

THE VITAL SPARK

Publication of Community Christian Church

August, 2018



A Message from our Senior Pastor

Dear CCC Friends and Family,

These next few weeks of August are crunch time: time to squeeze in one last summer activity, time for teachers to prepare the classroom, time for parents to get children back into the school routine, time for the Stable sale to be in full swing, time for our church to vote on our vision and mission statements, time for children's Sunday School to begin, time for God's Kids Choir to start practicing, time for youth group to reconvene, time to start planning for (no joke) Advent, time to welcome new members to our faith community, time to say farewell to staff (Sarah's last day is August 19th), and time to welcome new staff (Todd Painter begins August 26th). Time, in the words of one troubadour, keeps on slippin' into the future. Many of us feel frenzied and frazzled...trying just to keep our heads above water.

But even within all of the crunch time and feelings of busyness, I sometimes feel like I am waiting. I am waiting, and wondering, what God is going to do? Will God move this process along, I think? Will God work here, nudge here, or put up a roadblock here? I wait...

And yet in my heart I know that I am not really waiting, because God is already, and always has been, working. God is already working to make change where change needs to be made and to keep the same what needs keeping the same. God is already pushing and at the same time pausing. There is not a need to wait, but a need to see. In order to discern in the busyness, we have to still our souls and get down to the business of God. God is already acting in your life, my life, and our life.

My friends, this fall I can't wait to see what we discover. It is a joy to be in the busyness and business of God with each of you. Thanks for the journey...

Blessings,

Jacob

OPEN AND AFFIRMING TASK FORCE

The Open and Affirming Group Task Force will be publishing a booklet of “stories” in the coming weeks. These stories are personal stories from members of Community Christian Church who feel called to share the story of their journey, especially relating to LGBTQ experiences. Please email your story to Laura McDurmont (laura.mcdurmont@gmail.com) or Chris Fairchild (mommyto2girlz@gmail.com) by August 26th. Also, please let Chris or Laura know if you are willing to share your story at a “story sharing session” tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 30th at 8:30 a.m.

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE

Did you know?

The two largest expenditures in our church budget are personnel (which is typical in most organizations) and property, including a loan with Commerce Bank.

The original cost of the Wunderlich Family Life Center was \$1,867,700. After the Wunderlich's gift and gifts from a two-year capital campaign, the balance of \$1,400,000 was financed in 2008. That loan is currently with Commerce Bank and monthly payments are \$4,455, or \$53,460 a year.

In 2014, the balance of the loan was \$601,544. As of July, 2018, the amount of the loan has been paid down to \$309,358. A big shout out to all the dedicated workers in The Stable, since over the years a portion of the earnings from Stable sales have been used to pay down \$332,400 on the principal! What a great contribution by many members spending multiple hours on The Stable mission (not to mention the thousands of dollars given to outreach causes and special projects from Stable sales).

Interest on the loan is paid from the operating budget, to which each of us pledge our giving. The principal payment comes from our donations specified for the "Wunderlich Family Life Center Fund". Several church members designate a portion of their regular giving to this fund which is used to reduce the debt.

We have made much progress on reducing monies owed on the loan, which when paid off, will free up funds for other operating needs.

Please consider the importance of supporting this effort, along with supporting the church's total operations with your increased generosity.

With Appreciation,
Your Finance Team

CCC BOOK GROUP

Discussion of the book *Suburban Junky (From Honor Roll, to Heroin Addict)* by Jude Hassan will take place on Monday, August 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC library. Please contact Brenda Richardson if you would like more information.

THANK YOU NOTES

To the wonderful CCC community,
Thank you so much for the warmth and kindness you showed to my parents, Joe and Betty Bremer, over their years at CCC and especially for truly being an extended family for Dad in the past two years since Mom passed away. The love and support that we felt during the last weeks of Dad's life, the deluge of kind cards and emails, and the caring kindness that was shown by our congregation during his visitation and memorial service was so comforting and greatly appreciated. Thanks too for the lovely breakfast, the amazing music, the comforting and celebratory words – it was all just wonderful.
Sincerely,
Beth and Marty Eckelkamp

Community Christian Friends,
Thank you so much for your support of our Back-to-School Fair. Your donation of luggage tags to attach to our backpacks was greatly appreciated and now children can identify their own backpacks easier. It may not seem like a useful contribution, but trust me when I say, it truly was.
The event was a huge success with over 100 backpacks distributed full of supplies.
Again, thank you so much for your support for this event!
Rev. Brenda Booth
Executive Director
Isaiah 58 Ministries

VBS RECAP

VBS was held at CCC from July 9th to July 12th. The 32 kids that attended had a great time thanks to all of the adult and youth volunteers and the financial support of the congregation. The food and cash donations for



When you pass
through the waters,
I will be with you.
Isaiah 43:2



THE HAYGOODS CHRISTMAS SHOW

On Dec. 21, 2018, The Haygoods Show, one of the most popular shows in Branson, will be performing their Christmas Show at the Rickman Auditorium in Arnold, MO. As most of you know, I have been working with this show for over 10 years. They have set aside a group of tickets for me and they are giving me a special price of \$25.00 per ticket. For others, the tickets will be \$35.00 to \$45.00. Right now I am trying to determine the number of tickets we need, so our seats will be guaranteed. All seats will be reserved. Last year this show sold out quickly. If you are interested in attending this concert, please call me with the number of tickets you would like. I will need payment by Oct 1st. I would love to have a big group from CCC attend.

