 for all **Youth from 6th grade to 12th grade**, we will meet each week prior to service in the Youth room in Upper Packwood. For any questions, call Janet Staicoff at 314-807-2589.

**Note: For September 18th and 25th, classes will start for both at 9:00am!
This is subject to change in October, and we will keep you posted.**

An update from Facilities and Finance:

Dear CCC Family and Friends,

In the July issue of the Vital Spark I wrote to inform you that through careful stewardship of your pledges and gifts for 2016, CCC had a slight surplus at mid-year. I also cautioned, however, that the surplus was primarily the result of lower than projected expenses and higher than expected WFLC rental income during that time period.

This month I want to share with you some extraordinary and unbudgeted expenses we will incur during the second half of 2016 that are likely to create a period of deficit spending best covered by increased giving from the congregation. These expenses must also be viewed in light of general offering levels that have not kept pace with projected income over the summer months.

The major property and facility issues with a total cost of approximately \$18,000 that have been addressed include:

- Replacement of a 22-year-old air conditioner and furnace
- Removal and/or deadwood trimming of several trees that have been wind-damaged or hit by lightning and pose a danger to CCC property or neighboring property
- Replacement of two outside doors for DeWitt Hall and repair of two additional doors in Lower Packwood.

God sees the giving heart of each of us and blesses us because we give out of love for our church and our community. We ask that you prayerfully consider your financial gifts, support and talents over the remainder of 2016 as we work to continue providing the beautiful, safe and sound worship space we enjoy at CCC. On behalf of the Facilities and Finance Committee, I thank each and every one of you for your continuing

commitment to Community Christian.

John Houghton (for the Facilities and Finance Committee)



God's Kids Choir-September Schedule

9/4 No practice
9/11 Practice in Choir Room, 4pm
9/18 Practice in Choir Room, 4pm
9/25 Practice in Choir Room, 4pm

Youth Group-September Schedule



9/4 No meeting due to Labor Day
9/11 Come share in the CCC Meal for Mission Day, 5pm
9/18 meet in WFLC at 4pm
9/25 meet in WFLC at 4pm



Pictures for the church directory

CCC and Life Touch Photography are offering all new families and families who want to update their directory photo, the opportunity to do so.

Our photo date is **Tuesday, September 27 from 2pm to 9pm**. We will begin sign-ups in the Narthex on Sunday, September 4 and go to Sunday, September 25 before and after church service. Our pictorial directory has helped us connect a name and a face and get to know each other. Look for more information about this in the Sunday bulletins and on-line.

Welcome to Sarah Nelson!

A huge CCC welcome to our new Pianist here at CCC, Sarah Nelson!

Sarah is excited to be here and looks forward to getting to know all of you!



The next "Dinner for 8" is September 10, at 6:30pm at Kobe Steakhouse in Westport Plaza.

Sign-ups are in the Narthex. Hope you can join us!

Articles for the next Vital Spark will be due September 15th.

Save the dates!

The next and final Stable Sale of 2016 is scheduled for October 4th through October 8th. We will need volunteers and help with feeding the workers.

Sign-ups will be coming soon!

Thank You Notes received at CCC

"Thank you for the beautiful cards, calls, and prayers during my past brief illness. I love my church family more than I can ever say. Your thoughtfulness means the world to me!" -Connie Watkins



"Words simply cannot express the depth of gratitude I feel for each and every one of you! I was so touched and overwhelmed by the outpouring of love at my going away event and through all of your cards, well wishes, gifts and sentiments expressed. I will forever be thankful for the way you have helped me to grow in my ministry through your continuous support, care and encouragement through the years. Your witness is a testament to God's powerful Spirit that will continue to enable you to flourish, as you have, for over 50 years. I am especially grateful to Jacob, Julie and Beth, as well as Bob McClelland, for the many ways they have supported me on staff. I will be thinking of you all, especially this Sunday, when I preach my first sermon. It was your gracious faces every week that enabled me to grow in preaching and worship presence. Your faces, hearts and lives will remain with me and you will be in my thoughts and prayers. When I break bread this week, we will break it together in the Kingdom! Grace & Peace to all of you & blessings on the journey ahead!" -Darla Goodrich

Community Christian Church 636-394-2772