



# OCTOBER EDITION OF THE CHRISTIAN PILOT



## A Message from the Moderator

Candy Sprick

Disciples of Christ is a denomination of believers whose doctrine supports the scripture telling us each one of us is a true disciple of Jesus. We are charged with acknowledging our role in the ministry, and behaving exactly like Matthew, James, Phillip, and the rest of "the guys." We are here to love one another, encourage each other, and to work together. "...so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." Romans 12:5

RCC is at a crucial crossroads. We no longer have the large congregation of days past, who abundantly supported all the needs of the church. We have a small but faithful church family, built on trust and love, for each other and for our Father's House here in Raytown. And when it became necessary to address the dire financial needs of long neglected structural maintenance and repair to the House, our small but faithful family stepped up mightily to assure our building remains safe, secure and comfortable! We are blessed by each other in the care of our Lord's House.

As your Moderator, I feel I must share with you some unpleasant realities. To remain a sustainable church in today's culture, we, like many other churches, must face the truth of drastically reduced financial support for the actual operation of the church. We have staff to pay, utility bills, insurance requirements and supplies to provide if we are to continue our mission to bring Christ into our community and to "keep the doors open" for worship. Not only has our budget been severely trimmed these last few years, we have consistently borrowed funds to make our church world go 'round. If this practice continues for the next couple of years, we will no longer have funds left to borrow...and we are not even paying a minister yet. As you can imagine, this is not sustainable and cannot be our Plan A.\*

But there is hope! We are all in this together as Disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like the original disciples, we are here to share our celebrations and our trials as a family would, and to

address challenges together. Like Peter, we must not be afraid to jump in to solve problems! Joshua 1:9 says "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

We will move forward fearlessly, working and contributing generously for the future of Raytown Christian Church, and for each other!

May God bless us abundantly ~ Candy

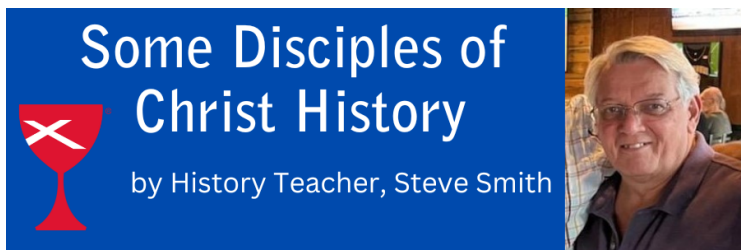
*\*If you would like more information about our financial situation, please plan to attend our Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 6:00pm.*

## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Michael Johnson



Happy Fall Raytown! I am so honored to have been a part of our journey for a little over a year now! As we know, there have been some great accomplishments that this ministry has experienced by the power of your unity. I believe that unity has indeed been the driving force of our church. Well, as it is in the natural, so it is in the spirit. With this being said, I am inviting the entire congregation of Raytown Christian Church to a time of fasting and prayer on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 4pm. The Chapel will be available all day for those who would like to come to the church to pray. This is a great opportunity for us to place our church before the Lord for His leading and directing into what's to come. Remember, as Jeremiah 29:11 states, "I know the plans that I have for you..." we can access the mind AND the hand of God by our seeking of him. Many accounts in scripture prove that God responds to corporate fasting and prayer and for this, I am encouraged to believe that God will bless us even further as we come together with one accord, turning over our plates to avail ourselves to His plan. Looking forward to our participation in this God moment! We will speak more on it further as the weeks progress, and again, looking forward to what God has in store.



Time for another history lesson from the ol' history teacher. This lesson is not about Raytown Christian Church, in particular, but rather the history of the Disciples of Christ. The DOC denomination began in 1832 with the merger in Lexington, Kentucky of the Barton Stone and the Alexander and Thomas Campbell reform movements, now known as the Stone-Campbell movement. Both movements had sought to eliminate divisiveness within the Protestant churches and hoped for unity of all believers. Stone wanted to continue using the name "Christian", while Campbell wanted "Disciples of Christ". For many years, both names were used, and, to some extent, still are today. In the late 1860's, there arose a dispute within the church about the use of musical instruments, specifically organs, in worship. Some said only instruments that were identified in the New Testament could be used, while others said any instruments not prohibited in the New Testament could be used. This, along with an issue over missionary work, led to a split and by 1906 the Churches of Christ had become a separate denomination.

