

April  
2019

# The Vital Spark

NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Dear CCC Family:

I cannot wait to see you on Easter morning! We will celebrate with special music, baptisms, and the good news that Jesus Christ has risen from the grave. But before Easter morning, we have Maundy Thursday.

Maundy Thursday is an act—an act both of betrayal and love.

Maundy Thursday focuses on the betrayal of Judas—perhaps one of the most famous betrayers of history. Judas, a person in the inner circle of Jesus, was the one who counted the money. The disciples trusted him. But Jesus knew, for he said to them at this final supper: Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.

One of my favorite stories of betrayal, if there is such a thing, comes from the late disciples preacher Fred Craddock.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, Fred earned his graduate degree. He focused on Biblical studies and the art of preaching. In today's article, I want to share with a story about his experience as a grad student. Fred writes:

I was in graduate school at Vanderbilt. I had left the family and children in the little parish I served and moved into a little room to prepare for those terrible comprehensive exams. It's make-it-or-break-it time; they can kill you. I would go every night about 11:30 or 12:00 to a little all-night diner—no tables, just little stools—and have a grilled cheese and a cup of coffee to take a break from my studies. It was the same every night; the fellow behind the counter at the grill knew when I walked in to prepare a grilled cheese and a cup of coffee. He'd give me a refill, sometimes come again and give me another refill. I joined the men of the night sitting there hovering over coffee, still thinking about my own possible questions about the New Testament oral exam.

Then I noticed a man who was there when I went in, but had not yet been waited on. I had been waited on, had a refill, and so had the others. Then finally the man behind the counter went to the man at the end of the counter and said, "What do you want?" He was an old, gray-haired, African-American man. Whatever the man said, the fellow went to the grill, scooped up a little dark patty off the back of the grill, and put it on a piece of bread without condiment, without napkin. The cook handed it to the man, who gave him some money, and then went out the side door by the garbage can and out on the street. He sat on the curb with the eighteen-wheelers of the night with the salt and pepper from the street to season his sandwich.

I didn't say anything. I did not reprimand, protest, or witness to the cook. I did not go out and sit beside the man on the curb, on the edge. I didn't do anything. I was thinking about the questions coming up on the New Testament. And I left the little place, went up the hill back to my room to resume my studies, and off in the distance I heard a rooster crow.

Continued on next page

After the sermon where he told this story, Craddock was visiting with some people and a young man, an attorney, came up to him and thanked him for the sermon but asked: What was that about a rooster crowing at Vanderbilt?

Here's what it was about. The rooster crows when followers of Jesus deny the way of the cross. The rooster crows when followers of Jesus take the easy path and do not take up their cross. The rooster crows when our hearts betray the teachings of Jesus.

But even as the rooster crows, there is a part of this story that amazes me.

Jesus stays at the table with Judas, even knowing that he will be betrayed.

Jesus chooses to see his final meal with his disciples not as an act of disillusionment—knowing that the disciples will fail him at the end—but rather as an act of remembrance. When you do this, says Jesus referring to the meal, you will remember—re-member (put back together)—the life of Jesus.

And so in a strange sense of way, the act of betrayal, while negative in itself, leads to the presence of God. We all know what it is like to betray the ones we love. And in the stripping away of the illusions of what community should be, we discover that in our acts of betrayal we are broken yet whole, flawed but not abandoned.

In our brokenness, we are able to meet the brokenness of God, in order that we might be made whole.

Come and join us this Thursday evening in the sanctuary. Listen for the rooster crowing in your own life. And when you hear it, know that you too can receive the grace and presence of God.

Blessings,

Jacob

# Thank You

## To the Ladies of Rebecca and Priscilla Small Groups:

Thank you for the gift card to Walmart. This gift card will definitely help me out with buying groceries this week. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

Sincerely,

Jessica Schlueter

I want to thank the members of the church that took time to send me a letter and a gift card. It was very thoughtful of you all and I appreciate that I have a church family at home that is still thinking about me. Thank you for the love and support as I continue through my various endeavors in life.

Thanks again,

Stephanie Ann Bube

Thank you very much for the gift card! It is going to help me with groceries. I look forward to visiting the congregation again when I am home from school.

Sincerely,

Andrew Boyce

Thank you for the gift card. I appreciate you thinking of me.

Sincerely,

Jordan McGehee

Thank you so much for the gift card. It is nice to know most everyone is thinking about me while I'm away at school. It will go a long way towards keeping me prepared at school.

Alec Belue

# Member Spotlight

## ***The Defining Moments of Diane Malloy***

As a nurse, few experiences for Diane Malloy are more rewarding than a patient or a patient's family expressing heartfelt gratitude for the difference she has made in their lives. As a nurse educator, seeing the growth and transformation of students with a dream to make a difference in the world through nursing is equally rewarding. Diane's journey to nursing was unique and filled with defining moments—personal experiences, successes and failures, interactions with patients, and so much more.

It all began when Diane enrolled in the brand new nursing program at Central Missouri State College, now known as the University of Central Missouri, in 1959. She first thought about becoming a nurse while a high school senior in her hometown of Bismarck, Missouri, but it wasn't until after she married and moved to the air force base in Knobnoster that the dream became a reality. She was excited to enroll in UCM's first nursing class. It started out as a group of 30 eager students but by her fourth year only three remained, and when commencement day arrived, Diane was the only graduate to receive the school's first nursing degree. While the faculty and staff at the school were nervous about Diane taking the state board of nursing exams their fears were unfounded. Diane's scores were at the top in the state.

