Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do.”

How many times have you sung these words from our hymnals? We sing such important words but fail to let the Spirit’s call soak into our beings. Instead, we so often find ourselves thinking and saying, “I am just one person, what can I do?” or “I really don’t have any skills.” or “I’m too old.” or “I’m too young.” or “I don’t know enough.” or “I can’t walk, see, sing, read, speak well, pray out loud, teach, drive, etc., etc.” – take your pick. There is no requirement list for service; only the willingness to say “Use me, Lord, whenever, wherever, however You choose.”

I was deeply moved by many testimonies this past summer. Two came to my mind as I sang the words printed above. One was in a small group at a June Reunion prayer service; the other was in the Tabernacle at a July Reunion prayer service. Darrell O’Kelley shared his experience of being on his way into a KFC restaurant when a woman approached and asked him for money. He told her he would buy her meal. At first she said no, but then found him after he had gotten his food and said yes. Seeing that she was alone and had need, when she got her meal, Darrell asked her to join him at his table. Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do”.

The other testimony was given by Jeanette Dean who told of her experience of leaving her home and living in a retirement facility. She decided she could sit there and be lonely or she could visit with the others who lived there. I was especially impressed by the joy on her face as she described how she tried to encourage and bring happiness into the lives of lonely people. Let none hear you idly saying, “there is nothing I can do”.

Instead of thinking about what we can’t do – maybe we should look for what we can do. No act of kindness and caring is too small or insignificant. It may be the one thing that changes a life.

Take the task He gives you gladly;
let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calls you;
“Here am I, O Lord, send me.”

Joan Munter
Saturday, October 18, 2014
Brush Creek Mission Center Fall Conference
Salem, IL, Community of Christ
Plan to gather for worship, fellowship, food, and making important decisions for the future ministries of the Mission Center.

Schedule for the Day:
Worship – 10:30 a.m. - Michele McGrath, speaker
Lunch – 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – bring your own; drinks provided
Pre-Legislative Session – 1:00 p.m.
Business Session – 1:30 p.m.

Preliminary Agenda
Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
Consideration of the call of Ann Schwengel to the office of High Priest
Presentation of Reports
Sustaining of Mission Center Appointments
Election of 2015 Mission Center Officers
Old Business
Report on referral of BCMC Graceland Scholarship Proposal
New Business
Proposal to renew Brad Bryant as Mission Initiatives Coordinator for 2015
Consideration of Proposal for Dispersal of Funds (from sale of church buildings)
Consideration of 2015 Budget
Please welcome and support in your prayers

**Alan and Colleen Savage**

who are generously working to establish a group of

**Community of Christ** members and friends in

**CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI.**

Alan and Colleen moved into our area this past summer and are excited about the possibilities that exist in their new location. Please help them by sharing names and contact information for anyone you may know who lives in Cape Girardeau or surrounding area, or who is attending

**Southeast Missouri State University.**

We are blessed to have the enthusiasm and willingness of these two young adults, both of whom hold the office of Priest, in our Mission Center. Their e-mail address is colleen.r.brian@gmail.com

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**President Steve Veazey’s Address**

given Sunday, October 5 is now available in PDF text form.

*So, what will it take to release the world-changing power of the Mission Initiatives?*

According to the Spirit, we should “free the full capacity of Christ’s mission through generosity that imitates God’s generosity.”

"It is always good to get your baptizing clothes wet.” I can still hear those words in his slow, deliberate, personable voice. You could sense, when President Veazey said this about his opportunity to baptize several people this past summer, the pure joy he felt in those experiences: rare times for him given his position as Prophet/President.

Also obvious in his internet address to the church on October 5, was the passion he has for the mission of Jesus Christ: a mission that is being limited by declining contributions to World Mission tithing.

