

THE VITAL SPARK



Publication of Community Christian Church

July 2017

A Message from our Senior Pastor

Dear CCC,

This summer has been a whirlwind of blessings, opportunities, and ministries. I want to share just a few of the highlights as we celebrate the goodness of our faith community:

- As I write, our Stable Sale volunteers are working almost around the clock to prepare for our next sale. Their dedication and gifts to the community, both to CCC and beyond the walls of the church, never cease to amaze me.
- Several of us (twelve all together, the most of any church in the region) attended General Assembly. The conversation, colleagues, and concern for the future church were both encouraging and, at the same time, an affirmation that CCC is on the right path.
- The dedicated service of our Core Leadership Team. Each of these individuals has donated dozens of hours to help make our church run as smoothly and effectively as possible, both now and into the future. The revised constitution and bylaws will be available soon, along with scheduled listening times.
- Our Mission First Team is hitting it out of the ballpark this summer. We have an opportunity to partner with Hanna Woods and a nearby Jewish temple to help local children throughout the entire school year. Thank you to everyone for the gifts of food and goods that help stock the backpacks.
- The worship committee is firing on all cylinders and creating engaging and transforming worship experiences. We want individuals to feel moved and connected with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit when worshipping at CCC.
- Our elders have been gracious hosts each Sunday after worship, offering food and fellowship in the Narthex.
- Our church staff has never missed a beat. We wished Amy the best of luck on her next chapter in life; she will be missed. We are actively planning/recruiting for her replacement. And Beth continues to manage the office and tackle everything from bulletins to fixing building drains.
- Our Open and Affirming Group are diligently leading us into the process of becoming an official opening and welcoming congregation. This will be a journey in which lives are touched, barriers are broken, and hospitality becomes even more crucial to who we are.
- And of course, each of you, your presence, your gifts, and your ministry are what make CCC one of the best churches in West County, STL. We are in a good position in terms of faith, finances, health, and energy. Together, as Paul once said, we join in the race towards the kingdom of God.

For all of these blessings and many more, thank you.

Blessings,

Jacob

Core Leadership Moment ...

A “Core Leadership Moment” is an opportunity for some congregational information sharing. The Core Leadership Team (CLT) has been actively working on a variety of church concerns, goals and dreams. Communicating these efforts to the congregation is an on-going challenge, yet vital to our growth and progress as a community of faith. Through columns in the Vital Spark, conversations in the Narthex, or at Sunday School, maybe over Stable or mission activities, and through social settings, our collective hope is that there is a thorough and transparent approach to our activities and goals.

We are 20 months into a 2 year trial of the new church board model. We have experienced some growing pains, yet in the minds of the CLT it has been a success. Currently the leadership team is reworking the church by-laws with the goal of approving a permanent change to this new leadership structure this fall.

The by-laws, constitution, and procedure manuals have been wordsmithed through the summer. Over the next several weeks we want to share the drafts with the congregation. On August 13th at 9 am, August 27th at 11:15 am, and August 22nd at 7 pm, the CLT will host open discussions to hear garner from the congregation.

With the information that has been shared over the past several months, these proposed changes should not come as a surprise. The current CLT is united in our recommendation to permanently alter the church’s board structure.

In the next weeks, we will offer preliminary drafts representing the changes discussed. With congregational approval, these changes could be accepted in time for the new church year in January 2018.

Prayerfully submitted,
Doug Hoover
Community Christian Church
Core Leadership Team

Beulah Beth Nelson Memorial Fund Scholarship

Earlier this year, on March 5th, 2017, we celebrated the life of beloved CCC member Beulah Nelson. Beulah, born on the fourth of July, was a “firecracker” baby and the lifelong wife of H.O. Nelson for sixty-five years. Beulah was kind, caring, compassionate and always wanting to help others. As a way to continue her legacy and honor her life, Beulah’s family has established a scholarship memorial fund for a graduating high school senior (or seniors), who are active participants in CCC and preparing for a college education. It is our pleasure to share the news that this year’s recipients of the Beulah Beth Nelson Memorial Fund Scholarship are Anna Fairchild and Emma McDurmont.



