



The Vital Spark

A NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ AUGUST 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER, REV. JACOB THORNE

Dear Community,

While writing this article, thoughts about our dear friend and brother-in-Christ, Carl Quicksall, swirl through my mind.

I had the privilege to know Carl best through the many fishing trips we took with one another. And on our drives to Bennet Springs, or Montauk, or a lake in Illinois, Carl would regale me with stories of growing up in Kentucky, traveling the world for his career, and, most importantly, spending time with his family.

Carl also shared with me the number of times he had been seriously ill. If I remember correctly, he had a heart attack at a fairly young age and then, later in life, a liver disease that eventually led to a liver transplant. I guess you could say Carl came closer to death more often than most. And yet, the closer to death he became, the more fully he lived.

It's human nature to think that first we live then we die. But Jesus turns it around and teaches us the paradox of the Christian life. In order to live, says Jesus, you first have to prepare to die. Jesus leads us to the death of illusions, the death of self-will, and even the death of sin. The earlier we learn these self-imposed deaths the more fully we live life.

So when Carl told me several weeks before his death that he was not scared, I was not surprised. From a young age, growing up at Beargrass Christian Church in Kentucky, Carl had already been preparing for this moment. Carl taught us all, family and church, how to live and how to die.

And now, Carl has entered into the gates of heaven and I give thanks for his life here on this earth and forevermore.

Blessings to each of you,

Jacob

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The CCC Book Discussion Group will be meeting on September 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Narthex for a conversation about the book *Digging to America* by Ann Tyler. Please contact Brenda Richardson for additional information about the group.

BLOOD DRIVE SEPTEMBER 6



Our September blood drive still has MANY openings to fill. It will be starting at 2 pm and go until 7 pm. Please consider helping restore the blood supply by making an appointment to donate. Go to redcrossblood.org and enter: CommChristChurch to make your appointment, or let Liz know your preferred time and she can do it for you. All donors in September will receive a coupon for a free haircut by email, thanks to Sport Clips.

Thank you ahead of time for participating in this important church function. Liz Dupuis, Blood Program Leader, 636-256-3686

PRISCILLA WOMEN'S GROUP

The Priscilla Women's Group will meet Tuesday, September 13 at 7 PM in the Library. Our study will be Lesson 1, the familiar story of Sarah and Hagar from Genesis 16: 1-11 and 21: 1-3, 8-14. (Books available in the library).

The theme this year is connecting with others to make the world better and what happens when we do not work together.

Our service project this month will be pet food for Circle of Concern clients. These products are seldom donated and for many households, and especially those living alone, the pet is very important. Join us after the summer break for study, prayer and fellowship.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals starting this Wednesday, August 31st. at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join!

On Sunday, September 11th we will have our first pick up Choir since 2019! We will join together in song honoring our Military on Patriots Day with a simple two part version of "God Bless the USA."

We would love to have all who are able join us in song! Meet at 9:30am in the choir room for a 15 minute rehearsal before the church service.

UPDATE FROM MISSION TEAM

Mission Day, October 23, will be here before we know it. One of projects will be collecting and assembling personal hygiene kits for Missouri's Festival of Sharing. In several weeks we will have a designated box in the Narthex to collect the items.

A list of the items needed are:

bottle skin lotion (10-16 oz)

1 toothbrush (in original package)

bottle of shampoo (12-16 oz)

2 razors (disposable)

1 hand towel

fluoride toothpaste (6 oz or more)

1 bar of moisturizing soap (in package)

1 washcloth

1 comb (large) or brush

1 deodorant

Bring whichever items you choose.

Thanks for participating in this worth while project!

Save the dates!

Men's Breakfast

October 22, 2022

Wunderlich Center

8:00 am

URBANREACH STL

The annual Trunk-or-Treat is right around the corner!

Join us on October 22nd for a fun candy-filled day. This is a perfect volunteer opportunity for the whole family!

See the link in the Vital or sign up in the Narthex

Ladies Luncheon

Mark your calendars for a trip to historic Kimmswick with lunch at the

Blue Owl Restaurant

Wednesday, September 14.

Arrive at church by 10:15

for lunch at 11:00

Please sign up in the Narthex before September 8th

or email Becky with names and phone numbers



SUMMER MEALS FOR URBAN REACH STL

Our next meal for Urban Reach will be Wednesday, September 7th. If you are interested in attending, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex (or call the office). We will meet at the church parking lot and plan to leave around 4:00.

At our last meal, we served fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies, and dessert. The potatoes and veggies were all grown in the Bremer Community Garden.

Please also hold the Urban Reach Community in your prayers. This past weekend one of the youth familiar with the UrbanReachSTL ministries was killed. Our hearts break with such tragedy and call us to be even more committed to working, serving, and ministering with UrbanReachSTL.



GARDEN UPDATES

With the beginnings of cooler temperatures, the Bremer Community Garden is thriving and bountiful. We have harvested almost three hundred pounds of fresh produce so far, shared with Circle of Concern Clients, families from Hannah Woods Elementary, UrbanReachSTL, and many church members and friends.



For the month of September, there are two times available to work in the garden each week. We meet Monday mornings at 7:45 a.m. and Wednesday evenings (excluding September 7) at 5:30 p.m.

This week we will continue to pick tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers, and okra. We are also planting fall vegetables and creating several more beds in the garden.

STABLE SALE IS COMING !

Please mark your calendars as Prep Work for the Stable Sale starts September 19 to October 1. This is 2 weeks of prep and it takes a village to pull this off. Seasoned workers please return and if you have never volunteered this would be a great opportunity.

The volunteer hours are from 9am to 10pm every day. So if you can squeeze in some time we have plenty to do.

Please notify your family and friends that Friends and Family Day is October 2. The public sale October 3-8.

Stable Ministry at CCC

PUBLIC DATES OF STABLE SALE

| TIMES | DATE |
|--------------|---------------|
| 9AM - 5PM | October 3 & 4 |
| 9AM - 6PM | October 5 & 6 |
| 9AM - PM | October 7 |
| 8:30AM - 3PM | October 8 |

Meals for the Stable Workers

In the Narthex is a sign up board to provide meals, refreshments and snacks for our dedicated Stable Workers. Please take a moment and see if you can help. The dates are from September 18 through October 8th

Caring Solutions

20th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday October 16, 2022

Appetizers/Beverages - Silent & Live Auction

Doors open at 4PM

Foundry Art Center in St. Charles

RSVP By October 3

Register and/or Donate <https://cs2022celebrate.givesmart.com>

Contact @ 314-942-7350 or info@caringsolutions.org or caringsolution.org



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