



Vital Spark September, 2016

Community Christian Church



In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul writes, "Faith comes from what is heard." In other words, we are shaped by the voices that we hear and speak to us. To ask "Who am I?" one must recognize the different voices that are a part of one's life. We make room in our lives, and in our hearts and souls, for those who speak to us and are a part of our community.

As I write this article, I am in my study at home dictating into the computer. It is amazing what technology can do. It is also amazing, at least personally, to have been a recipient of your prayers and concerns these past several days. Technology can never replace or overtake the voices, whether spoken or in the written form, that tell us we are loved, cared for, and remembered. I am deeply thankful and appreciative for the voices that I have heard from each of you as I recover from my surgery.

This Sunday, I plan to be back in worship with you. The message for the morning will be brought to us by the Core Leadership Team. I look forward to hearing and listening to the ways in which they sense God's Spirit working within us and through us.

We have been through a lot of changes this year. There have been changes in staff, changes in worship, changes in our city, and changes in our world. Yet through all of this, the steadfast presence of God remains the same. Now is the time to remember, as we return to two worship services, that one of our primary purposes of worship is to be filled with God's Spirit in order that we can share that Spirit with others. This week, I have been a recipient of that Spirit; and I know others will also benefit from this very same Spirit that lives in each of you – the incarnation of Christ that breathes and pulses with the rhythms of our own bodies.

Thanks be to God, for the Spirit that moves among the friends and members of Community Christian Church.

Blessings,
Jacob

Scenes from Mission Day-September 11





On September 11th, we hosted our first annual day of mission.

Worship began with one service at 9:00. Then, while exiting the doors of the sanctuary, pausing to take communion, and singing the song "Sanctuary," CCC members had the opportunity to participate in one of several mission projects for the day:

- A worship, barbeque, and time of fellowship at Epworth Children and Family Services in Webster Groves, MO. While sharing a meal and playing games with one another, residents of Epworth were able to interact and share in conversation with members of CCC.
- A day of painting with a client of Caring Solutions-an organization that started in the basement of CCC more than fifteen years ago, dedicated to designing and providing individualized services for adults and children with developmental disabilities so that they can lead fulfilling lives.
- A day of yard work on the church grounds.
- A day of volunteering with "Manchester Days"-the community in which we live and serve.

- A day of card and cupcake making with the yummy goodies and well wishes taken to our local first responders. One of the visits even included a tour of the ambulance and fire trucks!

The day of service concluded with everyone returning to the church in the evening, for a shared meal and stories of the day.

Another day of mission will take place this spring. It is our hope that as we go forth into the world and beyond the walls of the church we can, as our opening song of worship for the day proclaimed, "Go and Make a Difference."

Blood Drive Report from Sept. 11

Thank you to all who turned out for our church blood drive. With your help, the Red Cross was able to collect 20 pints of blood. The need for blood products is always great, so your gift of life is much appreciated by up to 60 people who will benefit from it.

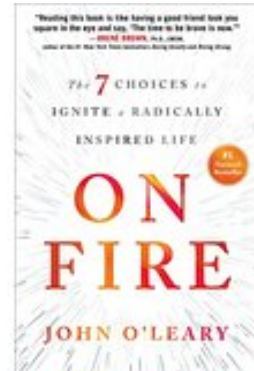
Our next blood drive will be Dec 4th.

CCC Book Club

Our next book is "On Fire" by John O'Leary.

Please join us in our discussion on Monday, October 17th at 1:30pm in the Library!

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



Lifetouch Pictures for the CCC Directory

This Sunday, September 25, is the last day to sign up for all new members, or if you want to update your photo for our pictorial directory.
Our photo session is Tuesday, September 27.

Disciple Women's News Update

We will continue to collect kid friendly snacks until the end of September.
In October we will collect new or gently used toys for BRO.
Thank you all for always giving so generously.

Congratulations to Will Lipe!



We want to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Willard Lipe on his recent retirement from the military after 31 years of service!

A ceremony was held to honor him on September 10th for his incredible service through the years.

Will is pictured with his wife, Jill. Jill, and daughter Shelby were also recognized at the ceremony.