For Diane, a defining and life-changing moment as a young student nurse was the experience of caring for a gentleman who became unresponsive and bluish in color while she was talking to him during a routine bath. When Diane realized her patient had died almost instantly, probably from a pulmonary embolism, she quickly grabbed him to keep him from falling off the bed. Diane recalls, "it was a window of what nursing would be like in the future."

After graduation, Diane's nursing career included staff and head nurse positions in various areas until she found her true niche in labor and delivery, where she worked for 10 years. During that time she had more defining moments, never forgetting the first baby she delivered and the first breech birth. In 1972 she entered St. Louis University to pursue a master's degree in maternity nursing. She taught at Meramec Community College for two years before joining the faculty at her second alma mater, SLU, where she taught full time for 38 years. Diane enjoyed the student life so much she earned another master's degree in counseling and a PhD in higher education from SLU--all while teaching full-time. Diane officially retired in 2014 but continues to teach as adjunct emeriti. Her specialty is maternal-newborn nursing and women's health. Diane says, "it gives me great pleasure to encounter nurses I taught many years ago who remember me and are happy to see me."

One such former student is her daughter-in-law, Mary Ann, also a nursing graduate of SLU. Mary Ann is married to Diane's son Patrick, a former aerospace engineer who is currently a software programmer for Edward Jones. The couple has three children, triplets Thomas, Sarah and James, college students attending local universities.

As the first graduate of UCM, Diane was honored to speak at the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program in 2009 and again to the new graduates in 2013. The program will celebrate 60 years in October and Diane recently provided a video interview that will be shown at that event.



Diane Malloy as UCM student

nursing Diane is an accomplished vocalist and has been a member of the CCC choir since she joined the church 25 years ago. She grew up in the Disciples church and attends CCC because "it just feels like home." She also has served as a deacon, provides food for the stable workers, and monitors the AED's. Her concern is for those who are homeless, in poverty and in violent situations.

While the news is frequently filled with negative stories about abuses in health care and skyrocketing costs Diane's story is one of compassion, dedication and hard work. "If someone were considering health care, I would strongly encourage them to consider nursing. It isn't an easy profession, but it contributes so much to one's life. You have the privilege of caring for people across the spectrum of life; those who are sometimes at their best and those who are sometimes at their worst. You can truly make a difference in someone's life, perhaps by actually saving their life or just with a few words of encouragement. It has added immeasurably to my life, giving it meaning, purpose, and direction. I have been blessed to be a nurse and if I were 18 and seeking a career I would become a nurse again in a heartbeat."

## Stable Assistance Needed

The Spring Stable Sale is almost here. If you are available to help with set up, the stable crew would love your help between April 29th and May 6th for set up and from May 7th to May 11th for the sale, and May 11th in the mid afternoon for clean up.

If helping doesn't work into your schedule, a donation of a food items would be a tremendous help. A sign up board in the Narthex still has several openings between April 29th and May 10th.

## Easter Activities

- Maundy Thursday Service Thursday at 7 p.m. in the CCC Sanctuary
- Easter Breakfast hosted by CCC men in the Wunderlich Family Life Center. Breakfast will be served from 8 - 9:15 a.m.
- Egg hunt for nursery and elementary children during the Children's SS Hour, youth welcome to help hide eggs at 9:30 a.m.
- Easter Morning Worship at 10 a.m., including 5 baptisms

## GKC Show-Save the Date

### ARKEOLOGY-Remembering God's Plan and Promise

Come and learn how to "weather life's storms" via this musical performance by the children of CCC. The show will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 5th in the Sanctuary. A reception to celebrate these past few months of hard work will follow in the Narthex.

# Financial Update through March

Line Item	March 2019 YTD Actual	March 2019 YTD Budget	Comments
Offering	\$86,733	\$88,295	Timing of donations varied more than anticipated
WFLC Rental, other income	11,499	9,414	Increased rental of WFLC
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$98,232</b>	<b>\$97,709</b>	
Children/Youth/ Adult Ministries	299	1,263	Less spending than anticipated
Worship/Core Ministries/ Stewardship/Pastoral care	2,565	5,145	Fewer special musicians and choir participants
Outreach/Mission	6,486	7,116	No discretionary spending for outreach so far this year
Property	32,344	32,168	
Office/Administration	2,887	3,205	Copier usage less than anticipated
Debt Service	2,442	2,893	
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	48,004	51,155	1 less childcare worker than budgeted, timing of pastor expenses
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$95,027</b>	<b>\$102,945</b>	
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$3,205</b>	<b>(\$5,236)</b>	

## Summary:

Even with three Sunday's in the first quarter impacted by snow and a power outage, giving is just slightly behind budget. Rental of the WFLC continues to be good, as the gym is still rented most weekday evenings throughout the year. Expenses are monitored closely in an effort to stay within budget. Snow removal exceeded budget, but that was offset by less than anticipated building repairs.

# VBS 2019

Mark your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School

*"To MARS and BEYOND"*

**June 24th to June 26th from 9 a.m. to noon AND June 27th 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Sign ups for participants and youth/adult helpers will begin in late April.

# Mission Sunday - 4/7/19



Packing hygiene kits



Butterfly Garden at CCC



Assembling Door Hangers



Schroeder Park clean up



Exceptional Equestrian clean up



Painting for Caring Solutions



Singers at Big Bend Woods

CCC  
623 Meramec Station Road  
Manchester, MO 63021

Rev. Jacob Thorne, Senior Minister  
Beth Bean, Office Manager  
636.394.2772  
office@disciplesforchrist.org  
www.disciplesforchrist.org