He asked each of us to consider several adjustments in our giving habits:

1. Determine our true capacity for generosity
2. Continue to give to our local congregations, and to our mission centers, but increase our giving to World Church tithes toward the same level. These three constitute “tithing”.
3. The amount of tithes given to these three designations should equal 10% of available funds prior, to saving or meeting living needs.
4. Giving to all other worthwhile organizations is encouraged, but is not considered tithing.
5. If our situations make it impossible to contribute financially, then give of your time in service.
6. Realize that in order for the mission of Jesus Christ to reach all people - "as widely and as far as the dedication of the Saints, especially through the exercise of their temporal stewardship, will allow” (D&C 153:9a) there must be this kind of support.

We need more wet baptizing clothes! Will you allow your contributions to help make this possible?


Joan Munter
**EXCITING NEWS!!!**

You know that “Let none hear you idly saying, There is nothing I can do” hymn message? There is something you can do and it is an incredible opportunity to change lives for the better. The weekend of October 18 and 19, four representatives from our Mission Center (Bob White, Deby Klein, Kitty and Dan Martin) will travel to Kirtland, Ohio for the OPEN TABLE Exploration experience.

Our team will learn as much about this ministry as they possibly can and return with their vast knowledge to help us prepare to use this tool to help empower people to MOVE OUT OF POVERTY. Here is a hint to get your curiosity going.

Please keep our traveling representatives and this ministry in your prayers! There is something you can do – and it is coming soon to our Mission Center!
2014 Peace Colloquy    POVERTY:  God Weeps
International Peace Award to Honor Bread for the World

The 2014 Peace Colloquy    October 24-26, 2014, Independence MO.
A couple of comments have been shared by prior Peace Colloquy attendees from BCMC:

- “I have enjoyed the Peace Colloquies that I have attended. Found the classes informative; worship settings enjoyable; fellowship rewarding; main presentation found stimulating. It is sad very few from our MC attend these type of sessions.”

- “Any time we have an opportunity to gather for worship and fellowship with our worldwide community, there is a renewed understanding of the enormity of the mission before us. And, at the same time, there is an appreciation for the realization that the smallness we sometimes feel in our congregations limits our vision. It is that vision that has grown in me each time I have attended the Peace Colloquy.”

We hope you’ll register, and join us in Independence as we explore together new avenues and attitudes that help lead us toward the Peaceful community we know as Zion!

Brush Creek's Women's Retreat    Aloha!
Women’s Retreat!  September 19, 20, and 21st, 2014

Aloha!

Brush Creek USA Mission Center, hosted a Women’s Retreat at Xenia IL. On September 19—21, 2014. With close to 40 women in attendance, the retreat included many activities and spiritual prayer sessions.

The women who attended the Women's Retreat were given an Aloha welcome and were presented with a lei, which represents love, blessing and welcome!

Kathy Berck, was our guest Speaker. She took us from packing our suitcases for a trip and what we would take or leave behind...our worries, our troubles, our burdens? We began our journey and along our way we learned The deeper meaning of Aloha which also means to interact and connect with one another. Also another meaning of Aloha is to be good stewards of our environment.

The retreat was a time to share with one another, we had a photo booth, games, laughter, luau, painting time and worship led by evangelist Karen Witts.

Thanks to Chef Alan Meers for the wonderful cuisine assisted by Brad Bryant and Dave McArthur! Special thank you to Donna Bryant registrar! Thank you to Cliff Chaffee and Dave McArthur for setting up for the retreat!

Aloha! Deby Klein, Director
**BCMC Sings!**

Calling all Carols!

Oh, never mind. You don’t need to be named “Carol” to join us at one of 3 locations on Sunday November 2, for our next **BCMC Sings!** gathering!

This time, we’ll be focusing on Christmas Carols, and other Advent Hymns that lead up to and remind us of the wonderful Christmas story! We'll find and sing “old favorites” from our new book, as well as learning some new ones that help expand our understanding of the world-changing importance of that peaceful, blessed night.

