

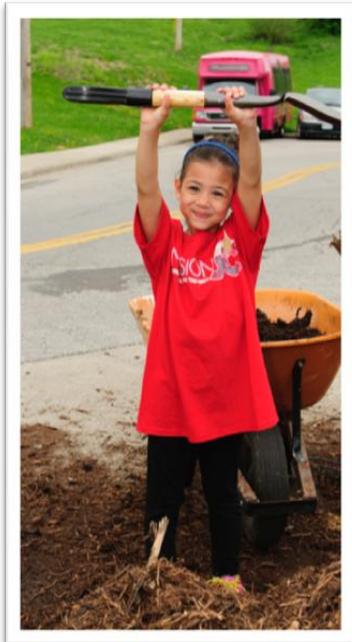


THE STORY OF MISSION JC

In 2012, First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, ask the questions, “How can we give ourselves away?” This was the result of a deep desire to embrace the truth that the church is a sent people – sent by God to move into the neighborhood and be the presence of Jesus. A task force was created to develop and implement ways that we could move the church forward in our understanding that we are not here for us but to be salt and light in our world.



One of the things that is sacred to us and that we often view as primarily for us is Sunday mornings. What if we challenged that idea by cancelling our worship services and worship through service instead?



Sunday, April 28, 2013 was our first Mission JC. We had nearly 300 participants and 24 projects – all from First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. Mission JC was a huge success. We purchased red t-shirts for everyone to wear and it made a huge visual impact throughout the community. The volunteers met at the First Baptist Activities Building at 8:00 am for breakfast and a time of commissioning before going out to serve through various projects.

After the event, we created a website (www.missionjc.org) and used it to promote Mission JC for 2014.



In 2014, we held our second Mission JC on Sunday, April 27. We had nearly 450 participants from three churches and 42 projects. First Presbyterian and Familia Cristiana Internacional joined us. Again, Mission JC was a blessing and we received nothing but positive comments, feedback and ideas for improving it for 2015.

In 2015, we held our third Mission JC on Sunday, April 26. We had over 450 participants of all ages from at least five churches. (First Baptist, Familia Cristiana, First Presbyterian, First Methodist and Central United Church of Christ). We met at the Capitol for the first time in order to accommodate the growing number of participants and to truly embrace that this was a community event led by several churches. We celebrated Sunday night with a worship service and meal at First Presbyterian Church as we shared stories from the day.

God continues to bless this endeavor and the ecumenical spirit of Mission JC. We can do so much more together than we can on our own.