September Finance Committee Update

Dear CCC Family and Friends,

Over the past couple issues of the Vital Spark, I have related to you the state of the 2016 budget and some major unbudgeted expenses that are likely to arise in the near future. In this article, I would like to tell you about some of the sources that give us confidence about the generosity, kindness and devotion to Community Christian.

I previously mentioned that Community Christian will be required to upgrade its current sound system (sound board, microphones, installation and training) to comply with coming Federal frequency regulations and to improve overall sound quality at CCC. The cost of accomplishing this update will be approximately \$20,000.

Thanks to the generosity of the Disciples Women and their annual commitment to CCC from the proceeds of the Stable sale, we will be able to pay over one-half of this upgrade (\$12,000) from their 2016 gift. It is truly appreciated. We will be able to supplement their contribution with previously donated designated funds within CCC that can be directed to this necessary expense. As a result, we will be able to pay for this needed upgrade without assessing it against our 2016 budget.

In addition to the Disciples Women's contribution, individual private contributions have been received for other items which enhance the appearance and functionality of CCC. These gifts and contributions are particularly meaningful as they are truly an expression of love given for Community Christian.

Such giving continually reaffirms the presence and willingness of our church family to support the work of CCC. Last month, I wrote to you that God sees the giving heart of each of us and blesses us because we give out of love for our church and our community. I believe that. Your actions continue to be a reminder of this fact. We ask that you continue to prayerfully consider your financial gifts, support and talents over the remainder of 2016 as we work to continue providing the beautiful, safe and welcoming 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)

Stable Sale Ministry

Remembering...

Do you know how many books are in the Old Testament? Young and old always have a hard time remembering!



A handy formula:

The word OLD has 3 letters. Testament has 9 letters, which together makes 39 books.

The word NEW has 3 letters. Testament has 9, and $3 \times 9 = 27$ books.

This bible trivia is to help you remember! Just like remembering the last Stable Sale of the year. Prep work for set up starts next week. Please come and volunteer Monday through Monday 9am to 10pm.

Remember to invite your neighbors, family and friends! Sale runs October 4th through October 8th. Come and support your church!

Where is my letter about the Stewardship Campaign?

This year the Stewardship Campaign will be done in a different way! Instead of it running over an extended period, it will happen during the first 3 weeks in November. We have new and exciting things planned for this campaign so be sure you are at Church on November 6 for the kickoff! It's something you won't want to miss!

Mission Opportunity in Lynnville, IL!

Don Miller will be leading a team to return to Lynnville, Illinois, to work on a church build that continues to need our support. We will be leaving either Friday 10/14 late afternoon, or early Saturday morning 10/15, and returning Sunday afternoon 10/16. Please let Don know as soon as possible if you would like to join the team. You can reach Don at 314-603-1651 or Loyalty Miller at 314-623-5045.

God's Kids Choir

Oct 2nd-Practice in Choir Room. 4pm
 Oct 9th-Practice in Choir Room, 4pm
 10/16-Practice in Sanctuary, 4pm
 Fall Party, 5pm-6pm
 10/23-Practice in Sanctuary, 4pm
 10/30-Practice in Sanctary, 4pm



Spotlight on Anna Fairchild: Parkway South's New Drum Major!

"I have always loved being a part of Parkway South High School's marching band. Playing the Flute and marching with everyone has been great, but I also love leading people. During my years in high school, I have been a part of various leadership programs and I have always known, I would try out for drum major ever since my freshman year. I am very excited to have this experience and opportunity to lead the band this 2016 competition season. I have been playing flute since the sixth grade and have been in

marching band since my Freshman year.

I plan on studying nursing next year and I am still looking at potential colleges. I plan to march in college as well. When I am not at school, working with the band or doing homework, I work part time at Nothing Bundt Cakes, a small bakery."

Congratulations, Anna! We are proud of you!

"

Thank You's received at CCC

"Thank you for the scholarship. The money will be put to good use as I begin my study at Rolla S & T. I will never forget that I have such a caring church to come back to.
 Thanks! -Zac Rawls



"I have to say, CCC rocks at outreach! Thank you for your quarterly outreach giving to Caring Solutions. Your gift dollars continue to make a difference, as do your other outreach actions as well. Thank you so much for letting me speak at your service. It was awesome to see so many friends!" -Madi Hawn

