



Renovation debt is paid off

Wow. Just wow.

We are overwhelmed with the response to our request in the June issue of Spirit to consider paying off our Speedway Christian Church renovation loan even earlier than we anticipated.

This was one of many times over the years our congregation members and friends have shown their generosity and their faithfulness to our church.

We knew it was possible and you did it in just a few short weeks!

It feels good to be free of this obligation. Just as it feels good to have a building that is more modern, functional, accessible and attractive than it was 20 years ago. We had hoped to retire the debt before Rev. Hunter arrived, and we met that goal well before August 1!

Thank you for making your church a priority, whether you paid in the early years, made your contributions in this final sprint, or faithfully made donations every month, quarter or year throughout the life of the loan.

Of course, our building will continue to need maintenance and improvements. Our missions and programs will continue to need support. Our operational expenses are always with us. We encourage you to consider how your giving might change now that we no longer have renovation debt. Some people may wish to apply the amount they previously set aside for the renovation to new uses so our church and its programs can thrive.

We'll explore various giving opportunities in future issues of Spirit.

For now, just enjoy this accomplishment!

Michi Yochum



Meet Travis Whaley

Travis Whaley, our new organist and director of music, joined us this past week. His first Sunday service as organist was August 15. Some church members met him last Tuesday at the church board meeting. Board members were delighted to hear him play. He made himself at home on the piano and made the organ rock! (Check out the videos on the church Facebook page.)

Travis has completed course work for a Ph.D. from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, majoring in musicology, with a minor in organ performance. He already has two master's degrees from the IU Jacobs School of Music. Just to show that he has interests beyond music, he has two bachelor's degrees from Virginia Tech, one of them in German language and literature.



Most recently, he served as the director of music and organist at North Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Columbus, Indiana, where he was responsible for all choirs and helping plan the music for worship based on the sermon and church calendar.

Like many of our previous organists who were graduate students at the IU Jacobs School of Music, Travis lives in Bloomington and will commute to Speedway Christian Church for services and rehearsals.

Please make him feel at home. We think you're going to love him!
~ Marilyn Shank

Looking Ahead

Thursday, August 26 & Sunday, August 29, 2021

- ◆ Reverend Kyle Hunter's installation will take place during each worship service.

Regional Minister Reverend Rick Spleth will join us on those days to preach as well as to install our new Senior Minister.



Please keep in Prayer

Ron Iwema Betsy Enerson
Teri Planalp Don Westrick
Sally Henzie
Steve Bondurant (Julie Mills' brother)
Sarah Clark (Anita Clark's granddaughter)
Greg Littrell (Deanna Beaver's brother)
Becky Patterson (Andrea Baetsle's sister)

Our Sympathy to the families and friends of:



Helen Kildsig,
who passed away on June 30, 2021.

Linda Hefler,
who passed away on July 13, 2021.

Jack Mayhugh,
who passed away on July 21, 2021.

Lu Senter,
who passed away on July 31, 2021

Dear Speedway Christian Church Members & Staff,

Your cards of condolences for remembering my wife Patricia Realey's recent passing were truly uplifting and kind. I sincerely thank you "church family" with heart felt gratitude and love, not just now, but for the many years of religious companionship.



Her Gracious Husband, Jack

Speedway Christian Church Stewardship/Finance Update

June 2021 Funds Received	\$ 24,629.10
June 2021 Expenses	\$ 27,209.57
June 2021 - Shortage	\$ 2,580.47
July 2021 Funds Received	\$ 34,514.03
July 2021 Expenses	\$ 26,257.33
July 2021 - Shortage	\$ 8,256.70

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of Krista, Aubrey, Cody and Lucile, thank you for the warm and inviting welcome that you have extended our way. We are slowly but surely finding our rhythm. Aubrey and Cody have readjusted again to what being in school looks like and Lucile is so ready to go to her own school as well as she tells us *I go, I go, I go* every time we drop the older kids off at school. I am excited that she will be joining me for two days a week at Opportunity Day as their year begins again. And Krista, well, let me just offer that after last year's adventure in online school with Aubrey all three children home, all day long, for weeks and months on end—I think she is excited as well!

I know that this has been a season of transition for us all. The transition with all things related to school. The transition to feeling a bit more comfortable in public spaces again (even as we continue to keep a close watch on COVID variants). The transition of the seasons as summer comes to a close and hopefully a chance to catch our breath before the snow greets us. My apologies to those who do not like the snow, I sure have missed it for the last five years. Of course, there has also been the transition of staffing here at the church.

I am perhaps most excited about the staffing transition. We have had a chance to meet, to interact with and to hear our new incoming Organist and Director of Music Travis Whaley, and I am so thrilled that he has joined the ministry team here at the church. The energy and spirit and love of and for God that he brings is inspiring! And my goodness can he play! He joins a staff that shares that same love for God and God's people, and I can not wait to see where this journey is going to take us all.