Ric Degitz

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

River Tales from Dan Angeli

Many of us would think long and hard if asked to direct a youth camp float trip, but not Dan Angeli. When his pastor at Hamilton Christian Church assigned him the role in the summer of 2005 he did not hesitate to take the stern as part of the SEGA crew and head to the Eleven Point River. Now in his 13th year, Dan continues to share his passion for the outdoors with Missouri youth as part of the CCMA organization and in conjunction with St. Martins UCC in Dittmer. Dan just completed a July float, where he renewed his infant Catholic baptism by immersion in the Current River, along with two youth who were baptized for the first time.

Dan witnesses God at work during every float. “On one trip there was a girl invited by friends. Her home life was difficult and the float offered her a chance to be a kid. I had brought a fishing rod and she asked me to teach her to fish, which I did. She kept the line in the waters of the Eleven Point. One evening after dinner we heard tremendous screaming coming from the river. I leapt into high gear expecting to see blood or some other catastrophe....what had happened, she caught a fish! She was holding it up with the biggest smile I had ever seen on a person. Watching her created a special memory.”

The float trips often have a theme and include a rotating division of chores performed by the adults and youth alike, paddling and swimming on the river, group games, free time and a nightly devotional. At the end of each float all are invited to share something special from the week and most say they enjoyed making new friends and having a time when they could be themselves. That, and a love of water, is why Dan returns year after year.

Dan is no stranger to the outdoors. He grew up in Affton and spent his childhood playing on land that was to become the Tower Tee Golf Course. “I am an Eagle Scout and as a youth I worked at S-F Scout camp for five summers where I taught lifesaving, lifeguarding and rowing, so the camping, canoeing and anything on the water came naturally and I know how to do it safely. Great parents and Boy Scouts taught me a lot and provided opportunities.”

Dan’s knowledge of safe water rescue was put to good use one summer when he was on Laclede’s Landing and saw a car floating on the Mississippi with a person on the roof. He stopped in time to see an individual go into the water to attempt a rescue. That went badly and the car sunk leaving two people struggling in the water. Dan removed his shirt and applied his learned skills, the most important being the order of water rescue—REACH THROW ROW GO—meaning try all the other steps first before proceeding to the victim. Dan successfully swam within reach where he ensured a foothold in the bottom of the river before pulling the two to safety.

Since joining CCC in 2007, Dan has participated in several mission trips where his mechanical engineering degree from Rolla and his work experience at Olin Brass have served him well. “From the first year with the Big Bird Moving company, to the second year working on Henry’s house all week, to the third year, when Don Miller had a medical restriction and promptly told me I was in charge...they were all very fond and memorable trips.” The work was fulfilling and the people he met were incredible, “to hear their stories and how much they appreciated help was a message from God saying keep on going.” Don and his wife Brenda, who has a degree in music from UMSL, have two adult children who went with him on some of the early float trips. Nathan is a CNC programmer in Kansas City and Taylor is a nurse at the DePaul ER, engaged to be married this September.

The CCMA floats are open to all youth and Dan would love to have more kids participate. When you get a chance introduce yourself to Dan and thank him for his ministry on the river and his service to our church. Dan shares his passion with grace. How do you share yours?



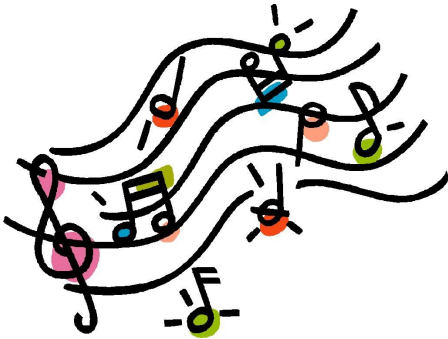
YOUTH GROUP FALL KICKOFF

There will be a Fall Kickoff BBQ at Schroeder Park on August 26th from 12-2 p.m. at Schroeder Park. Meat and drinks will be provided, youth are asked to bring a side dish. All youth in 6th to 12th grade this school year are invited to attend. Please contact Heather Monroe or the church office if you have questions.

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

PICK UP CHOIR

On Sunday, August 19th, all voices are welcome to join together for pick up choir. Rehearsal will be at 9:30 a.m. in the CCC choir room. The song, I Can Only Imagine, will be shared as part of our worship service on the 19th.



GOD'S KIDS CHOIR

All children who will be in kindergarten through 5th grade this coming school year are invited to join the God's Kids Choir starting Sunday, August 19th at 4 p.m. in the CCC choir room. This is a great opportunity for kids to develop their relationships with one another while doing something they love, singing. Please contact Sandy Schleusner, Lindsay Mohr, Mark Monroe or the church office if you have any questions.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Regular Wednesday evening practices by the choir will resume on August 29th. All are invited who enjoy singing - no experience necessary! Please contact Robin Edman or the church office if you have any questions.

Community Christian Church
623 Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

(636) 394-2772
office@disciplesforchrist.org

Rev. Jacob Thorne, Sr. Minister

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