



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Mid-Winter Reading
by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

“Why?”
by Rob Gilkerson
≈≈≈
page 5

Community
by Steve Mason
≈≈≈
page 7

We joyfully welcome and nurture all people by providing a vibrant Christ-centered community of faith, dedicated to spiritual growth through worship, study and service.

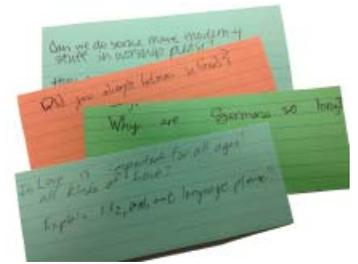
Upcoming Sermon Series

The Real World: Stuff that Matters

To prepare for this series, Dr. Miles met with the Country Club Christian Church youth groups and let them ask him ANY questions they wanted. The conversations provoked interesting and refreshing opinions on what issues are most important in our world today.

Feb. 12 — Part 1: A Modern Church, *Colossians 1: 15-18*

Feb. 19 — Part 2: Relationships, *Colossians 3:12-17*



Nominating Process Begins

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2012-2013 church year is underway. Your input and participation is invaluable in identifying a broad and diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. We need members who are energetic, dedicated and motivated to serve in leadership and service positions.

The Nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions:

- Congregational Board
 - ♦ Chairperson-Elect
 - ♦ Treasurer
 - ♦ Secretary
 - ♦ Board Members
- Personnel Committee
- Endowment Trustees
- Elders
- Deacons
- Youth Elders
- Youth Deacons

Nomination forms and qualifications are available in the parlor and on our website under “Stay Informed.” Individuals currently serving in leadership positions are listed for reference. Please nominate those people (including yourself) who you feel would serve our church well. Deadline for nominations is Sun., Feb. 26.

If you have questions regarding the nomination process, please contact Jane Fletcher at 816-333-4917 or janef@cccckc.org. Thank you for your participation in this important process.

Nominating Committee: Barbara George (Chair), Kris Brumitt, Brian Campbell, Karen Gallagher, Jere Hanney, Stuart Hoffman, Cindy Irey, Lance Jessee, Isaac LaSalle, Jill Reynolds, Suzanne Willey, Betsy Wilson.



The Journey to Easter

Jesus' journey involved prayer, service, study, and sacred conversations. You are invited to journey to Easter by choosing a path that will connect you with the Spirit of God, with friends, with your own soul.

Through Bible Study

Spring Training

Group One: Men 45 and under — Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Six weeks, beginning Feb. 20. Led by Glen Miles, Chuck Murphy, Steve Mason and Justin Zeigler. Read and discuss the scripture for the sermon the following Sunday.

Group Two: Men 45 and Up — Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 a.m. Six weeks, beginning Feb. 22. Led by Jeff Zimmerman and Tim Webster. Read and discuss the scripture for the sermon the following Sunday.

Faithbook (women 25-65)

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Six weeks, beginning Feb. 21, or Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. beginning Feb. 22. Carla Aday teaches the lesson on the upcoming text for Sunday morning and small group discussions follow.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Senior Adults)

9:00-10:00 a.m. Six weeks beginning Feb. 22. Led by Chuck Murphy.

Disciple Bible Study Groups

Four Disciple Bible Study groups continue year-long studies of scripture.

Through Service

Saturdays of Service

Each Saturday during Lent, we invite you to join us on a journey of service as we will lend our hands to the good work being done by local non-profits. Gather at the church at 8:45 a.m. to depart for project locations, finishing by noon.

Feb. 25 Harvesters Mobile Food Distribution Unit

Mar. 3 Habitat ReStore **Mar. 10** Rose Brooks

Mar. 17 Shepherd's Center **Mar. 24** reStart

Mar. 31 Grace at Work

Family Harvesters Nights

Thurs., 5:30-8:00 p.m. Youth grades 6-12 meet at church and travel to Harvesters Community Food Network. Parents and siblings age 6 and older welcome.