We’re swapping some locations this time, to enable more folks from around the Mission Center to gather together, as we continue to explore the Community of Christ Sings hymnal.

For our November 2 gathering, you can join us at:

- Tunnel Hill 3-4:30 pm Cara Webb and Jean Phillips
- Jacksonville 3-4:30 pm Joan Munter
- Effingham 1:30-3 pm Brad Bryant

Invite a neighbor or friend to “come and sing” with you, carpool when appropriate, and let’s gather to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord”, and celebrate together the birth of Jesus, in music and song!

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**Jack Ergo and Jan Kraybill: Dueling Keyboards**

Sunday, November 9 • 3:00 p.m.
The Auditorium • Freewill Offering

_Several from our area will load a bus and make the trek to Independence for this fun event._

Interested? Call Rosemary Rouse of Tunnel Hill at rrouse10@gmail.com for details.

Jack Ergo brings his fiery musicianship as conductor of the Independence Messiah Choir 1980–2000. He currently works as associate professor of music at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa.

Jan Kraybill consistently wins new audiences for the pipe organ through her local performances at Community of Christ International Headquarters and Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Come hear works for organ and piano, piano and piano, organ and organ, and more!

[http://www.cofchrist.org/dome_spire/calendar.asp#Duel](http://www.cofchrist.org/dome_spire/calendar.asp#Duel)
2014 Titus Teams

Our Titus Team ministries will be available to help support, strengthen, and encourage your congregation in the months & years ahead. How? Pastors have been asked to identify specific ministry needs in the congregation, and submit them. If you have questions or comments about our Titus Teams, please contact: Brad Bryant, Titus Team Coordinator BradBryant70@gmail.com

Response from BCMC “Pursue Peace” Titus Team

Rx for Stress

Do you have times of stress in your life? As a result of the World Church’s Five Mission Initiatives, the “Pursue Peace” Titus Team was formed. Members of this team meet together periodically to share ideas on how the Initiatives may be implemented. Current members are Karen Witts, Sue Green, and Marina Zaring.

In August, the “Pursue Peace” Titus Team asked the following question via the BCMC email: “What do you do to find peace in times of stress?” This is a brief summary of the responses.

Several people shared that they pray to find peace. Others responded that music is very helpful during times of stress, including listening, singing, and playing instruments. Enjoying the wide variety of God’s creation, including pets, birds, flower gardens, and river scenes top the list. Still others find a blessing in past times such as reading, studying scripture, meditating, baking, sewing, and walking. One person also mentioned requesting prayers and the laying on of hands during times of stress.

An example of the many beautiful responses we received is the following testimony by Norma Holman:

“How I Cope With Stress: As an old lady of 88 years, a widow, mother, and grandmother, having a very busy life, there were many, many stressful situations, usually caused by circumstances beyond our control. Prayer, fasting, and Scriptures are helpful, but often, even then, our thoughts are consumed by the issues that overwhelm us. I find that in those times, if I would sing, it would drive out the thoughts. I chose hymns, but probably other songs (that require thought to recall the words) would work.

I liked “Think of the Beautiful” especially. One line in it describes how I felt..... “thoughts like an avalanche sweep over you.” Often I would turn to it several times a day because what I was thinking was not beautiful! Another hymn I remember using was “I Need Thee Every Hour.” Usually I sang as I worked.

When I was quiet or trying to go to sleep, a tool I used was the alphabet. I would try to pray for anyone that came to mind starting with that letter. It was usually family or friends, but sometimes someone I didn’t know would come to mind. Usually I would fall asleep before I got to Z. I used this once during an MRI and it worked to keep me calm. Try these tools. They work. Thank you.”

