



September 2014

Crossroads Connections



A church in the crossroads of life

A Moment with Pastor Mike

Inside this issue:

A Moment with Pastor Mike	1
Outreach Update Crossroads Choir	2
Sunday Sermons Sunday School	3
Prayers	4
Worship Leaders	5
Calendar	6
Reconciliation Offering 2014	7

I'm glad to be beginning a second year as your interim pastor. Twelve months ago, on September 1st, 2013, I began working with and for you in that role, and was just beginning to get to know you. Now we're comfortable together, and we've spent many hours together in worship and learning, across lunch tables, in hospital and nursing home rooms, having fun together, and delivering mission gifts of food and school supplies together. Although I'm only working part-time, it's been a good year and we are glad to have become a part of this congregation. Sandy and I are looking forward to the months ahead as we continue to serve the Lord, and one another, and the world in Christ's name.

A part of my ministry that many of you don't know about takes me beyond Crossroads to serve the larger church and the community. Sometimes that's done locally, as with relating to Beacon, the local schools and food pantries, and community functions sponsored by local serving groups. Sometimes it's done with and through SEGA, the Southeast Gateway Area of the Christian Church, and the Mid America Region of the Christian Church. I am a member of the Division of Ministry in SEGA, where we guide and encourage the work of commissioned (lay) ministers in our area. Recently, after being on his nurture team for over 2 years, I went to Jefferson City to attend the ordination interview of a young man who is a full-time teacher but has also been taking full-time seminary work online. Also, I meet quarterly with other pastors in the Dare to Lead program, to help coordinate our congregation's renewal process. All that is part of my ministry because we are more than a local congregation, we are part of a larger church, and through it, part of the Church Universal.

Last month was stressful for Sandy and me with the protests and civil unrest triggered by the killing of a young black man by a police officer in the city of Ferguson. We live within 3 miles of the area where the young man was shot. Streets that we used to drive on every week became like a war zone as rage and frustration poured out. We lost sleep to the sounds of sirens and helicopters. Yet in that process, people have been working for justice, for peace, and for reconciliation. Such a crisis could have flared up anywhere, and it reminds us that we have much to do in the areas of race relations and poverty. My dream is that long after the police and protestors stand down, and long after the TV crews drive away to cover other stories, that God's Spirit and Christian effort will continue to work to help healing happen. In a dark and divided world, God brings light and unity. When the Reconciliation offering comes up later in September, please become a part of that effort.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Worship times:

Sunday School at
9:30 am.

Worship at
10:45 am.

Outreach Update—School Supplies & Reaching Out

Thanks to all who participated in the collection of school supplies. We donated nearly \$550 worth of notebooks, paper, pencils, pens, crayons, scissors, glue, rulers, backpacks, lunch bags, etc. and teachers' supplies to Caseyville Grade School. We appreciate your generosity.

—Outreach Committee

Crossroads received a nice thank you note following our delivery to the Caseyville Grade School:



May life bring you a reflection of the kindness you've shown to others. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your kindness will brighten a child's life.

—Caseyville School

The Up Close and Personal campaign begins in September! These are things for men and women that food stamps will not cover and that the food pantry does not generally have on hand. These are readily available at the various dollar stores; so for very little you can help a lot!

- shampoo and conditioner
- deodorant
- toilet paper
- feminine hygiene products (all kinds)
- talcum powder
- tooth brushes
- tooth paste
- wipes
- body wash
- net scrubbers
- bar soap
- wash cloths
- razors
- after shave



The collection baskets are in the fellowship hall waiting to be filled.

Congratulations Teachers!

- To Jill Green on her recent retirement from Collinsville Unit 10 School District. Jill spent 34 years in the teaching profession and your Crossroads family wishes you the very best.
- Dale Hodges was featured in a back to school article in the Belleville News Democrat reflecting on his 40 years of teaching in the Mascoutah School District.

Crossroads Choir

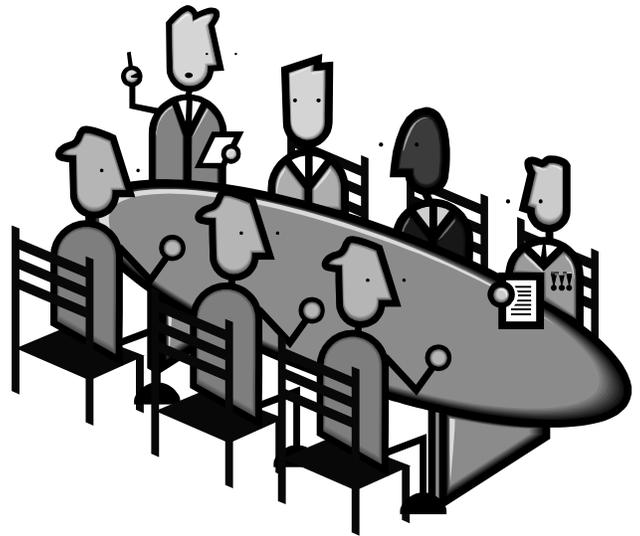
I would like to thank all those people who have provided special music during the summer months. What a wonderful choir we have and always so willing to serve! Also, we are always looking for new members, so if you love to sing, please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. beginning September 3rd.