Mondays at Micah

Serve dinner at Independence Boulevard Christian Church, providing free, nourishing suppers to those in need. Requires 18 to 20 volunteers. Children age 11 and older welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Grace at Work

Sat., Mar. 31. A fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects.

Through Prayer

Yoga (guided meditation during each session) taught by Susan Garner. \$10 per class. Mixed Level. Mon., 9:00-10:15 a.m. or Thurs., 6:00-7:15 p.m. Gentle. Mon., 10:30-11:45 a.m. or Wed., 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Personal Prayer – Focuses on developing relationships through prayer using language, gesture and silence. Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Five weeks beginning Mar. 5, Limit 12. Facilitated by Sister Annie Loendorf.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wed., Feb. 22, 6:00 p.m.

This traditional worship service culminates in the imposition of ashes.

The Journey Lenten Sermon Series begins Feb. 26

The Journey to Jerusalem gives us the chance to walk humbly with Jesus as we look honestly at our weaknesses, while openly looking for ways we can call for the best in ourselves and others. Join us in worship during Lent for Dr. Glen Miles' series *The Journey*.

Prayer, cont.

Prayer Ministry — Fridays, 10:30 a.m., Rm. 201. A ministry of intercessory prayer by volunteers who pray over requests received via prayer cards, email or phone. Volunteers welcome.

Through Sacred Conversations

Car Seat Parents

Parents of children birth to age 6 share in faith conversations. Sundays, starting Feb. 26.

Group One – Morning

Group Two – 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Embracing the Prophets

Led by Lauren Weinhold. Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 p.m. Six weeks starting Feb. 22.

Now That They're Grown

Book group for parents of children ages 17-27. Sundays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Five weeks starting Mar. 4. Led by Steve Mason.

Watch your mail for the Lenten brochure, featuring more information. To sign up for any of these offerings, call 816-333-4917 or email marymargareth@cccckc.org



Mid-Winter Reading

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The weather outside has been delightful but the long winter nights have been the perfect set up for reading some terrific books. Here's what's gotten my attention lately.

The Naked Now, by Richard Rohr, is one of the best books I have read in the last couple of years. He takes a mystic's path into spirituality. He sees the holy everywhere. He writes, "The most amazing fact about Jesus...is that he found God in disorder and imperfection." The way of the mystic may be the single most important new

development in western theology.

After a sermon last fall a guest in our pews said, "Your sermon reminded me of a book, *The Hole In Our Gospel*, by Richard Stearns. I think you'll like it." She was right, I did. Stearns, the President of World Vision, an emergency relief agency, has realized that Jesus' teachings are centered on the poor. If we fail to pay attention to this simple fact he says we create a "hole" in the gospel.

My mom gave me a copy of Jerry West's autobiography, *West By West: My Charmed, Tormented Life*, for my birthday. West, an NBA Hall of Fame basketball player, was my hero when I was a kid playing basketball. I copied everything he did on the court (with much less success, of course). This brutally honest account of his life was even more inspiring than his career on the hardwoods. It is a peek behind the curtain of a wealthy superstar and it demonstrates that life is hard for all of us.

Suzanne Willey, the Chair of our Elders, gave an impressive presentation at an Elder's meeting on Simon Sinek's book, *Start With Why*. I loved this book. Sinek's basic premise is this: too many companies (and churches, too) start with What and How and forget about Why. Sinek says that great leaders and great organizations think from the inside out. Before they worry about what to do, they are clear about why they exist.

Lauren Hillenbrand's book, *Unbroken*, is an account of a young lieutenant's incredible story of survival after his Air Force bomber crashed into the Pacific. This is one of the most inspirational books I have ever read.

Every reading list needs a little fiction. I am thoroughly enjoying George R. R. Martin's, *A Game of Thrones*. Martin is called the American Tolkien and for good reason. His deliciously complex story, set in a long-forgotten fantasy land, is filled with mystery, magic, conspiracy and suspense.

Grace and peace to you,

Save the Date for Grace at Work on March 31

Do you have the passion to volunteer, but don't know where to start? Do we have an opportunity for you! Join us at the annual Grace at Work event on Sat., Mar. 31, a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects. Many different volunteer opportunities are available. Through your participation you will have the opportunity to experience fellowship, while assisting others in need and creating visible change in our community.