As with all transitions, I continue to welcome your prayers as you will continue to have my own prayers as well. I am thankful that our stories have now been woven together. I have a feeling that the next chapter will be the best one yet.

May God continue to bless you and keep you as we continue to know, to live, to serve as disciples, inviting all people to grow in the love of God.

Shalom,
Rev. Kyle

*As we trust in God,
He directs our
steps.*

Prayground

You have likely noticed we have a new space for children at the front of the sanctuary! Thousands of churches around the world have had a lot of success engaging children in worship through a space commonly called a Prayground. This is a space where kids (of all ages) can be during worship to color, work puzzles, look at books, and do other small, quiet activities while they worship alongside the adults. This is an effort Reverend Ron Degges actually helped support through his leadership at Disciples Home Missions. Most kids will likely decide to leave the Prayground after children's time to go to Worship and Wonder, but they also have the option of staying if that is where they (or their family) are more comfortable. By being at the front of the sanctuary where they can see, with small activities to occupy their hands, churches who have tried it find, not surprisingly, that kids often have rich worship experiences where they are able to learn about God and grow in their faith, just as we adults do during worship. It also helps them to feel more comfortable and welcome in the sanctuary, which we all definitely want to see.

Our Worship and Wonder program is still very active for children ages 4 – 2nd grade and those under 4 years old are welcome in our nursery. Of course, children of all ages are welcome to join us in the sanctuary for worship as well.

Activity Calendars

Katie would love to attend your youth's or kids sports games, performances, or other extracurricular activities! Please email her your schedule and she will let you know if/when she can make it at

kgriffin@speedwaychristian.org. She cannot wait to see your kids and youth doing something they love!

Backpack Blessings

All youth, children, and all who work for a school are invited to help themselves to a keychain for your backpack, keys, or anywhere else where you will see it frequently. Our hope is that when you see the keychain you will be reminded of God's presence with you and that your church family's prayers are with you throughout your day.

Continue in next column

Sunday School

Sunday School for all children and youth will begin Sunday, September 5 at 9:15am. Our children's Sunday School will continue to use the Sparkhouse Whirl curriculum we have been using this past year, including when we were doing Sunday School virtually. Our youth will be gathering in the youth room for a casual discussion on that week's sermon text. We would love to see you there!

Youth Group

Youth group will be beginning for everyone in 6th – 12th grades on Sunday, September 5 at 5:45pm. We would love to have you!!

Vacation Bible School

We also had a wonderful vacation bible school. Most of the children who attended were not directly associated with our church, but rather from the neighborhood and Speedway in general. We were also blessed with many volunteers who are, of course, the reason why we are able to do any large event such as this.

They were wonderful!

Fence

Christian Gearhart, one of the youth at our church, has been spending a great deal of time staining the fence in our green space outside. Christian isn't doing it as part of a school project or anything, he just wanted to do something to serve our church. It looks beautiful!

Thank you, Christian!



Speedway Christian Church
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Interim Iterations

Dear Members of Speedway Christian Church,
I write my last column for the Spirit Newsletter thanking you for these past 10 months of serving alongside you. It has truly been a labor of love and joy.

This congregation has been rooted in the faith and theology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and has an historic obligation to create knowledge, discover new ways of being church, and demonstrate the importance of taking actions that are rooted in faith and scholarship. The stakes for such work could not be higher. Your community and world needs the very best from Speedway.

The church must always be about innovation and continuity as it responds to the unprecedented challenges of these past few years and the yet unrevealed challenges of the future.

You have been vital and active partners with me in the interim work of strengthening this congregation and serving the world around us. You have also been committed to improving the world today and for future generations through worship, study, scholarship, education, and mission.

We have together freely exchanged ideas and theology in an ethical, interdependent, and diverse community of faith committed to Jesus Christ. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you.

I am so very proud of you and encourage you to move into your future with the leadership of a new Senior Minister. Your best days are yet to come!

Thankfully yours,

Ron

Lunch & Learn

Please join Kyle each Monday at noon in the Bethany Room as they lead a study of the scripture that will be the focus of the sermons for the upcoming Sunday.



Dear SCC,

Ron (& I thank you for allowing us to serve your for the past ten months. It has been an unusual (due to the pandemic) time, at time of multiple blessings , a time of joy, a wonderful time of fellowship, a time of study and most of all a time of relationships. We have watched as the church has blossomed like the springtime and is ready to take on each and every summer, fall and winter challenge that comes its way. Always remember you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

All our love, Ron & Deniese Degges

There will be no Official Board Meeting in July. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

Have you considered Speedway Christian Church in your will?

