



Vital Spark November, 2016



The season of waiting and expectation has arrived!
The Thanksgiving Feast was a truly wonderful festivity of fellowship and food shared with one another.
The Christmas tree is decorated and lit, bringing tidings of holiday cheer to come.
The God's Kids Choir is practiced and proud, ready to share their talent on the second Sunday of Advent.
The meals are being planned for the Progressive Dinner.
The songs are being chosen for our nights of caroling.
The Choir and Voices 4 Hymn are prepping for a special morning of music.
The sanctuary is robed in greenery.
And so we prepare and wait.
Waiting for the Christ Child,
the one who comes to us yet again and again.
May this season of Advent speak to your heart;
May the candles lit each Sunday morning stir the hope in your soul;
May you find peace among the busyness;
And may you wait with an expectedness;
Waiting to see, once again,
how the Christ Child will break into your life creating all things new.
The time has come, to step away from the ways of the world
and into the Kingdom of God.

--Blessings to you and yours,
Jacob

Next week, we will be sending a December calendar of events for all the activities and happenings throughout this busy season!
Please look for this in your e-mail.

Epworth Christmas Outreach

As part of our mission outreach Community Christian Church has "adopted" the Epworth Knobel dorm girls for Christmas. We have been provided a wish list for each of the six girls. We are looking for people that would like to provide the gifts for one of the girls or purchase one gift for a girl. Any sized monetary donation is also appreciated and will go towards purchasing the gifts. The deadline for purchasing gifts is December 12th.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tracey Hammack at 636-227-9835 or t.hammack@sbcglobal.net.

**Thank you Chancel Choir and Voices 4 Hymn
for your combined Thanksgiving song!**



Updates from our Core Leadership Team:

- Core Leadership Team is looking at how we measure success, both traditionally and non-traditionally. Since the Old Board and the new CLT have never had these measurements, we are forging new territory!
- We want our church to grow! We are currently reviewing options for external assistance in assessing our growth potential.

- As we draw to the end of the year, we want to thank everyone who has served the church in any capacity during 2016. There are many opportunities to serve in 2017! Let us know if you are interested.
- Look for an Advent Devotional this year, brought to you by the Elders and the Core Leadership Team!
- Finally, Youth Sunday School is growing and the Youth Group is really taking off. Lots of fun and spiritually fulfilling activities for the kids!

**We will have a congregational meeting after both services
on January 8th, 2017.
Please put this on your calendar.**

Stable Sale Corner:

CCC'ers---please remember if and when you're out Black Friday or Christmas Shopping to save large handled shopping bags for the Stable. We can also use Large plastic bags too. If, when decorating your abode, you randomly realize you have unneeded decor or other items, do save them for the Stable. Your thoughtfulness helps make the sale a success. Thanks!

A huge thank you to all of those who helped last Thursday at our "kitchen clean-up day" at WFLC making it ready for the Thanksgiving Feast. This effort was headed by Jean Ann Graham and Floss Haniford. These were all Seniors who gave a day to gussy up WFLC. Thanks Beth Bean as well!



Finance Committee Update

Dear CCC Family and Friends,

As we bring the 2016 stewardship campaign to a close, I want to thank each of you for your faithful support

of Community Christian, our surrounding community, and our world community. As we tried to emphasize during the campaign, it is in the giving of our time, talents, and resources that we ourselves receive. Blessings often come in the unexpected relationships that we forge as we go about doing God's work in helping our communities-whether that community extends only to the neighbor next door or to the children in a remote village on the other side of the world.

With the assurance of a base level of financial support underwritten

by your pledges, we can now embark on establishing a credible budget that will see CCC through the forthcoming year. These monies will ensure that we at CCC can continue our ministries while maintaining our facilities for the congregation. I know that the various ministry teams are reviewing their future efforts to ensure that their approaches are fiscally appropriate, theologically sound, and focused on building disciples that express the love of Christ as the center of our lives.

We on the Facilities and Finance committee now start our work on your behalf to plan for 2017 carefully, realistically, and with a healthy amount of caution. We will continue to selectively upgrade the CCC properties to ensure that we remain an attractive and welcoming place for all. It is important to understand that many of the groups that rent the WFLC and use the main church building do so because they know it is a safe and hospitable space for their groups to meet. We of the Finance Committee thank you for giving us the financial tools to continue to repair or replace equipment as necessary and to upgrade equipment needed to continue to be a community asset. We will continue our effort to provide transparency to the budgeting process.

With your generous support this pledge season, and your ongoing financial support throughout the coming year, we have every hope of proposing a balanced budget. We know that your pledges this year were made prayerfully and with a giving heart. It is this committee's responsibility to do our utmost to honor those values. Your gifts provide blessings in more ways than you can know.

Thank you!

John Houghton (for the Facilities and Finance Committee)

Stewardship Video Credits

I have received several comments on the stewardship video that has been presented over the past Sundays. All have indicated that the video was well received, for which we of the Finance Team are very thankful! Several members of the congregation have asked how the video was created and who put it all together.

As is usually the case, the creation of the video was a team effort, but here are the major credits. The overall video was produced by John Clifton of John Clifton Design. The narrative was written by Jacob. The voice-over was performed by Laurie Clifton. Several stock photos were purchased, for example the opening scenes, text backgrounds, maps, world image, etc.

The photos and video clips, as well as introductions to various outreach coordinators, were made possible through our congregation. Without all this, the video would not have shown how we truly serve God in our community! We offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed.

**Thank you to the
God's Kids Choir
for your beautiful
song at our
Thanksgiving
service!**



Snapshot of Upcoming Events:

- 12/3 Progressive Dinner**
- 12/4 God's Kids Choir Performance**
- Red Cross Blood Drive**
- Last chance to order Poinsettias**
- 12/10 Adult Caroling for Cans**
- 12/11 Youth assist in The Room In The Inn**
- 12/16 Youth ring the bell at Dierberg's**
- 12/18 Special Music at both services**
- All Church Caroling to our community**
- 12/24 3:30pm(family friendly) and 7:00pm(traditional)
services**
- 12/25 10:00am one service**
- 1/1/17 10:00am one service**
- 1/8/17 Congregational meeting**

Circle of Concern Giving Tree-Nov 27-Dec 11
Salvation Army Bell Ringing-Dec 13-Dec 23

****CCC Book Club will NOT meet in December!****

Full list of events will be e-mailed out next week!



Thank you notes received at CCC:

"I would like to thank all of you for the prayers, concerns and cards that I received during the last several months during my heart problems. A special thanks to Laura McDurmont, Jacob Thorne, Debbie Gray, Stephanie Boone, Brian and Scott Degitz- Fries for visiting me while I was in the hospital. Also, I can't say enough to you Susan for putting up with me during this time. This is a special church family. I am blessed." -Ric Degitz

"Thank you for the many cards and prayers following the passing of my Mother. We especially want to thank those friends who made the trip to Jefferson City to attend the Memorial Service. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family." -Lori, Doug, Amy and Andy Hoover