Worship with us!

Services at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

February 5

Confessions of a Preacher
Part 3: Wrestling with Ambition
Luke 9: 23-27

Sermon Series

The Real World: Stuff that Matters

February 12

Part 1: A Modern Church
Colossians 1: 15-18

February 19

Part 2: Relationships
Colossians 3:12-17

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Invitation to the Old Testament

Follow Invitation to the New Testament with this eight-week study of the Hebrew scriptures. The study invites us to hear the various voices of the biblical text so that we may better understand God's relationship with the ancient people and with us. The group will meet Tuesdays, Apr. 10- May 29, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Facilitator is Phil Love. Contact Mary Margaret House to register, marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on February 7

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Feb. 7, in the Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings. Come join a worship of grace and acceptance, a sacred place for prayer that will create moments where hope may carry you in the journey ahead.

Micah Volunteers Needed

The church's monthly ministry at Micah Ministry at Independence Blvd. Christian Church needs your help. Volunteers are needed during the day on the second Monday of each month to cut and plate desserts and roll silverware into napkins for the nearly 800 guests that will dine later that night. If you have two hours to give and would be interested in joining this dedicated group of volunteers, please contact Lauren Weinhold at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

1st and 2nd Grade Mystery Trip on January 28



On Sat., Jan. 28, our Mystery Trip took us to the Puppetry Arts Institute for a puppet show and puppet making workshop. This puppet institute grew out of the puppet business of former member Hazelle Harriet Hedges Rollins. For lunch we all enjoyed pizza at Square Pizza in Independence.

1st Row: Jack Reddin, Natalie Herrington, Aneesa Housel, Blake Petrie.
2nd Row: Jordan Riley, Spencer Corn, a puppet show presenter, Caroline Schopp, Cian Hulse, Liam Petrie.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on February 19

On Sun., Feb. 19, please bring your nonperishable food items for our collection for local food pantries that serve the homeless and hungry. Vans will be in the parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the barrels located at the east and north doors. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

Nicaragua Mission Trip Blog

A mission team is leaving Feb. 11 to conduct medical clinics and work on construction projects among the poorest of the poor in rural Nicaragua. You can keep up with the team's journey by checking out the mission trip blog at www.cccckc.org/stay-informed.



In Sympathy: Sandy Eisenman

Sandy Eisenman, former Country Club Christian Church Director of Finance, passed away Jan. 24. Services were Jan. 26 at Ohev Sholom Synagogue. Sandy was employed by the church from May 3, 1991-June 30, 2010. "Sandy Eisenman was a gracious, kind, hard working member of our staff for nearly 20 years. I deeply miss her and the marvelous contributions she made to our church's ministry," Dr. Glen Miles said.





Why?

by Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator



As a child, I would often ask “Why?” Even before receiving the answer, I was ready to ask my second question. Do you know the second question? If you have spent much time around children I am positive you know it. The second question was: “Why?” Whatever the answer, the follow-up question was always, “Why?” This pattern continues until eventually the adult claims, “Because I said so!” or “I do not know!” Those of us raised in a religious house maybe even got the occasional “Because God made it that way” always said with great conviction and satisfaction.

conviction and satisfaction.

Many authors have examined the question of “Why?” It seems for some reason many adults have lost the ability to ask the question. We have either become happy with the way things are or just do not care to know. We seem to ask why about all the wrong or trivial items. Knowing the “Why?” to hard, pressing issues is just too difficult; we would rather just have someone say “Because I said so.”

I recently examined myself and said “Why?” to some basic items. They may sound trivial but if one of the core values is health then the “Why?” might be fundamental.

“Why, when given the opportunity, do I drink coffee instead of water?”

“Why did I not go to bed earlier instead of watching that tv show?”

“Why do I not exercise more?”

Sure each of the questions have their excuses to why I do, or don’t do, them, but the real reason is not answered. They are not intentional answers to “Why?” I have learned that sometimes answering the “Why?” makes life a lot harder.

