

Compton Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

An Open & Affirming and Global Mission Congregation



WE GATHER TOGETHER

OCTOBER, 2016 VOL64 • NO8

When autumn comes, an old hymn comes to mind; not because the content of the hymn relates to the fall of the year, but because I have traditionally heard it sung in the fall.

*We gather together to ask for God's blessing,  
To turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;  
The pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.  
O God be present with us, and make your will known.*

We can get lost in the nostalgic melody and the feelings stirred from childhood. Yet, in this day and time, I hear the word that we gather for a purpose – to seek God's blessing and to turn to One more wise than ourselves. It is in this turning to God that the oppressive powers in our world lose their control over us. There is a will for all life, a will for the people of the world. We trust that God, who is with us, makes that will known.

God's will and wisdom will overpower whatever oppresses God's people. In these tender days, when so many suffer under the threat and heavy hand of the oppressor, let us hold fast to the God who gathers us in the way of Jesus.

Blessings, Pastor Jacque

**Week of the Ministry - to be celebrated on October 23**

Each October, we recognize the Week of the Ministry. Ministry is shared in the church community. By our baptism we are all called to share in the ministry of Jesus the Christ. Some are called out in a particular way and we call it Ordained Ministry. This month, we recognize and give thanks for the ministries of all in our congregation who are ordained:

- The Rev. Amy Bertschhausen – Exec. Director of Care and Counseling
- The Rev. Roger Bertschhausen – UU Ministry Consultant
- The Rev. Brenda Booth – Exec. Director of Isaiah 58 Ministries
- The Rev. Meredith Jackson – in search process
- The Rev. Katherine Kinnamon – Interim Ministry
- The Rev. Dennis Landon - Retired
- The Rev. Charlsi Lewis Lee – Addictions Counselor, Valley Hope
- The Rev. Norm Linville – Retired
- The Rev. Robert Miner – Interim Ministry
- The Rev. Karen Pitt – Chaplain – State Psychiatric Hospital
- The Rev. Mildred Slack – Retired

and the Rev. Jacquelyn (Jacque) Foster, our Pastor, CHCC  
We also celebrate Jake Schlemper who is in seminary preparing for ministry and serving as our Pastoral Intern.

**Pro – Reconciliation/ Anti-Racism Training**  
Saturday, November 5 9 am – 3 pm \$12 (includes lunch)

This training for ALL will include a more in-depth training and engagement with organizing. It fulfills the new clergy requirement for participating in Anti-Racism training every 3 years. You may register online at [www.mid-american-disciples.org/upcomingevents](http://www.mid-american-disciples.org/upcomingevents)

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## Awarding of Deacon Emeritus

### Arlene Arbogast

On Sunday, October 2 we celebrated the faithful diaconal ministry of Arlene Arbogast by bestowing upon her the distinction of Deacon Emeritus.

In Acts 6 when the first deacons are called, we are told that they are practical and spiritually minded. They are to make sure that the widows are not neglected, and to see to the service of the church.

For many years (and continuing!) Arlene has served faithfully, with a commitment to prepare and serve communion, to make sure that the worship bulletins are correct and ready each Sunday.

Arlene has served in care for those in the congregation who are ill or absent. She makes phone calls and stays in touch. She serves a ministry of hospitality in making sure that coffee is ground and ready to welcome us as we arrive.

We give thanks to God for Arlene's faith and commitment! Blessings upon her!

## Deepening our Welcome to those who are Transgender

On Sunday, October 2, we took another step to increase our empathy and welcome for those who are transgender. We were delighted to have thirty adults share in lunch and then participate in a very basic Gender Identity Education event following worship. We thank Sayer Johnson with the Metro Trans Umbrella Group for leading this session and sharing his journey with us.

*It was a special gift that people felt free to ask questions and that transgender members of our congregation felt safe to share. We were on holy ground as we risked with each other. The Spirit was truly present!*

Two additional steps in our life together:

1. We will be offering an opportunity for a deeper reflection and discussion using a four session curriculum called "trans Action". Look for upcoming information as we plan dates and times for this study, which includes our faith perspective.

2. We have taken steps to make our restrooms welcoming and safe for transgender people, and comfortable for everyone. On the main level, you will note the sign which invites everyone to use the restroom that fits their gender identity. On the second floor and at the basement restrooms under the narthex (just outside the fellowship hall), you will find "All Gender" restroom signs and new door latches that lock so that everyone may feel comfortable using either restroom. Though these restrooms still have two stalls, you may lock the outer door for complete privacy. (Please note that these are safety locks so that we can always access the room in case of emergency. This is so that these are child-safe. See leaders if needed.

## CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



Sharon Clayton, Jamal Martin, Cathy Hutcherson, Joyce Cole, Jan Cameron, John Pitt, Royce Sykes



9<sup>th</sup> Penny Miller  
14<sup>th</sup> Royce Sykes  
15<sup>th</sup> Monte Abbott  
23<sup>rd</sup> Marsha McGuire  
28<sup>th</sup> Liz Vollmar

(Early November Birthdays)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stanley Williams  
9<sup>th</sup> Peter Richardson



Two of our dear families are making moves that take them away from our worshipping community. We miss them already; yet they are always a part of us!

**Jan and Larry Kreuger** – retired to Florida

**Charlotte Johnson, Winstler Oltter & Michaela** – moving to Wichita, KS to be near family from their island in Micronesia

## Welcome Pastoral Intern - Jake Schlemper

### Welcome Jake and Tiffany, Jane and Eli - New CHCC members

We welcome Jake Schlemper who began on September 18 as our new Pastoral Intern. Jake is a second year Disciples of Christ student at Eden Theological Seminary. He will participate in worship leadership, preaching once a month, pastoral care, education and small group ministry, and administration through Elders, Board, and Ministry Groups. His choice of Ministry group participation is Congregational Care and Communication.

Jake and Tiffany have also chosen to make Compton Heights CC their church home so that their family may be rooted in a congregation. They joined on Sunday, October 2. The last place they lived in Greenville, Illinois had no Disciples congregation and so they were active in the college church there. Before that they were active in the Disciples congregation at Lee's Summit, MO.

Jake and Tiffany's children Jane, 7 and Eli, 5 are enjoying becoming a part of the community at Compton Heights and finding many friends their own age. Tiffany has already started singing with the choir! Welcome to all!

## SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEARNING

### SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

- \* Nursery (Birth to 2) – led by Brittini Jones and another adult each week - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- \* Pre-School/Kindergarten – (3- First Grade) - led by Kathy Mead and Madeline Haraway - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- \* Elementary (2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades) - led by Darrell and Marty Hughes - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- \* Youth – (6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) led by Jacque Foster - main floor off kitchenette
- \* Adults - rotating leadership for different areas of focus throughout the year main floor – Library

October 9 and 16 – Jake Schlemper leading Bible study

October 23 through November 13 – the Rev. Amy Bertschausen leading - on “Spiritual Disciplines”

Our Preschool and Elementary classes are using a great curriculum called “Living the Good News.”

*As a progressive Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation we value education and faith nurture. We value the experience of building relationship with each other as we deepen and explore our relationship with God and God’s world. It is vital that people of all ages in our congregation study, discuss, experience, and learn together. Come join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am!*

## RECONCILIATION OFFERING



The Special Offering is used to fund our Church’s mission imperative to become an pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Recent events have reignited the conversation about human brokenness evidenced in the sin of racism and perpetuated in our institutional structures and systems. Your generous giving to

Reconciliation Ministry is transforming lives and strengthening Christ’s witness in the world showing that we love one another, even as Christ continues to love us!

Reconciliation Offerings are used for work on the General Church level **and** Reconciliation funds are distributed to each Region for Anti-Racism, Pro-Reconciliation work in our local areas. In our Mid-America Region, Reconciliation Grants are awarded twice a year to congregations and ministries that apply. **We celebrate that a Reconciliation Grant was just awarded this month to Liberation Christian Church and Metropolitan Congregations United in St. Louis for the vital work we are doing in the St. Louis metro area.**

**Our congregation will receive our Reconciliation Offering on three Sundays - October 2, 9 and 16.**



**Thank you to Marty Hughes** who made the beautiful new fabric art hanging for the hallway banner! It is a cross-shape made of colorful hands, and so powerfully reflects the congregation! What a wonderful gift for our life together!



## 2017 People to People Pilgrimage to India

Six members of *Compton Heights Christian Church* – along with three from Indiana and one from Texas - will make a People to People trip to India from January 4 to January 20, 2017!

