

# THE VITAL SPARK



Publication of Community Christian Church

April 2018

## A Message from our Senior Pastor

Dear CCC Family and Friends,

As we continue our year-long process of transformation and clarification about who we are and who we want to be, I want to update you on what has taken place and what will take place.

Last fall, more than eighty individuals participated in our dream team small groups. The groups, as the title suggests, dreamed, through a series of conversations, about the future of our church and the ways in which God is speaking to CCC right now.

The results of these conversations were summarized and collated in a day long Saturday meeting in January with Coy James, our consultant from Agile Church. A copy of this summary can be found in this issue of the Vital Spark.

The next step of the process falls to the vision and mission team. This team, which will be consecrated at worship this coming Sunday and will meet with Coy all day on April 28<sup>th</sup>, includes: Brian Degitz-Fries, Laura McDurmont, Matt Mohr, Tanya Pereira, Pam Welker, and Leon Whitney. I will also serve on the team. Together, rooted in prayer and the Holy Spirit, we will create a new vision and mission statement for the church. These statements will then be presented to the church and voted on for approval by the entire congregation.

If the new vision and mission statements are approved by the congregation, we will then begin reviewing all of our ministries and missions. The ultimate goal is to have our new vision and mission statements align with the ministries of our faith community.

Please share with me any questions, thoughts, concerns, or suggestions you may have regarding this process. I am here to serve God and to serve you.

I feel comfortable with how the process is unfolding and hope you do as well.

I look forward to seeing you on our Service Sunday. Worship at 9:00, followed by service projects, and then a community meal at 5:00.

Blessings,

Jacob

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



As we prepare for summer, volunteers and staff are making plans for Vacation Bible School. VBS is always an enjoyable time for our children, youth, adults, visitors, and friends. Several families have shared with us that this year they will be unable to attend due to a variety of other commitments.

The dates are **July 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:00-12:00. We are committed to providing the best VBS we can, but want to have a core number of children and youth attend.

If you have not already done so, will you please contact the church office with whether or not you/your children/grandchildren plan to attend VBS (either as participants or helpers) this summer by Tuesday, April 24th?

# GOD'S KIDS CHOIR

A reminder that the elementary age children of CCC have been practicing every week since January to prepare for the spring musical, *Legends at Camp Garner Creek: A Musical about Church Camp, Bible Heroes and Remarkable, Everyday Kids*. We encourage everyone to come and support the children of CCC at 4 p.m. on May 6th. A reception will follow the performance in the Narthex.

## YOUTH EVENTS

Some important dates are listed below for May youth activities:

May 6	Something Worth Exploring Sunday School Class	10:15 a.m.
	Youth Group	3:00 p.m.
	Attend God's Kids Choir Musical	4:00 p.m.
May 13	Something Worth Exploring Sunday School Class	10:15 a.m.
	Mother's Day—No Youth Group	
May 20	Something Worth Exploring Sunday School Class	10:15 a.m.
	Year End Picnic	TBD
May 27	Something Worth Exploring Sunday School Class	10:15 a.m.
	Memorial Day Weekend—No Youth Group	

## SUMMER CAMP

Don't forget to turn in camp registration forms by April 29th to take advantage of early bird registration fees.

## UPDATE FROM FINANCE TEAM

Line Item	2018 YTD Actual	2018 YTD Budget	Variances
Offering	81,043	86,287	Giving down \$5,244 for first 3 months
WFLC Rental, other income	13,078	9,382	Increased rentals of WFLC
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$94,121</b>	<b>\$95,669</b>	
Children/Youth/Adult Ministries	831	2,005	
Worship/Core Ministries/Stewardship/Pastoral care	2,179	3,535	
Outreach	6,482	7,092	
Property	30,478	31,506	Anticipate various HVAC repairs / replacements
Church consultant	521	1,500	
Office/Administration	3,582	3,500	
Debt Service	3,601	3,300	
Wages/Expenses/Benefits	54,033	54,253	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$101,707</b>	<b>\$106,691</b>	
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(\$7,587)</b>	<b>(\$11,022)</b>	Spending less than projected by \$4,984

We appreciate the continued generous giving by many members, including those who have been able to increase their giving this year over last. CCC cannot provide the many great programs and services without everyone's financial support. If you have not begun your regular faithful giving yet, we encourage you to do so.

We look forward to continued, and growing, support as we move into an exciting future...it's great to be part of a friendly, caring, and sharing fellowship!

So, to paraphrase a saying, "God loves a *grateful* giver."

Ron Hollon

Finance Team

### Open & Affirming Group Listening Sessions

Sunday, April 29th at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 1st at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 6th at 9 a.m.

All meetings will be held in the CCC Library.