Starting September 21st, the “Pursue Peace” Titus Team will begin to “adopt” a congregation in the Mission Center each week, and focus prayer on that congregation’s leadership and ministries. We invite your input in how we may help your congregation in the pursuit of peace. Feel free to contact us at the following email addresses:

Karen Witts: kwitts55@comcast.net Sue Green; suegreen1938@yahoo.com Marina Zaring; dwzaring@consolidated.net
BCMC Web Communications

E-mail and the BCMC website continue to be useful tools in keeping our members, friends, and 25 congregations connected and working together as we seek to establish God's kingdom in our communities across Illinois.

A rough guesstimate shows about 110 e-mails were sent out to the BCMC e-mail list so far in 2014, and we still have over 2 months remaining in the year! Some days are busier than others, but the e-mail messages and announcements help us all stay connected as members and friends of our church family are celebrating or mourning life events that surprise us. Thank you for your prayer support for one another! Blessings happen when God’s people pray and encourage each other!

Again this year, we’ve done live-broadcasting and recordings of our Reunion (Family Camp) worship experiences. Archives of these services and messages can be found here:

www.livestream.com/CofChristBCMC

I hope these broadcasts and recordings have been a blessing for you, for those times and situations where you are not able to attend in person, or when you say “what was it they said?” and want to “hear it again”.

Our BCMC website continues to provide access to our news & events 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for those cyber-dwellers who are looking for us! Our website currently consists of 1365 files (web pages, registration forms, newsletters, photos, etc.), taking up around 235,415,000 characters of disk storage space (235 Megabytes, for the technical term)!

Our BCMC Search page (http://cofchrist-brushcreek-missioncenter.org/search.htm) has had 1,029 visits: folks who are using the SEARCH feature to find information about our congregations and our ministries! That’s over 200 searches just since our last conference.

Who visits our website? LOTS of people from LOTS of places! Our current visitor count on our home pages shows 9,695 web page visitors, since 9/22/2010. The table to the right shows a quick summary of our most common visitors.

Top states visiting our website:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State (short)</th>
<th>Visits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois (IL)</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania (PA)</td>
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Additional BCMC website visit information, including a map showing where folks are visiting us from, can be found at the bottom of our home page, or using the link below:

The larger the dot, the more visits from that area. Yellow dots are recent visits.

Beyond the communication technology, through the dedicated efforts of Joan Munter, Donna Savage, and Chris Ober, along with other BCMC leaders, we’ve enjoyed reading 6 editions of the Brush Creek e-Bridges newsletter since the 2013 BCMC Fall Conference. Archived copies of recent editions can be found here:
http://cofchrist-brushcreek-missioncenter.org/News/Bridges/Bridges.htm

If you are NOT receiving regular BCMC e-mail messages from me, and would like to, please drop me a note at BradBryant70@gmail.com, or sign up online at the bottom of this page:

Thank you for helping me to help you stay connected, as we co-create Zion with God!
Evangelist Corner with John Etcheson

Ephesians 4:11-12; "And He gave some apostles; and some prophets and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we were in the unity of faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Ministry of the Evangelist in the Community of Christ

Of all of the priesthood offices in Community of Christ, it is the office of Evangelist which has gone through a transformation since the 1830s.

It was originally referred to as the office of the Patriarch, a name which came from the Hebrew Bible. The primary focus of the early patriarchal ministry would be the bestowal of fatherly, spiritual blessings on the faithful. Formerly, the Patriarch had been expected to give a single, one-time only life-blessing. However, it was Ray A. Cheville, the Presiding patriarch, who addressed the blessing ministries to meet the diversity of needs and expectations. The concept of a "special blessing" was encouraged by Dr. Cheville and it began to take on a new concept and breadth of focus for the church. Everett Graffeo, in 1994, as the Presiding Patriarch, helped lead the way for the transformation of this ministry to meet the diversity and needs of a growing church as we transcended from a Patriarchal era to the new name of Evangelist. Patriarch carried limitations on the ministry of the office; whereas, the name Evangelist opened the door to the gifts for many diverse types of blessings.

