



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

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*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.*

VOLUME 83 • NUMBER 5

# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

## Save Your Rummage for the May 6-8 Sale



Mark your calendar for the week of May 3-9 for the all-church rummage sale.

**Save it!** Just in time for spring cleaning, Country Club Christian Church announces its

Spring Rummage Sale. Join in the fun as we work together to raise funds benefitting the Outreach Council and the ministries of Country Club Christian Church.

**Bag it!** Starting now, save all of the gently used items you no longer need and plan to donate it all to the church.

**Bring it!** Bring your donations to the church starting May 3. NO ITEMS will be accepted PRIOR to May 3.

**Buy it!** Exclusive shopping for volunteers on Tuesday, May 5. The sale will be open to the public on May 6 and 7.

**Volunteer!** Lots of volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Mark your calendar now and watch for more information. Contact Pat Martin at patmartin1050@aol.com or 816-590-7134.

## South Africa Mission Team Updates

The mission team arrived in South Africa on Sun., Mar. 8. Please remember the team members in your prayers: Katie Allison, Carty Johannsen, Jennie Lamb, Katie Lamb, Greg and Nancy Lear, Kerry Northcutt Lear, Mary Linda McDonnell, Glen Miles, Dale and Marcia Ramsey, Rod Schlatter, Sue Thorne and Julia Walker. This is the first mission trip to South Africa for seven of the team members. For updates on the trip, read the team's blog at [www.cccckc.org/stay-informed](http://www.cccckc.org/stay-informed).



Nancy Lear and Clayton Hasser (left) display a bag they made by hand for the team to take as a gift to mission partners Dawn and Jon Barnes.

Below, members of the sewing circle display samples of the dresses made from pillowcases for children in South Africa. Presenting the dresses to Nancy Lear are Doris Soltys, Lucille Lambert, Charlene Puhr, Merceda Larkin, Virginia Reed, Linda Schooling Kekina and Mildred Schooling. Circle 3 purchased matching panties for each dress.



## Hear Requiem on Good Friday

The Chancel Choir and orchestra will perform Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* at 7:00 p.m. on Fri., Apr. 10, in the Sanctuary.



# Update on Our Financial Status

Dear Congregation,

We are writing to provide you an update on our church's financial status and provide some views on actions being taken and thoughts on what we can all do as members. Pick your headline – "Economic Crisis," "Recession," "Job Cutbacks," "Dow Down," the economic news is bad news, and there is not a bottom we can predict. We also know that all areas of the economy are affected – public companies, government agencies, school districts, and, yes, churches. So what is the impact on Country Club Christian Church, what actions are being taken, and what can we do as members of the congregation?

## Economic Impact

Our Church is clearly being impacted by the downturn. Although we were able to successfully raise funds at the end of last year to retire the \$50,000 budget shortfall, more recent financial measures are very concerning.

- For the first seven months of the church calendar year, through January 2009, actual pledged giving is about 13 percent short of budgeted pledge giving. This shortfall amounts to \$119,000 of donations that we had expected to receive at this point in the year. While a portion of these dollars are hopefully just "delayed," we know that some of these funds will not be coming to the church.
- The church endowment is down more than 30 percent for the fiscal year, unfortunately in line with the indexes for the long-term portfolio mix of bonds and stocks. The endowment is not usually used for current operations, but provides important funding for capital projects, and other special projects.

## Actions Being Taken

First, staff members and lay leaders have been asked to hold expenses at or below budget for the year. This year's budgets for activities other than outreach and personnel are 10 percent less than last year's budgets for those activities, so this will not be easy. Everyone is working hard to minimize expenditures while still maintaining quality ministry and programs.

Second, we are beginning the budget process for the 2009-2010 fiscal year now, well ahead of the July 1 start of the year, and before members begin making pledges for the year. The goal is to allow time to really understand the cost structure of the church and then match resources to the exciting programs that fulfill the vision for the church.

## What Else Can We Do?

One obvious action is to fulfill your current fiscal year pledge. The church appreciates your financial support and counts on pledged funds to plan our ministries. However, if your current economic circumstances are such that you and your family can't fulfill your pledge, please contact Sandy Eisenman at the church. That knowledge will help us with managing resource allocation and decision-making.

For the many members involved in councils and committees, please actively participate in the upcoming budgeting process. As always, we have to be conscious and thoughtful about how to deliver on the vision of the church, how to do the work of the church, and how to do it in a financially responsible manner.

Finally, be thoughtful about the life of Country Club Christian Church and its role in your family and our community. We must keep in mind the church's overall mission – Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul. Especially in these unsettled economic times, our church's ministry and programs are needed in the community. We will soon be starting a stewardship process that will need the full support and ownership of all members of this congregation.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. Thanks and God bless.