## DREAM TEAM SUMMARY

### What are our Core Values

1. We love our neighbors as a welcoming church. Our love is authentic and is based on the great commandments.
2. We are mission driven to serve others. We go into the community
3. We are an inclusive church, with lay leaders, men and women in leadership with open communion for all
4. Energetic services provide a consistent message through sermon and music – all based on the scripture.
5. We believe in Christian Education

### Gaps

1. Youth – 7<sup>th</sup> grade to college
2. Evangelism
3. Fellowship – welcoming young people post college.

We are a welcoming church and love our neighbors with compassion. Our love is authentic and is based in the great commandment. We are driven by mission to serve others. We take this responsibility to the community seriously. To be complete in this endeavor, we celebrate all people, regardless of their make-up and believe all are to be included in our love. Christ is the center of our faith. Our love for him, and his for us, is the very core of everything we do.

What would a visitor say..

What would a member say...

What makes our church unique – something no other church does in the same way...

### Thoughts

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Hospitable; welcoming                      | 8. Baptism, confession of faith, communion |
| 2. Fellowship, outreach, nurturing, energetic | 9. Adult education; adult Sunday School    |
| 3. Mission driven                             | 10. Accepting                              |
| 4. Open communion                             | 11. Generous with outreach                 |
| 5. Sermon                                     | 12. Involved in community                  |
| 6. Music echoes the theme of the scripture    | 13. Lay member led initiatives             |
| 7. Share prayer/concerns                      | 14. Fellowship hours after service         |
|   | 15. Service/mission                        |

Not good at evangelism – used to be better

Don't know how to relate to evolving culture; must be open to change

### **What is God Calling Us to Be** – Describe our future church

- Somewhere that anyone can call home
- Unified – no divisions between early (traditional) and late (contemporary)
- Full well distributed intergenerational congregation
- Energetic and busy – constant activity – that lasts all week – not just on Sunday
- Excited to see each other
- We don't have a brand or identity when we work collaboratively with others – and that might be OK. Not concerned about getting credit.
- Servant Leadership in the community – take advantage of Mission Sunday all year long.
- O&A
- Mission based small groups

What new things must God be doing in our midst that we don't recognize?

- Outward focused to meet the neglected, hungry, shut ins, needy children, working poor, or otherwise marginalized
- Could our Wunderlich Center be used as a shelter?
- Could we be a clearing house for social services?
- How can we build on our stable base as a springboard for more mission work?
- A well-developed curriculum, parent engagement for youth to begin their faith journey and continue into adulthood
- Youth involvement in all facets of church

### Summary

1. UTILIZE THE GIFT OF OUR FACILITY TO ENGAGE IN SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDS OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY
2. SAFE SPACE FOR ALL, HOME FOR ALL, REFUGE FOR ALL.
3. AN INTERGENERATIONAL AND UNIFIED CONGREGATION THAT IS ENGAGED IN A FAITH JOURNEY TOGETHER
4. BECOME A CHURCH THAT IS BUSTLING WITH ACTIVITY AND ENERGY ALL THE TIME – NOT JUST ON SUNDAY.

## Elements of the vision

1. A welcoming space – a home for all... A constant
2. A church that utilizes our resources in services to the community
3. Be unified, energized, and inspired in all faith experiences
4. God is calling us to take risks in faith.

## Mission – What is God Calling us to **DO**

- How can we do it?
  - How are we positioned
  - How can we mind the gap, bridge the gap
  - How can we participate in worldwide activities?
1. Develop Relationships with all the people who come through our doors so that we are a safe space for all (internal and external).
    - a. Don't make assumptions about people
    - b. Why don't we issue the invitation to join?
  2. Make Service be part of the DNA of our church
    - a. To step up and achieve x% of congregant participation in service
    - b. Collaborate with other congregations to achieve critical mass to do service activities
    - c. Don't be complacent
    - d. Create service related small groups
      - i. Publicize service opportunities in bulletin
      - ii. Always invite everyone to participate – make people know they are welcome
    - e. Lay lead service initiatives
    - f. Be Servant Leaders in our community
      - i. Model Christian behavior through service
      - ii. Be aware of the social service needs of our community
  3. Facilities are here to be used for God's purpose
    - a. Be open to new opportunities
  4. Take risks and break down barriers.

## Elements of Mission

*God is calling us to*

1. Staff for a Youth Minister
2. Use our resources for God's purpose
3. Celebrate non traditional families
4. Develop meaningful relationships
5. Actively engage in service
6. Use technology to showcase what we are doing
7. Take risks and break down barriers
8. Participate in interfaith, interchurch activities
9. Develop creative, intergenerational and engaging worship services
10. Boost our music ministry staff
11. Take notice and engage in Social Issues
12. Show empathy – walk in someone else's shoes.
13. Showcase parenting
14. Participate in Stephens Ministry.