Anna (left) and Emma (right)



H.O. and Beulah Nelson, February, 2016

Words of Thanks ...

CCC Family,

I want to thank everyone at CCC very much for the generous scholarship you gave me. It will definitely come in handy with college expenses!

A special thank you also goes to Molly Duncan and Amy O'Brien for organizing the scholarships and the presentations you gave us. It was a great memory for me.

Sincerely,
Scott Meier

Dear CCC,

Thank you so much for the \$250 check to help me pay for college, it will go towards either books or tuition come August when I move to Missouri State.

Jessica Schlueter

Dear CCC family,

Thank you so much for the scholarship money. The help with my first semester expenses are very much appreciated.

Love,
Anna Fairchild

Dear CCC family,

I can't thank you enough for the cards and kind words received from so many of you after my brother Ray passed away recently. Your prayers and support meant a lot to me.

John Strebler

Thank you from Amy O'Brien

This has been a wonderful year with your congregation. I wrote a longer letter in the May Vital Spark, to explain this time of transition. This is just a thank you! Thank you for all of the ways you have opened yourself up to me and my leadership over the year! Thank you for having such wonderful and delightful children and youth! Thank you for the gift of a wonderful Core Leadership Team and staff with which to work. Thank you for a beautiful church grounds and supplies in which to utilize. Above all thank you for the open and honest conversations about faith and church. They were a blessing. The last few weeks have been filled with a trip to General Assembly, a fantastic week of VBS, and a farewell reception!

Thank you for being you!

Grace 'n Peace,

Amy O'Brien



Amy and her husband Matt have the honor of cutting the cake at Amy's send off celebration on July 23rd after worship.

“Hero Central” VBS 2017

What a fun and faith filled week! 42 youth and 36 adults gathered to deepen our faith with the characteristics of **Heart, Courage, Wisdom, Hope, and Power.**

A special thanks to **Emily Owen** and **Emma McDurmont**. Emily did a fantastic job of serving as our Director of VBS with a wonderful cohort in Emma McDurmont who created wonderful decorations. Our deepest thanks to the both of them!

But of course no VBS can run smoothly without the list of ALL the SUPER volunteers, which included: **Allyson Monroe, Molly Finch, Elizabeth Stanley, Robin Edman, Kalee Kable, Jenna Evans, Anna Fairchild, Emma McDurmont, Liv Lindner, Laurie Clifton, Paige Plaisted, Norm Pereira, Erica Schlueter, Jami Carpenter, Megan Compton, Sarah Koenig, Abby Gayfield, Susan McGhee, Hannah Donsky, Kara Fechner, Kenzie Bumeter, Brett Davis, Luke Schultz, Pam Welker, Grace Welker, Anna Welker, Sammie Katz, Destiny Owen, Julie Swaney, Laura McDurmont, Lindsay Mohr, Clay Davis, Liz Dupuis, Wendy Finch, Betty Quicksall, Deb Gray, Isabelle Hilbert, and Juliette Hilbert.**

We were very excited to receive a donation from Water Cooling Equipment, Inc. arranged by Brenda and Dan Angeli. Their contribution was used to purchase t-shirts which the kids turned into their own personalized superhero capes.

A general “Thank You!” to the larger congregation for donations of supplies and cash gifts to supplement the program. How wonderful to have over 100 people throughout the building each day.

Children’s Outreach

If you are a member who has a heart for the church to reach out to guests & friends of the congregation *and* you love children, talk to Jacob Thorne or Beth Bean about following up with the families who participated with VBS. Possibilities could include: sending an invitation to join God’s Kids Choir, sending a child a birthday card in the next year from their VBS friends, calling on the families to check in, or bring your personal touch to show how you care.

Reaching out begins with YOU!!!!

VBS Picture Highlights ...



Kids model their superhero capes!



Friends together!



CiCi Mohr having fun being carried on the back of Kenzie Bumeter.



Parachute fun during recreation time!



Norman Pereira has great science experiments the kids enjoy!



Water day fun!