The name Evangelist refers more to an ardent minister with a strong compassion for sharing the "Good News"; one who is a revivalist; a spiritual leader; a teacher; a counselor; a mentor; a traveling minister; a preacher; who is able to confirm a blessing; who is called to help the church see more clearly its apostolic witness by bringing fresh insights to our calling as disciples for Christ. The ministry of the Evangelist is a call of walking with you on this life experience, a life seeking journey to help you in reconnecting with God. As a mentor they are willing to walk with you on this journey opening your heart and mind to the transformation which you can experience as you let go of your ego. Like any priesthood member, each person is endowed with gifts and therefore, each will have different gifts. The Evangelist as a servant minister has a very unique privilege and stewardship of partnering with God to bring spiritual blessings. However, those blessings only come to those who are seeking God, in faith and humility. It does not come out of thin air, or from just asking, it takes consecration, devotion, humility, open-mindedness, study and prayer. Our lives are a journey of seeking, seeking a relationship with God. This journey is deepening and transforming only when we put aside our personal agenda. And He gave some apostles; and some prophets and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

In the Community of Christ we celebrate eight sacraments: John Etcheson

- Blessing of Infants
- Baptism of water
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Confirmation
- Laying on of Hands
- Ordination
- Wedding
- The Lord’s Supper, Communion
- Evangelist Blessings; Personal Blessing Congregational Blessing
IYF / SPECTACULAR 2014

In July of 2014, nearly 70 youth and adults came together from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri to become the Midwest Crossroads delegation for International Youth Forum (IYF) and Spectacular. IYF was held in Independence, Missouri from July 15th through 18th. From there, the group travelled on to Spectacular, held at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, to spend another week together engaged in sports, arts, worship and fun. Fifteen youth and adults from the Brush Creek Mission Center participated in one or both events.

For the first time, those completing their freshman year of high school were allowed to participate in both events. It went so well, that Spectacular will continue to be open to those who have completed their freshman through senior year.

I have been to Spectacular all three years for my camper years and now have had the opportunity of being on staff for the Midwest Crossroads delegation the past 5 years. Spec was the best week of the summer as a camper and that has continued for me as a staff member also. Spec is the week I look forward to more than any other week of the year. For me, as a sports nut, I enjoy the non-stop sports that go on during the afternoon and evening hours, but I think I enjoy the nightly “snack time” probably just as much. Each night we supply the campers with snacks before they go to bed. On the guys side, we extend the snacks to all of those on the same floor we are on as well as our brothers from north of the border, the Canadians. The Midwest Crossroads and the Canadians have been on the same floor at least 2 of the years I have been going to SPEC as a staff member. One of the most memorable times of the first couple years on staff, we shared the floor with the Canadians and at the beginning of the week the Midwest Crossroads campers would be yelling U-S-A and the Canadians would yell CANADA. By the middle of the week the Midwest Crossroads campers were yelling CANADA and the Canadians were yelling U-S-A.

This year we shared the floor with the gentlemen from the Rockies and Heart of America. Although there was no yelling about our nation, we still had many memorable nights together over the different snacks.

I know there are so many people that help in the funding for campers and staff members alike to go to Spec. I would like to say at this time on behalf of everyone that went and has gone to Spec a very big THANK YOU!!!! Some of these young gentlemen and women don’t get the chance to experience Spec without your help. Plus just all the extra money we get to have the snack time and the charter bus to get to Graceland University. There are so many ways that what you give gets put to good use. So again I say thank you. Spec is truly one of, if not the best week of the summer, even the year. If you know a student finishing their freshman through senior year of high school you really need to get them to go to Spec with us next year. Midwest Crossroads used to be one of the largest delegations at Spec and we would love to get back to that title again next year.

Jonathan Smith
IYF was an amazing experience because immediately you meet people from different countries such as Australia, Korea, England, Spain, Tahiti, Canada, and France. The days are busy with classes, worship, song and small groups. During the afternoons there were various booths to visit activities to do and a variety of things to see.

