During worship on September 13, we looked back to the story of Jesus, away on retreat, asking the disciples who people said that he was. He got a variety of answers. Finally, he asked, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter got it right by answering, “You are the Christ.” That Good Confession of Peter’s is one that we affirm when we give our lives to Christ and become church members. At the end of the sermon, instead of the usual Invitation, I asked you all to affirm with me that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and our Lord and Savior.”

That was meaningful to me, and I hope that it was to you, too. It’s good to be reminded of when we first became Christians. It’s also good to remember on a day-to-day basis that we are Christians, that we are active followers of Jesus Christ. As Christians (using that term in the large and not just in the denominational sense), we are who we are by our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That impacts our daily lives—or at least it should! We try to model our lives on Jesus Christ. That means we try to bring healing where there is pain; acceptance where there is rejection; love where there is apathy or hatred; hope where there is despair.

The same thing applies to the church—the church in general and Crossroads Christian Church in particular. Our identity as a congregation is shaped by our confession of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. That’s what we’re about and who we are about. We call ourselves Disciples of Christ, and that means we learn from Christ. Jesus was big on learning by doing. He sent the disciples out to do what he had been doing—preaching and teaching the Good News of God’s reign, healing, and helping. They were about mission, and we are too. The theologian Emil Brunner said, “The church exists for mission as a fire for burning.”

In the next few weeks, we’ll be emphasizing Stewardship. That’s more than just asking for pledges for the year ahead, though that’s a part of it. Stewardship is a part of discipleship. We’re followers of Christ, therefore we share our resources to help bring Christ’s Good News to others. Stewardship supports our mission. Mission is living out Jesus Christ. What can be more important?

—Pastor Mike
Return of the M & M Challenge

For October and November, we will once again be collecting items for local food banks to Make A Meal for a Thanksgiving Dinner...that is everything except the bird.

Here is a suggested menu:

- Boxed mashed potato
- Canned Gravy (No glass jars)
- Box of Dressing Mix
- Can of Sweet Potatoes
- Canned vegetable such as corn or peas
- Can of Cranberries
- Cake Mix or Canned fruit

To reach the most possible clients, try to have your meals turned in by **October 28th**. Meals will be accepted through **November 15th**.
Chips from the Board

- Extra Chalice Hymnals have been mailed to the church in Salzburg, Austria.

- The Outreach project for October and November will be “Make a Meal.” See the article on page 2 of this newsletter.

- Search Committee will meet Saturday, October 10.

- Rev. Dixon will be on vacation from Oct 5 through Oct. 11

October Sunday Sermons

October 4, 2015    19th Sunday after Pentecost
The Message: The World’s Longest Table
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and Mark 10:13-18
Theme: Think of the communion table as a bridge
Loose Change Offering: Call for Help

October 11, 2015  20th Sunday after Pentecost
The Message: Stewardship Witnesses
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Matthew 14:13-21
Theme: The Power of Positive Sharing

October 18, 2015  21st Sunday after Pentecost
The Message: I Walked Away (Dramatic Reading)
Scripture: Psalm 104:1-9, 24 and Mark 10:17-31
Theme: A visitor from the past

October 25, 2015  22nd Sunday after Pentecost
The Message: The Voice on the Line
Scripture: Job 38:1-7, 42:1-5 and Mark 10:46-52
Theme: Please, God, Hear Me
Prayers

- Mary Moss in hospice care
- Ed Hayes returning to work
- Lorraine & Bill (cousins of Virginia & Susan) adjusting to assisted living
- Mary (friend of Jan) upcoming heart procedure
- Multiple deaths in Mecca
- Mike Brown (friend of Pat K.) in ICU after 2 major surgeries
- Prayers for Betty Allen’s family
- Recent suicide of Caseyville police officer
- David (cousin of Bob G.) recent heart attack

Thank You

To the members of Crossroads Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous donation in Nick’s memory. It meant so much to our family.

Thank you again,
—Guy, Sheri & Olivia Kraus

2015 Regional Assembly

CCMA Regional Assembly

“Celebrate the Change!” (Psalm 47:1)
Saturday, October 24, 2015
Broadway Christian Church, Columbia, MO

Registration Fee: $25 per person (includes lunch, snacks, and child care)

Please register by October 12th.
Find more information including registration form at
www.mid-americadisciples.org/upcoming-events.

Registration forms are also available through the Crossroads church office.

Disciples of Christ—Mission First!

Disciples, let us pray! Let’s open our spirits to the Spirit of God as we seek to make a difference through Mission First!