Compton Heights CC participants are:

Monte Abbot	Jacque Foster	Joan James
Brenda Booth	Leslie Latham	Marsha McGuire

Our itinerary includes:

- Time with Global Mission Partners in Chennai
- 5 days at Family Village Farm & Kings Matriculation School – to include Medical Screenings for 500 – 700 children and adults.  
(We will have 3 RNs in our group, coordinating this aspect.)
- Visits to nearby Christian Medical College in Vellore, the Schieffelin Institute of Health Research and Training at Karigiri, one of three major medical centers in the world focusing on leprosy.
- Shanthigramam home for elders who have been cured of leprosy (yet cannot return to their villages or families),
- worship at St. John's Church (Ft. Vellore),
- time in the community in Vellore.
- Travel to Madurai where we will stay at Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary - learning about education for ministry in that area, and engaging with Global Mission partners and ministries with Dalit people (those out-caste – below the caste system. In Madurai we will visit a Hindu Temple first built about 600 CE.
- Time back in Chennai, concluding with retreat.
- We also hope to visit the Roman Catholic Order – the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Chennai. This is the order that Monte Abbott works with here in St. Louis.

Our group will share gifts of financial support for many of the ministries we visit.

Each participant pays for his or her own trip expenses. In addition, each congregation represented on this trip is encouraged to provide at least \$1000 to be divided among our mission partners.

We welcome any contribution, you may choose to make!

**A Letter from the Mid-America Center for Ministry (formerly Missouri School of Religion)**

September 26, 2016

Dear Friend,

Ministries constantly change. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Students begin their journey to ministry and others graduate. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end their lives. And so it is with much prayer and discernment that the Board of Trustees of the Mid-America Center for Ministry have reached a decision to close our institution and bring to an end our ministry of providing Christian education to congregational leaders and those pursuing the call of ministry. The closure will take effect no later than December 31, 2018.

This decision was very difficult for everyone, given our rich history and outstanding students, faculty, and curriculum. The Center for Ministry has been a leading educational institution and has served many students and churches by providing practical tools for ministry over the past 120 years and together we celebrate this accomplishment with you.

We are committed to our Certificate of Pastoral Ministry students and we will be implementing an educational Teach-Out plan using our remaining funds and the funds of those who continue to support us during this transition. This will enable those active students who are close to completing the certificate program the opportunity to do so within the specified period. A more detailed plan will be approved and implemented in early November 2016.

We are grateful to you, our students, donors, and friends for the generous support you have and will continue to provide as we move through this transition.

Sincerely,

*Bill Tenny\_Brittian*

Bill Tenny\_Brittian,

Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Mid-America Center for Ministry

**MID-AMERICA CENTER  
FOR MINISTRY  
TO CLOSE  
BY END OF 2018**

The Mid-America Center for Ministry began over 100 years ago as the Bible College of Missouri. a project of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), focusing on providing religious education for students at the University of Missouri.

The school quickly drew inter-denominational sponsorship with Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational support. By 1930 the school had an interfaith character with the support of the Jewish Student Foundation.

In the 1950s the name was changed to Missouri School of Religion (MSR). During most of its time in Columbia, MSR was located on the Univ. of Missouri campus and provided classes for credit at U of M. (Students rec'd University credit, yet the classes were free of charge!)

From 1952 to 1972 the MSR Rural Seminary prepared graduate students for ministry. In the 1980's MSR shifted focus to continuing education for clergy and laity, and leader development for small and

rural congregations MSR then moved to the Rickman Center Campus in Jefferson City.

In 1983 the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry was developed to provide education and ministry formation for commissioned and licensed lay ministers, especially those who were bi-vocational. This Disciples institution has served the Church well, providing education for many! We give thanks for those who have given faithful leadership; particularly, in our memory, the Rev. John Bennett who served as Director of MSR until his retirement just a few years ago, after which the Rev. Fran Schnarre served in that role.

Thanks be to God the faithful ministry extended to so many through the Bible College of Missouri/Missouri School of Religion/ the Mid-America Center for Ministry!

	What's	Happening	Here
<p>Sunday Schedule            9:15 Choir warmup            10 am Classes for all            11 am - Worship            12:30 pm - Choir Prep            WSPR - Wed. Share &amp; Prayer 6 pm - 7 pm            Compassionate Listening - 4<sup>th</sup> Tues.              Every Friday            Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 - 8:00 am</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> World Communion            Sun            4<sup>th</sup> Stewardship Small Group Planning            6pm            5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday WSPR            6pm            Ministry Groups            7pm            6<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, Prayer Shawl Group - Church            7pm            7<sup>th</sup> Happy Friday 7-8 am            Regional Assembly – 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>14<sup>th</sup> Happy Friday 7-8 am              16<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Children's Sabbath            19<sup>th</sup> Wed. WSPR 6pm            21<sup>st</sup> Happy Friday 7-8 am              23<sup>th</sup> Sunday Week of the Ministry celebrated in worship              25<sup>th</sup> Tues Compassionate Listening 6:30 pm              26<sup>th</sup> Wed. WSPR 6:00 pm            Pastor's Cabinet 7 pm</p>	<p>28<sup>th</sup> Happy Friday 7 am              30<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Ordinary Time            Nov. 1 - All Saints Day              Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. - WSPR 6            Board of Ministry            Nov. 3 - Thurs. Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 7 pm              Nov. 4 Happy Friday 7 am            Nov. 5 PRAR Training 9-3 at Webster Groves CC            Nov. 6 - All Saints Sunday</p>