SPEC is a different story. During the week at Graceland there’d be sports non-stop or classes in the mornings. Some of the sports played are basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, wrestling, ping pong, with the annual track-swim meet towards the end of the week. Some classes include drawing, water coloring, cooking, hula dancing, etc. The food at SPEC is amazing especially the ice cream! Every other morning there’d be a group service with everyone in the gym. At the end of the week there is a ceremony to announce the winners of the Graceland scholarships. But the hardest thing in the end is saying goodbye because you’ve built an extremely strong bond with the people around you.

**Hannah Shadwell Midwest Crossroads Camper.**

Spec means so many different things to different campers. What SPEC means to me is community. Students from all over this nation and the world come together from all walks of life and we form our community. I guess you could call us one very big family.

**Brianna Stewart Midwest Crossroads**

**SPEC 2015 Fundraiser**

Soon you will be seeing an ordinary water bottle wearing a cute little SPEC T-shirt. Fill the bottle with dimes and you have collected $100.00. Your $100 donation will help with 2015 SPEC fees. Each congregation will be given a few of these little t-shirts to set up a Spec bottle donation container. Thanks for contributing your spare dimes.

Many youth say that attendance at summer youth camps has a tremendous impact on their relationship with God. Spectacular takes the best aspects of youth camps and magnifies them many times over. For some of the kids, it is the first time that they have been in a setting with more than 800 other youth of the same faith. Particularly this summer, the IYF and international Spectacular experience allowed them to understand that they are truly part of a worldwide church. Lifelong friendships were made and existing relationships were deepened, but even more than that, they had the opportunity to connect with God in a new and perhaps deeper way, says **Val Breenan Midwest Crossroads Delegation Leader.**
HYDRATION Youth RETREAT  (Yuletide)

If you're in 7th-12th grades this year, plan on celebrating the New Year, Brush Creek style, at the 2014 HYDRATION Retreat! The Retreat will be held December 30th — January 1, 2015, at Brush Creek Campground.

Check-in begins at 4 p.m on December 30. Camp is over at 10 a.m. on January 1.

Director: Tyler Mink

REUNION 2015

It’s not too early to begin planning for a wonderful week or two at Brush Creek Campgrounds. Get your vacation time reserved now and don’t miss the chance to be part of an incredible experience.

Dates, guest ministry, and directors for next summer are:

June 13–19, 2015
Director:  Christine Ober  Assistant Director:  Tammy Austin
Guest Ministry: Apostle Barbara Carter, Elder Evan Manuel

July 11-17, 2015
Director: Glenn Webb  Assistant Director: (pending)
Guest Ministry: Seventy Keith McMillan, Seventy Brad Bryant

Watch for information coming to you periodically over the next few months.

MAKE PLANS!! and BE THERE!!

Good News

Ivan Woods and the members of the Massac Creek Congregation are excited that they only have a few more payments until the church will be paid off completely. Thank you God, and thank you to all the wonderful people that are helping us to fulfill our dream here at Massac Creek. God bless and may the Angels watch over you.  Ivan Woods

Fairfield Congregation recently ordained five new priesthood members. Karen Zimmerman, Kaylene Scott, Ian Savage and Rhiannon Bridgeman were ordained to the office of priest and Bobby Bridgeman was ordained to the office of deacon. The church was filled with the Holy Spirit. Over seventy friends and family members shared in the beautiful service.
We are 25 congregations in the Central and Southern areas of Illinois, that are part of a world-wide church known as Community of Christ. Our mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

We share a sacred campground known as Brush Creek located near Xenia, Illinois in Wayne county. The Brush Creek Saints organized in 1842. The Brush Creek White Church was built in 1872. Family camp activities called Reunion began in 1894. The campground now hosts a June and July week-long Reunion in addition to several youth camps. The campground is also used for retreats and gatherings throughout the year. The lake, the bridge, the cabins and the peaceful surroundings are holy ground.