Mission First! prompts Disciples to listen for God’s call to mission in the 21st century world. It is also a 2-year pilot of a model for identifying shared mission for our entire Church and working in partnership to fulfill it. At the heart of Mission First! are Mission Gatherings which will take place in 2016. All Disciples are invited to participate and share their congregation’s particular passion within God’s larger mission as well as be inspired to action by the stories of others.

As we prepare and implement Mission Gatherings, let’s listen to the Spirit. Let’s pray for a shared sense of call within God’s larger mission; that we will identify ways to work together that we may never have dreamed of before. Let’s seek God’s inspiration and leadership as we put God’s Mission First! among Disciples. Let us bathe Mission First! in intentional prayer and action.
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**SECGA Prayers for the Month**

- 10/11-10/17: Christian Church of Mid-America
- 10/4-10/10: First Christian Community Church, Centerville, IL
- 10/25-10/31: Overland, MO
- 10/18-10/24: Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO
- 2/2-2/8: Rex Shelby

**October 2015**

- 1: Curt & Margaret Sutton
- 2: Edna & Ralph Schneider
- 3: Justin & Brittany Clark
- 4: Steve & Pat Reichling
- 5: Ken & Shirley Holmes
- 6: Roz Stevens
- 8: Dan Upton
- 9: Virginia Johnson
- 10: David Kennedy
- 11: Stewardship Sunday
- 13: Rebekah Cripe
- 14: Marie Reichling
- 15: Virginia Johnson
- 16: Liam Modor
- 17: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 18: Edna & Ralph Schneider
- 19: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 20: Happy Anniversary!
- 21: Virginia Johnson
- 22: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 23: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 24: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 25: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 26: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 27: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 28: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 29: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 30: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 31: Eden & Ralph Schneider

**Happy Birthdays!**

- 1: Kay Marshall
- 2: Roz Stevens
- 3: Adam Johnson
- 4: Zoe Smith
- 5: Bob Emory
- 6: Emily Wright
- 7: Vinny Johnson
- 8: Dan Upton
- 9: Virginia Johnson
- 10: David Kennedy
- 11: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 12: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 13: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 14: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 15: Eden & Ralph Schneider
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- 25: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 26: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 27: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 28: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 29: Eden & Ralph Schneider
- 30: Eden & Ralph Schneider

**Stewardship for the Month**

- 10/4-10/10: First Christian Community Church, Centerville, IL
Be Reconciled: Move Together, Heal Together, Bound Together

How many of us know someone who has gone to their grave with a grudge or lived a significant portion of their lives estranged from loved ones? The impact of the resolve to never give in and to make others wrong in order to be right can live on for generations. Recently, one of our Disciples Care ministries hosted a night of conversation about the history of racial discord in Omaha, Nebraska. The catalyst for the conversation was the publishing of the book *The Rhythm Boys of Central High at the '68 Racial Divide*. Summarily, the book describes the events surrounding the school’s first all-African American basketball team in 1968. The events of the upheaval that occurred just before the team was to play in the state championship are still felt and seen in Omaha today. In the grant report to Reconciliation Ministry, the event organizers said, “The expressions on the faces of the students from all of the area high schools revealed surprise and disbelief as they listened. This event opened the door for conversation to continue with sensitivity and deeper understanding of the community where we live and serve.”

In our thematic scripture Jesus says: “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24, NRSV)

The assumption in the text is that Reconciliation is an urgent disposition. The scripture says, before you do anything in worship, before you worship Me with your gifts, be Reconciled. God created us to live harmonious lives with each other. Current events with police-community relations, worshipers being killed in Bible Study, churches burning and churches providing safe haven offer abundant opportunity to move together and heal together as the body of Christ.

Through your generous giving, doors are opening! When you give to Reconciliation Ministry, you are supporting the development of young leaders, promoting conversation models for congregations and community groups and enabling Regional granting programs that enliven our camps and congregational ministry. Your giving ultimately restores the beloved community that is “inextricably bound together in a network of mutuality,” empowering all of God’s family to be fully whole.
We’re Disciples: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch
On Tuesday, October 20, 2015, the Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30am, at Papa Vito’s, 4205 North Belt West, Belleville, IL. A sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.

Stewardship Campaign 2016
Please remember to turn in your Commitment Card for the 2016 Stewardship Campaign by Sunday, October 11, 2015.

Special door prizes will be drawn from the card entries during the Congregational Meeting on November 22nd.

Thank you for your generous support of the ministry at Crossroads!