—Carol Brookshier



Chips from the Board

- Board approved Stewardship Committee's recommendation to renew Rev. Mike Dixon's contract for another year beginning September 1, 2014.
- After reviewing bids from three landscaping firms, approval was given to hire Complete Lawn and Landscape Co. (Guy Gamerdinger) to remove & dispose of existing shrubs, etc. and replace with new plants, flowering trees, etc. per plan submitted. Work will begin immediately.
- Church in the 21st Century workshop to be held at Community Christian Church in Manchester, MO Saturday, September 6. All are welcome to attend.



September Sunday Sermons

September 7, 2014 13th Sunday after Pentecost
 The Message: Life Together
 Scripture: Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
 Theme: Being Christ's Body in Community

September 14, 2014 14th Sunday after Pentecost
 The Message: God's Math
 Scripture: Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
 Theme: Making forgiveness a habit

September 21, 2014 15th Sunday after Pentecost
 The Message: It's Not Fair!
 Scripture: Exodus 16:2-25; Matthew 20:1-16
 Theme: Why doesn't God give us what we want?

September 28, 2014 16th Sunday after Pentecost
 The Message: Down to Earth
 Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13;
 Matthew 21:23-32
 Theme: Talk the talk, walk the walk



Sunday School Classes begin Sep 7

The JOY (Jesus, Others, Yourself) Sunday Class will be studying 2nd Samuel beginning with the 6th chapter. This part of the Old Testament tells of David's kingship. Don't feel as though you would be getting in the middle of the books of Samuel if you haven't previously attended. Reviewing is first on the agenda—it has, after all, been several months since we finished in the spring. The class has enjoyed the dramatic readings of the lessons as both books of Samuel lend well to that and have made the scripture come alive; discussions are thought provoking. The group meets in the open area outside of the office suites, and is led by Sandy Dixon.

The BLEST (Bible Learners Exploring Scriptures Together) Sunday Class will be beginning a new study of the minor prophets starting with Hosea. Since this class has been primarily studying the New Testament, this will be a new learning experience for both the student and the teacher. The group meets in the north end classroom and is led by Pat McAllister.

Here's
WHAT'S
 COOL
 at Sunday!
SCHOOL

Prayers

- Prayers for the family of Clyde Berning
- Kim Hampton recuperating at home after a bout with pneumonia
- Jo Jones recuperating at Rosewood after surgery
- Death of Vandora Elfrink's mother on July 23
- SEGA Area Minister Penny Ross-Corona appointed Team Leader for the Mid-America Regional Ministry Team
- Healing in Ferguson MO
- Persecution of Northern Iraqi Christians
- Ed Hayes recent medical tests
- Derrick & Sharon (friends of Maggie) death of their 22 month old daughter
- News article about Dale Hodges and his 40 years of teaching
- Wedding Anniversaries: Bob & Jill Green (41st) and Mike & Carole Thompson (45th)
- Earthquake in Napa, CA
- Mary Moss transferred to Memorial Care Center
- Shirley (niece of Tom & Mary) upcoming neck surgery
- John (friend of Maggie) continued prayers for him and his family in his battle with cancer
- New church start (New Light Christian Church) with pastor Nadine Schrodtt, a former seminary student for BEACON



From the August 2014 SEGA Newsletter:

Please keep in your prayers:

The family of Michael Brown who was killed by a police officer in Ferguson, MO recently.

All who have suffered emotional, physical, and material loss in the events following this tragedy.

All who endure prejudice and fear as part of their daily lives because of who, what, or where they are.

All who work to end these unacceptable realities.

All.

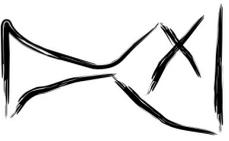


Our
Homebound
Ray Doctorman
Rollie & Jodie Hoehn
Vera Hudson
Nelson Rodriguez-Arté



Lay Worship Leaders—September 2014

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Worship Leader	Patty Buckhannon	Ken Holmes	Jessie Hull	Mike Thompson
Elder	Ken Holmes	Pat McAllister	Mona McAllister	Carole Thompson
Deacons Prepare	Susan Johnasen-Smith	Susan Johnasen-Smith	Susan Johnasen-Smith	Susan Johnasen-Smith
Deacons Serve	Jessie Hull Marie Reichling	Patty Peterman Betty Allen	Mike Thompson Marie Reichling	Patty Peterman Betty Allen
Deacons Candles		Pat Hayes		Pat Hayes
Deacons Sanctuary	Susan Johnasen-Smith	Betty Allen	Patty Peterman	Marie Reichling
Greeter	Jim Buckhannon	Pat Killian	Marie Reichling	Curt Sutton
Audio-Visual	Pat McAllister	Kay Marshall	Pat Hayes	Pat McAllister