# THANK YOU NOTES

Dear CCC,

There are not enough words in Webster's Dictionary to express my love and gratitude to our wonderful church family. Your calls, your cards, your ubiquitous food, your visits, both to our home and at Bill's memorial service, your kind (and funny) words about Bill and most certainly, your love and prayers have sustained me during this difficult time. Bill found CCC or maybe CCC found Bill and it is one of his greatest legacies to me. Thank you seems so inadequate but it comes from my heart and I feel truly blessed to have you in my life.

Sincerely,

Joan Tichacek

Thank you very much for the Target gift card and nice letter. My roommate and I go there often to get snacks and it was nice to have this gift card to help with the cost. Looking forward to attending church this summer while back in town.

Thank you.

Anna Fairchild

Ladies of the Women's Ministry-

Thank you so much for the gift card to my favorite store ever- Target! It is nice to know that even 200 miles away, the church is still thinking about me. Hope everything is well back at CCC.

Best,

Melody Staicoff

CCC Ladies,

Thank you for the Valentine's gift card. It's always nice to get a little something from home and be able to treat myself a little bit. I really appreciate you all thinking of me!

Kristin Bean

Dear CCC Ladies,

Thank you for the Valentine's Day gift card. I bought myself a new water bottle that I've used every day since!

Thank you,

Brianna Bean

Dear Disciples Women,

Thank you so much for the Target gift card. I appreciate you thinking about me.

Love,

Casi Corona

P.S. Target is one of my favorite stores.

Dear Women's Fellowship,

Thank you very much for the Target gift card! Target is one of my favorite stores so it will be put to good use. It was so nice of you guys to think of me while I am off at college. Thanks Again!

Sincerely,

Allie Seymour

Dear Women's Fellowship,

Thank you very much for the Target Gift card. It will definitely come in handy! It was very nice of you all to think of me. I hope everything is going well at CCC and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Matt Seymour

Dear CCC Disciples Women,

Thank you so very much for your continuing love and support when I am away at college. I am very thankful for the light you bring to those around you. Thank you for the gift card, it will be put to good use!

Thanks again,

Sydney Miget

CCC,

Thank you for continuing to think about me though I am at college in Springfield. I appreciate the gift card that you all gave me. Life is pretty busy, but I hope to come back and visit soon.

Love,

Stephanie Bube



## MISSION FIRST UPDATES

We are looking forward to serving our community this Sunday for our Spring Mission day. Please contact Martin Eckelkamp or the church office if you forgot to sign up for a project.

### CWS Blanket

**Sunday:** Because our neighbors deserve warmth and comfort

They are also filled with **abundant joy**, which has overflowed in **rich generosity**.

2 Corinthians 8:2



Nora McNiff (7 years old) of Marysville, MI loves participating in her church's CWS Blanket Sunday. Photo: Lisa Hayes/CWS

Help the Mission First Team celebrate Mother's Day by supporting the Church World Services Blanket Drive to cover the world with love! We will have a special offering for the Blanket Drive will provide funding for CWS to distribute warmth and comforting blankets throughout the world.

### SUMMER MISSION TRIP

We are in the early stages of planning a week-long trip to Southern Missouri from June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Don Miller or the church office if you would like to participate. Volunteer Information forms in the Narthex need to be filled out and returned to the church office ASAP.

### STABLE SALE HELP

Preparation week starts April 30<sup>th</sup> and the sale runs from May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Margaret Pereira if you have donations to drop off or if you would like help as a Stable Volunteer.

A sign up poster is in the Narthex for those of you who would like to help with a food donation for the workers.

Family and Friends Preview Sale will be held after worship on May 6th.

## LADIES SMALL GROUPS

Priscilla Group will not be meeting in May.

Rebecca Group will meet on May 15th in the library at 9:30 a.m. They will collect a special offering to support the Mission First Blanket Drive for their monthly service project.

## CCC BOOK GROUP

Discussion of the book *Blue Stars* by Emily Gray Tedrowe will take place on Monday, May 21st at 1:30 p.m. in the CCC library. Please contact Brenda Richardson if you would like more information.

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

You are cordially invited to celebrate the  
60th Anniversary  
of  
Florissant Valley Christian Church  
Sunday, May 6, 2018  
12:00 p.m.  
(following morning worship)  
RSVP by April 22 by phone (314-837-6767 or  
email (fvccadmin@swbell.net)

## SAVE THE DATE

Our remaining Senior Citizen lunches, before a summer break, are Thursday, May 17th and Tuesday, June 19th. Both will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the CCC Narthex.

We will have Cheryl Kinney, from the Alzheimer's Association, come share information with us in May and in June we will learn about the 100th Anniversary of the Muny Opera of St. Louis.

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