Bonnie Blythe Dee, Congregational Board Chair  
John Cockle, Congregational Board Chair-Elect  
David Forsee, Finance Chair



## When It All Looks Hopeless Get Ready for Something New



by Dr. R. Glen Miles

Abraham is married to Sara, an old woman. They have no children. God comes into that situation and says, "Perfect. Just the way I like to work. Everything looks hopeless, therefore everything is set up for a blessing."

Too often we make the mistake of thinking that before God will do anything in our lives, before we can sense any work of the spirit, we need to get everything together personally; we need to earn our way to God's favor; we need to show

that we can do it on our own. We make a similar mistake in the local church, too. We sometimes think that we must be in total control before God can do anything in our congregation.

The biblical message is very clear though: God does not wait for us to finally show how good we have become or how skilled or even how kind or how gracious; God just comes after us and says, as Jesus did to the disciples, "Follow me."

Or, as God said to childless Abraham, "I will bless you with more children than there are stars or grains of sand even." What looks empty to us is, for God, a place to do something new.

This is really the marvel of the biblical message and biblical faith. God uses that part of you and your life that is less than perfect, and in THAT very place makes something new happen.

Notice that the word to Abraham is not given as instruction or discipline but as promise. Walter Brueggemann calls this "a paradigm for resurrection."

What part of you is less than perfect? When you honestly (and I mean honestly!) look at your life, where are you the most vulnerable, where are you the most helpless, where are you in need of "resurrection?" It is there, in that very place, where God wants to do something new.

That is not an easy thing to accept. I don't always want to be that honest before God but the longer I am in ministry and the more I seek to follow Jesus, the clearer it has become: God wants to step into the most chaotic and confusing aspects of my life and in those very places, do something new. Who knows, but maybe, just maybe, in the midst of all the questions that you and I face every day, God is ready and willing, in those very places, to do something new and amazing.

Grace and peace to you,

## Leave Fear Behind Sermon Series Continues through Lent

The Leave Fear Behind series continues Sundays at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**March 15** – Rules that Set Us Free  
*Exodus 20: 1-17*

**March 22** – Bitten by Discouragement  
*Numbers 21: 4-9*

**March 29** – On the Other Side of Death  
*John 12: 20-33*

**April 5** – Boulevard of Broken Dreams  
*Mark 11: 1-11, 15: 1-47*

**April 12** – Leave Fear Behind  
*Mark 16: 1-8*

A meditative worship service is at 8:00 a.m. in the chapel each Sunday.

## Worship with us!

**Services at 8:00, 9:00,  
10:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Lenten Sermon Series  
Leave Fear Behind**

**Mar. 15**  
Rules that Set Us Free  
*Exodus 20: 1-17*  
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**Mar. 22**  
Bitten by Discouragement  
*Numbers 21: 4-9*  
Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Pathways to Learning



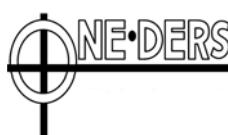
### The Prophets

Dr. Harold Washington, professor at St. Paul School of Theology will lead this series. Visitors and friends are welcome. 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.

**Mar. 15** – The Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**Mar. 22** – The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

**Mar. 29** – Prophecy and The New Testament. Was Jesus a Prophet?



## One-ders

A diverse group of singles ages 35-60-ish, where everyone is always welcome. Focusing on developing spirituality, service to others, and providing opportunities for growth through fellowship.

**Lenten Worship and Study** – In lieu of our regular Monday night Bible Study, One-ders will be participating in the Wednesday night Lenten series.

## Nominations Still Being Accepted

We are still taking nominations for various leadership and service positions for the 2009-2010 church year. The Nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions:

- Congregational Board – Chairperson-Elect, Treasurer, and Board Member
- Personnel Committee
- Endowment Trustees
- Elders
- Deacons
- Youth Elders and Youth Deacons

Nomination forms are available in the parlor and on our website by clicking Stay Informed. Please complete nominations by **Sun., Mar. 15** and return them to the church office.

## Honor Your Loved Ones with Radio Broadcast Sponsorship

Each Sunday you can hear a broadcast of the previous week's sermon at 8:30 a.m. on KXTR, 1660 AM. Now, you can honor a loved one by dedicating sponsorship of this broadcast to him or her. The sponsorship minimum is \$180. Simply contact Sandy Eisenman at 816-333-4917 or [sandye@cccckc.org](mailto:sandye@cccckc.org) for more information.

## YaWhose Young Adults [age 22-35] Welcoming Hearts Open to Spiritual Exploration

The group, which includes couples and singles, has a new schedule. Instead of meeting on the first Tuesday monthly we will host four quarterly special events and four quarterly Sunday lunches, in addition to meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

**Mar. 15** – Practical Witnessing with Travis Wymore

**Mar. 22** – The Last Week with Greg Lear

**Mar. 29** – Women in the Church with Carla Aday

## Virginia Reed Food Drive Is Mar. 22

On Sun., Mar. 22, 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.