## SERVING SCHEDULE - OCTOBER

**October Communion Bread:** Kathy Bradley  
**Sanctuary Greeter:** Brenda Booth

**Oct 2 Liturgist:** Masi Swanagan  
**Elders:** Leslie Latham (Communion)  
 Norm Linville (Stewardship)  
**Deacons:** Joan James, Stanley Williams  
 Tom Litton, Dennis James  
**Nursery:** Brenda Booth  
**Coffee Hosts:** Bud and Nancy Obermiller

**Oct 9 Liturgist:** Kathy Mead  
**Elders:** Kathy Mead (Communion)  
 Steve Randolph (Stewardship)  
**Deacons:** Kim Litton, Bud Obermiller  
 Heather Stout, Tina Owens  
**Nursery:** Marty Hughes  
**Coffee Hosts:** Joan & Dennis James

**Oct 16 Liturgist:** Howard Miller  
**Elders:** Judi Linville (Communion)  
 Marsha McGuire (Stewardship)  
**Deacons:** Susan Petri, Julie Phoenix  
 Kathy Bradley, Carolyn Harry  
**Nursery:** Kathy Mead  
**Coffee Hosts:** Judi and Norm Linville

**Oct 23 Liturgist:** Bryan Richardson  
**Elders:** Madeline Haraway (Communion)  
 Nancy Obermiller (Stewardship)  
**Deacons:** Carolyn Harry, Walt Tarde  
 Jennifer Phoenix, David Nielsen  
**Nursery:** Darrell Hughes  
**Coffee Hosts:** Sarah and Bryan Richardson

**Oct 30 Liturgist:** Millie Slack  
**Elders:** Charlsi Lee (Communion)  
 Millie Slack (Stewardship)  
**Deacons:** Tom Litton, Dennis James  
 Joan James, Stanley Williams  
**Nursery:** Marsha McGuire  
**Coffee Hosts:** Cathy & Ron Hutcherson,  
 Carolyn Harry



Where in the St. Louis metro area is the above?

Last month's 'STL Find' (below) is Shakespeare with Lady Macbeth in the Center Circle at Tower Grove Park



Compton Heights Christian Church  
 2149 South Grand Blvd.  
 St. Louis, MO 63104

### Ministry Leaders

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster  
 Pastor

Ms. Leslie Latham  
 Moderator of Congregation

Ms. Kristie Welder  
 Vice Moderator

Ms. Marsha McGuire  
 Clerk

Ms. Judi Linville  
 Financial Secretary

Kathy Mead,  
 Darrell Hughes,  
 Tom Litton  
 Treasurers

Contact us: 314-771-5071

[www.comptonheights.wordpress.com](http://www.comptonheights.wordpress.com)

check us out on Facebook

[www.isaiah58ministries.org](http://www.isaiah58ministries.org)

Email: [comptonheightscc@gmail.com](mailto:comptonheightscc@gmail.com)

Pastor: [jleigh55@att.net](mailto:jleigh55@att.net)

### Financial Report – September Income and Expenses

Income report 9/25/2016

Expense report 9/25/2016

Sept. income \$14,473.81  
 YTD total income \$111,646.57  
 YTD Budget \$115,929.00

Sept. expenses \$ **13,435**  
 YTD expenses \$ **104,079**  
 Projected deficit \$ **3,473**

#### YTD total Income details

Regular giving \$85,827.00  
 Loose offering 1,249.56  
 New and gifts 1,880.00  
 CCF Interest 272.77  
 CCF transfer 5,000.00  
 Rent 4,600.00  
 Fund Raising 1,992.55  
 Outreach offerings 4,279.06  
 India tuition 396.59  
 Equal Exchange 1,205.20  
 Expense offsets 3,393.09  
 20th Anniversary 1,550.00

**Not an easy peace,  
 Not an insignificant peace,  
 Not a half-hearted peace,  
 But the peace  
 of the Lord Jesus Christ  
 is with us now.  
 Let us share it  
 with each other.**

Iona Community