“Why?” is not only for us. We must ask “Why?” about what the organizations and businesses that we are involved in do. The church asks itself “Why?” all the time. Sometimes there are easy answers and hard ones.

Country Club Christian Church recently had its State of the Church dinner. There was lots of great information and inspiring notes to take away. Dr. Miles asked us if there were any questions that there were off limits for the church to ask. I was instantly sent to that place where my inner child reigns supreme, and thinking “Why?” this, “Why?” that, “Why?” then, “Why?” there, “Why?” them, “Why?” I hope as you ask the question “Why?” of yourself or of the church, we are all open to seeing what happens when we pick up a glass or water, go to bed early and get a little more exercise.

Rob

Celebration Dinner and Auction on March 3

Mark your calendar for the third annual Celebration Dinner and Auction on Sat., Mar. 3, at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art (4420 Warwick Blvd., Kansas City, MO). The festive evening begins at 6:30 p.m. and includes a buffet dinner and silent and live auctions.



A sketch artist will create an original piece during the event that will be sold during the live auction, along with other unique items.

Tickets are \$100 and go on sale in the Parlor on Sun., Jan. 29. Group tickets are available 10 for \$750. Or, play an important role in the success of this event by becoming a benefactor at levels beginning at \$250. You may purchase tickets online at www.cccckc.org.

Upcoming Youth Events

Follow Justin on His Blog

Justin Zeigler, Minister to Youth, invites you to join him in his resolution to try a new faith practice every month. A "faith practice" is incorporating something into daily life that helps us see God in the world. Every month Justin will send youth and their families (by mail and email) what he is doing for the month and inviting the whole family to join him on a blog on the church website (www.cccckc.org) about how it went for him. Please help keep him accountable in this journey and he'll try and do the same for you!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our youth will be collecting money on Sun., Feb. 5 for Souper Bowl of Caring, a national fundraising initiative to combat hunger. Please be prepared to donate cash in the youth containers. They will be collecting after each ser-



vice. Funds raised will be donated to the Virginia Reed Food Drive. Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 in Columbia, SC. Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary \$81 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. Please be generous.

Youth Group

Sun., Feb. 5

- No Fellowship Singers rehearsal.

- **Chi Rho - Souper Bowl Sunday**

We will eat a light lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service, then head to Harvesters to serve from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We will return to church by 3:30 p.m. (No evening meeting.) RSVP to Justin at justinz@cccckc.org. Space is limited so RSVP soon.

- **CYF - Latté Land**

Come Join Justin from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Latté Land at 7900 State Line Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208 for a pre-Souper Bowl bit of caffeine and sugar.

Children's Musical

The Children's and Cherubim Choirs will present their sixth annual musical, *Rescue in the Night* by Allen Pote, the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den, on Sun., Mar. 4. We



will have a light snack lunch in the social hall after the 11:00 a.m. worship service, and the show will immediately follow. This is a spectacular event for all ages!

State of the Church



Church members gathered Jan. 26 in the Social Hall for the State of the Church dinner to hear Dr. Glen Miles assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future. Reports also were presented by Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator; Stuart Hoffman, Chair, Congregational Board, and Suzanne Willey, Chair of the Elders. Copies of Glen's presentation are available on CD in The Well.



Community

by Rev. Steve Mason, Pastoral Resident



“Community” is a deceptively complex word. We use the word without thinking about what its requirements are. It’s a word that I was trying to come to terms with in the midst of a planning meeting for the waystation—the monthly worship community for young adults in the Kansas City region.

A group of young clergy started this worship opportunity where young adults assemble on the third Tuesday of each month to worship in a way that varies from month-to-month, and to share a meal and conversation with friends, old and new. The other leaders and I had created this group in response to expressed desires for worship and community that spoke to their needs. We had taken surveys, held listening sessions and determined that the format of authentic and flexible worship and a shared dining experience once a month are the best course of action for this group of people who cited their over-stressed, over-committed and under-reflective lives.

But now, in this planning meeting, the word “community”—the thing we were trying to create—had been decidedly absent in the time between our monthly meetings. The room was filled by bright, competent and connected ministers, who sat silently, vacantly, searching for some solution that would not come. How do we create community for people who only (at best) see each other once a month? How can they know or care about what is going on in the lives of these other people?