In the Disciples of Christ churches, individual congregations are seen as independent and autonomous, thus sometimes DOC churches may be slightly different. However, there is commonality in most areas. Disciples of Christ is characterized by a focus on New Testament teaching, shared governance between clergy and laity, baptism by immersion, ecumenism, and the regular celebration of communion during worship. Each Disciple congregation determines the nature of its worship, study, Christian service, and witness to the world. Through belief in the priesthood of all believers, Disciples also practice freedom of interpretation among its members. Early on the church adopted the slogan "In essentials, Unity; in non-essentials, Liberty; and in all things, Charity." Later on, the church adopted the phrase "No creed, but Christ."

Both of these are attempts to reach out to all believers, regardless of denomination. The essentials are that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who died and rose from the dead, and that we accept him as our savior. One non-essential could be baptism. While DOC practices baptism by immersion, other forms of baptism are recognized as acceptable.

thank you

Dear RCC Friends,

Thank you for the lovely card shower. I appreciated your very kind words.

It was a privilege and a joy to serve as Organist of RCC for 28 years. Throughout, you were always supportive of the organ and my music.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Blessings,  
Dovie Fields

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My Wonderful Raytown Christian Family:

Thank you for the many cards, gifts and wishes for my work-iversary! You are all so incredibly special to me and it felt so good to know I was in your thoughts on my special day. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to serve RCC with my whole heart all these years and to form such special relationships with my church family.

Much Love,  
Jenn





It's that time again! It's the time of the year that the Little Princesses, Superheroes, Ghosts and Ghouls are out and about searching for fun and candy. Raytown Christian Church loves these little ones and will have a TRUNK OR TREAT event on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. The Raytown Community Band will be here playing SPOOKY music, which we all love to enjoy!

We will hold this event outside in the parking lot, weather permitting. If the temperatures drop below 40\*, the event will be held inside with decorated tables lining the hall. Please considering volunteering to decorate your car trunks or a table! It's so much fun having the kids come by in their costumes happily asking for candy!

All of us can support Trunk or Treat by donating CANDY. Last year we had approximately 350 children come and handed out lots and lots of candy! We have 2 Sundays to fill up the candy donation baskets located by the Office and the Information Center. Next time you're out shopping, please grab some goodies for these baskets.

A volunteer sheet will be on the Information Center for signup to decorate your trunk or table, bring candy, and/or volunteer to help during the event. RCC loves to share our beautiful church with the community. We also hand out RCC postcards that share about the Disciples of Christ and welcoming them to visit our church for services and Sunday school. But most importantly, we share kindness and love.

*We share God's love with others, that others may turn towards the source, God and his infinite grace!*



The second month of the Fall brings on anticipating the Winter, which spouts urges to clean up and get orderly. September only made us long to keep the Summer, but now, the season has definitely changed. And so must we. Thank God for the constancy of the seasons which can keep us on track.

**Oct 14, Sat, 10:00am, at Country Club Christian Church**  
CROP Walk for the Hungry, to raise money as individuals or as teams for those who don't have enough food to eat. Register at <CropHungerWalk.org/KansasCityMo>. BJ will be the announcer.

**Oct 18, Wed, 11am, 1pm, 3pm at Raytown Wellness Center**  
Learn about the 2024 United Health Care Medicare Advantage benefits and get prepared for plan changes.

**Oct 18, Wed, 11:30-2pm, at Raytown Historical, 9705 E 63rs**  
Quarterly luncheon and meeting, \$15 @ person, RSVP.

**Oct 19, Thu, 4-7pm, at Rice-Tremonti**  
Raytown Farmers Market. Now accepting SNAP and Double-Up Food Bucks.

**Oct 21, Sat, 8:30am at RHS Stadium**  
Run For Excellence, 5K foot-race. Supports Raytown Educational Foundation.

**Oct 21, Sat, 12-3pm, at Spring Valley Baptist Church, 8801 E 79<sup>th</sup>**  
SVBC Fall Festival, free food, bounce house, face painting, balloon artist, petting zoo, prizes and more!

**Oct 25, Wed, 11-1pm, at Cinder, 11501 E 350 Hwy**  
Annual Chamber Membership luncheon & meeting. Update on local schools. RSVP, \$20.

**Oct 30, Mon, 8-3pm, at Lakewood Oaks Golf Course**  
Holes Fore Homes, a golf tournament to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Contact Chamber for sponsorship and fees.

**Nov 2, Thu, 6:30-9:30pm, at Grand Street Café, 4740 Grand, KCMO**  
Eat, Drink, and Be Giving, a gala of heavy hor d'oeuvres, drinks, music, silent and live auction, to benefit River of Refuge.