Youth Gatherings for Fall 2017-2018

For this next school year and as we look for the next person who will join our church staff, we would like to build on the strengths of last year and ask your help in this endeavor. We need several families to step up and commit to an area of youth ministry (especially if you have a desire to see the relationships and programs grow). Along with families of the youth, we HIGHLY welcome additional people to carry a piece of the puzzle, even if you don't have a youth active in the program.

So here are four ways that you might connect:

Youth Lock-In Team: This team would be responsible for serving as a chaperone for 1 or more Lock-Ins, for ½ or all of the night. The number of Lock-Ins will be dependent upon the willingness of the team. Amy's suggestion was to develop a pattern, Chi Rho Lock-In, CYF Lock-In, and then All Youth Lock-In.

Disciples of Christ St. Louis Area Youth Events: Serve as the liaison and driver to take our youth to the DOC events with local churches. These usually happen on Sundays. They usually last 2 hours. They always have a mission/service segment, food, and fellowship/games part. Last year our church attended 5 of the events.

Chi Rho & CYF Anchor Families: In the fall, the Core Leadership Team will be asking the congregation to join a small group that will meet for 6 times. It would be FANTASTIC if 4 Chi Rho families and 4 CYF families would volunteer to Jacob or a CLT team member to commit their family and/or youth to one of the small groups. This process has the potential to be transformative for the life of Chi Rho and CYF. Come join an exciting time at CCC.

Worship Shepherd: Take an existing roster of our youth. Learn the names of the kids connected at CCC. Find ways to help the youth serve in worship (i.e. Liturgist, Children's Moment, Deacon, Greeter, etc.). Possibly sit with different families throughout the year. Follow up with youth who haven't worshipped with us for awhile.

Please talk to Jacob by August 15th if you or your family is willing to join Heather Monroe and Vickie Minden connect to our young people this year.

Mission First News ...

The Mission First team would like to thank everyone that has helped with the Hanna Woods summer food project. The response has been tremendous and thanks to our generous congregation the ten families (all of whom live in the City of St. Louis, not St. Louis County) we committed to help have been provided with healthy food every week for the entire summer!

It is that time when many nonprofit organizations start seeking donations of school supplies. The Mission First team made \$150 donations to Circle of Concern, Epworth Children's Home, and Isaiah 58. Epworth is also looking for volunteers to help sort and distribute school supplies. The sorting and packing day will be on Monday, August 7th, at 9:30 a.m. The supplies will be distributed on Tuesday, August the 8th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Tracey Hammack if you are interested in volunteering.

Lastly, mark you calendars for our fall Mission Day on Sunday, October 22nd!

Financial Update ...

CCC operated with a surplus of \$21,775 through the first half of 2017 as compared to a budgeted deficit of \$13,735. The better operating performance relates to a combination of higher offering and lower expenses. The lower expenses are a result of the amount and timing of the initial consultant fees, lower personnel costs and lower spending by the ministry teams.

Facilities and Finance thanks you for all of your contributions which are vital to the support of all CCC ministries.

	Results through June, 2017	Actual	Budget	Better/ (Worse)
Income		\$216,109	\$205,481	\$10,628
Expenses		\$194,334	\$219,216	\$24,882
Surplus/ (Shortfall)		\$21,775	\$(13,735)	\$35,510

General Assembly Picture Highlights...



CCC Attendees at the Assembly



CCC Youth exploring Indy!



Dick and Diane Hall participating in a mission event.



Youth and sponsors caught up with Rev. Darla Goodrich.

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Visit us on the web at
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Ladies Outing to Westport ...

All ladies of the church and their guests are invited to go to "Church Basement Ladies," a play at Westport Playhouse. We have called and the group rate is \$25.00 per person.

The date will be Saturday, August 12, 2017 and the play begins at 4:00 p.m. We are talking about having a late lunch at 2:00 p.m. at a restaurant to be announced in the Westport area.

Please call Diane Hall if you would like to attend so we can order the tickets. We need a minimum of 10 to get the group rate. Let her know by July 31st if you would like to be a part of this fun outing.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The next Vital Spark deadline is August 21, 2017.