September 2014

SEGA Prayers for the Month

8/31-9/6 World Mission Christian Church, St. Louis, MO
 9/7-9/13 First Christian Church, Kennett, MO
 9/14-9/20 First Christian Church, Dexter, MO
 9/21-9/27 First Christian Church, Doniphan, MO
 9/28-10/4 First Christian Community Church, Centreville, IL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Labor Day (Office Closed)</i>	2	3 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	8	9	10 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	15	16	17 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	18	19	20
21 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Board Meeting	22 9:00 Stewardship/ Finance	23 12:00 Lunch Bunch	24 5:30 Dinner/Video 7:00 Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	29	30				

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Steve & Grace Barbee
- 17 Amy & James Dixon
- 19 Pat & Connie McAllister
- 24 Don & Carol Brookshier
- Jim & Vandora Elfrink

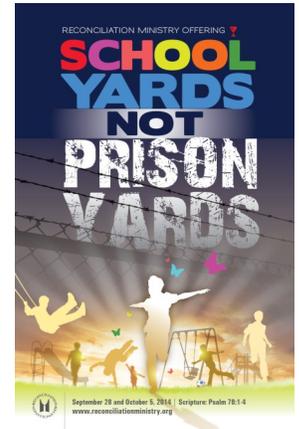
Happy Birthday!

- 3 Nicholas Kraus
- 5 Elizabeth Kurant
- 16 Allison Bogan
- 18 Betty McCoy
- 19 Amanda Moore
- 22 Pat Dueland
- 23 Jon Thompson
- 27 Ed Hayes
- Natalie Houk
- 29 Jenny LeVoy

Reconciliation Offering 2014

Psalm 78:1-4

*Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.*



Imagine that all of our children grew up in homes and were taught in schools that handled their sweet souls with care. Would we continue to have gapping disparities in access to quality education? Would black and brown children continue to comprise a disproportionate number of school suspensions, expulsions and dropouts? A significant part of our children's learning occurs outside of the home where they also are shaped by acts of encouragement or criticism. Therefore recent reports that indicate that not all of our children receive equal treatment in our school and judicial systems compels the church and faith community to act. Data from the Department of Education chronicling the 2011–2012 school year show that although African American youth comprise only 18% of pre-school enrollment, 42% were subject to suspension at least once that year. That rate is increased to 48% for the same group that were subject to multiple suspensions. This data is not meant to indicate that African American preschoolers are inherently prone to bad behavior or that pre-school teachers are inherently racist. What it does show is that we are all shaped in a paradigm of implicit bias that requires intentional effort to dismantle.

Dorothy Nolte's poem, "Children Learn What They Live", offers "When children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty." When a person lives with a self-awareness of implied guilt regardless of their circumstances, they learn to live with hopelessness. Hopelessness is a major contributor to the current phenomenon known as the **'School-to-Prison Pipeline.'** Data from the Bureau of Justice shows a direct relationship between school suspensions to increased dropout rates and incarceration for discouraged black, brown and poor youth. Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is our church's intentional effort to confront historical fractures in the body of Christ caused by structural and systemic racism to the end of building life-giving communities for the whole family of God. We have been asked by many congregations and ministries of the church to assist in resourcing efforts to raise awareness to opportunities to stop the School-to-Prison Pipeline. It is encouraging that our church recognizes our call to love ALL of God's children and to offer reconciliation within the body of believers. This year's Special Offering theme **#ReconciliationGeneration: School Yards not Prison Yards**" is intended to do just that! We desire to demonstrate that Disciples are sincerely invested in the wholeness of our most precious members of the family of God – our children. Your generous giving to Reconciliation Ministry will fund grants to our ministries that increase our focus on our need to restore our children to their rightful place in our communities and churches. Our funds are currently supporting projects that decrease juvenile detentions, promote leadership development and provide educational opportunities that broaden our awareness to our collective role in dismantling the sin of racism. Will you give to this critical mission fund within the life of our church to promote programs that develop strong leaders with a strong sense of Christ's love in them? You are the Reconciliation Generation – our present and our future witness to Christ's love for all of God's children!

Thank you in advance for your generous support of Reconciliation Ministry on **September 28 and October 4.**



Christian Church

2415 North 89th Street
Caseyville, IL 62232
(618)398-1587

Interim Pastor - Rev. Michael Dixon
medixon2@earthlink.net

Office Manager - Patrick McAllister
crossroadsdisciple@sbcglobal.net

Hours: M,T,W,Th 8-12

Music Director - Carol Brookshier
clbrookshier@charter.net

Nursery - Connie McAllister
Custodian - Richard Reichling

**We're Disciples: a movement for
wholeness in a fragmented world**

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch

On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, the Lunch Bunch will meet at noon at the 4204 Main Street Brewing Co., 4204 Main Street, Belleville, IL. A sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall.



Mid-America Regional Assembly

**Mid-America Assembly
October 10-12, 2014
Held in St. Louis
At**

be
the
CHANG[&]

Change your hearts and lives!
Here comes the kingdom of heaven!

Matthew 3:2 (CEB)

Webster Groves CC
(1320 W. Lockwood Ave. 63122)

& Union Avenue CC
(733 Union Blvd. 63108)

Registration forms are available in Fellowship Hall.