We had supplemented the waystation with blogs, Facebook posts and Twitter feeds, but found that the leaders were spending more time writing and maintaining them than participants spent looking at them. We learned community could not simply be virtual. Posting on someone’s feed is not like getting a handwritten note or getting into a conversation over coffee. These face-to-face moments, we found, could not be replaced with any of the best-meaning digital communication.

So, with no clear answer for how to solve the issue of creating community for the young adults of Kansas City, the group of young clergy looked around the room where we sat, in the same space, drinking from the same pot of coffee, all engaged in the same effort and realized that even in these sloppy, tiring meetings, we WERE community. And in that we took hope and prayed to God, who desires community and connection to all humanity.

Steve

Children and Families

Club Kids

Feb. 5 – Souper Bowl Sunday. We will eat a light meal and serve at Harvesters after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will return to church by 3:30 p.m. (No evening meeting.) RSVP to Karla at karlah@cccckc.org. Space is limited.

Feb. 12 – Trip to CoCo Key Indoor Water Park. Noon – 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person – includes lunch, snack and fees to water park. Please RSVP to Karla Herrington at karlah@cccckc.org by Thurs., Feb. 10.

Mother/Daughter Workshop

This workshop for 4th-6th grade girls, along with a parent, is an opportunity to jointly explore age-appropriate issues related to sexuality. Exploring these topics together promotes open communication between girls and their parents. Presenters from the Education Programs of Planned Parenthood will lead us in discussions and activities. Cost is \$20/pair. Sun., Feb. 26, noon-3:30 p.m. Make reservations with Heather Rotter at heatherr@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

First Steps

Sun., Feb. 5, 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Families with children 3 and under are invited to join others as we gather for fellowship and informal faith discussions. Take time to meet other parents with infants and toddlers. Feel free to bring your child with you to the Play Zone – Room 215.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Karla Herrington Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Rev. Steve Mason Pastoral Resident
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Mr. Brian Mathias Associate Organist
Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn Minister to Children, Youth and Families	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. Chuck Murphy Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Laine Riley Associate Director of Music
Mr. Justin Zeigler Minister to Youth	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. Rob Gilkerson Business Administrator	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538
email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org

Our Church Family

Sympathy

AUDREY JANE PALMER passed away Jan. 23. She is survived by her daughter, Patricia Ann Kocher, Santa Rosa, CA. Private services were Jan. 30 at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Rev. Chuck Murphy officiating.

JOYCE (ROBINSON) YOUNG, sister of member Robbie Robinson, passed away Jan. 30. Services were Feb. 2, Mullinax Funeral Home, Rev. Chuck Murphy officiating.

Memorials

Robert Bates

Pat Martin
Nancy Ralston

Robert Mason

Bobbie Vanice
Greg & Nancy Lear
Bob & Kay Moffat

Jim Martin

Stuart & Anne Hoffman
Senior Minister Search Committee
Pat & Ernie Trammell
Alan & Susan Garner
Alex & Barbara George
Kathie Allison
Jill Reynolds
Cindy & Randy Irey
Harvey & Dorothy Ray
Margaret Armstrong
Elaine Schmidtberger
Steve & Andrea Bough
Erma & John Hess
Linda & Dick Nixon
Martha Jane & John Stewart
Alyce & Bob King
Lee & Jarene Stanford
Bonnie & Doug Dee
Mary & Jay Buehler
Greg & Nancy Lear
Bob & Kay Moffat
Judy & Mike Schaefer
Marilyn Dreas
Kathryn & Eric Holtze
Karla & Michael Herrington
Lawrence & Patricia Fogel
Bonnie Hensley
Bill & Brucie Hopkins
Sarah & John Jurcyk
Beth Ingram
Nancy Ralston

Congregational Care

Robert Bates

Jeanne & Perry Cockayne

Congregational Care

Jim Martin

Jeanne & Perry Cockayne

Sandy Eisenman

The staff of Country Club Christian Church