Food items needed include peanut butter, cereal, rice, pasta and canned fruits, vegetables and soups. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

## Sign Up Begins for Grace at Work

Beginning on Sun., Mar. 22 you can sign up for the second annual Grace at Work volunteer effort coming Sat., Apr. 18. This half-day event is open to all ages and abilities.



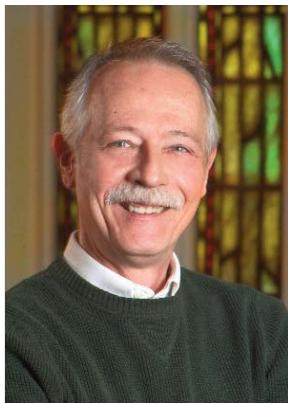
Experience fellowship while assisting others in need and creating visible change in our community. There is a broad range of volunteer opportunities to choose from in the Kansas City area, including our own Country Club Christian Church. If you are handy with a tool or two or can act as a helpful assistant, our partner Grace United Community Ministries needs you. At this location you will enhance the property, beautify an existing classroom or help build much needed storage for their on-going community food pantry.

Families with children 6 and older may want to consider volunteering at Harvesters. At Harvesters volunteers will sort the food so needed in our community – you may even get to wash an egg!



## Upcoming Musical Events

by David Diebold, Minister of Music



As I write my column today, there are two events approaching in the next six weeks that I'd like to share with you. Both of them will be a great opportunity to hear music that we generally do not hear on a regular basis.

On Sun., Mar. 29 at 3:30 p.m., our new Associate Organist, Brian Campbell, will present a short recital in the sanctuary. Brian recently completed all of his work for his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at KU and his degree will be conferred soon. Among the many gifts he brings

to us, he is a fine performer. This will be a great opportunity to not only hear him in recital, but also to meet him afterward and get to know him. He will present works by J. S. Bach and Louis Vierne. Two Bach works are scheduled: the exciting "Toccata in F Major" and the "Sonata II." He will close with Louis Vierne's "Carillon de Westminster." All three of these works will show off his talent and the organ. Please join us Mar. 29 to "meet the new organist." A reception will follow in the Parlor.

The second program will take place on Good Friday, Apr. 10, at 7:00 p.m. That evening, the Chancel Choir, accompanied by a string orchestra, trumpets, harp, organ, and timpani, will present Maurice Duruflé's "Requiem" dating from the late 1940s. This work, written in memory of his father, is at once intimate and personal. Unlike many such works, he does not dwell on the darker texts of the "Mass for the Dead." Rather his music, based on the proscribed chants for this service, brings comfort to those who are grieving. Without a doubt, this Requiem is my favorite modern work for chorus for no matter what my mood, I can listen to all or part of this work and find my spirits are lifted to a higher level. Join us Apr. 10 for this amazing, emotional work.

## Argentine Food Kitchen Crew Served 2,423 lunches in 2008

The Argentine Food Kitchen Crew of Country Club Kitchen Church served 2,423 lunches in 2008. The crew serves the first Tuesday of each month at the Cross-Lines community outreach facility in Kansas City, KS.

Under the coordination of Cindy Thornton and Carol Pasley, various Sunday School classes generously donated a combination of money to purchase food and prepared and cooked part of the meal. The food kitchen and the grateful clients call our day "Taco Tuesday" as taco salad is always served along with fruit, chips and a dessert. The cost of groceries for a typical day costs about \$350, including 80 pounds of hamburger for the taco salad. The food is transported to the facility and then served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We have a great group of regular volunteers in addition to Cindy and Carol—Anne and Virginia Reed, Bob Marty, Tom Tompkins, Dave Hewitt, Tom Thornton, Martha Leiser and Lisa Schmidt. And our longtime (18 years) and long-suffering dishwasher, Max Deweese, has cleaned more trays and pots and pans than you want to think about! We also have several volunteers who are on call in case we are short-handed, which is much appreciated.

None of this could be done without the contributions from the Sunday School classes, the choir, other church groups and support by the Outreach Council. The need has been increasing steadily throughout last year and 250 lunches were served on Jan. 6 this year. We are thankful for all the support from the members of the church to enable this important food ministry to be carried out in a time of growing need. You can be assured that the recipients are thankful as can be seen by their smiles and thanks and "God Bless You's" as they come through the line!

# Children's Musical Enthralls



Forty children entertained a standing room only crowd on Mar. 1 in the Social Hall with their presentation of *It's Cool in the Furnace*, under the direction of Ms. Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music.



Club Kids spent an afternoon on Feb. 22 snow tubing in Weston, MO.

## Service Opportunity: Your Green Team Needs You!

In the next six months the Green Team will be tackling several projects and needs your time and talent. Four short-term task forces are being assembled to address specific areas.

We need help with installing and the initial maintenance of the Rain Garden, Edible Landscaping, and the Peter Rabbit Garden. Our three grounds projects could also use some plant donations. We are using some commonly found perennials that can be separated out of home gardens or purchased at a local nursery. The following landscape materials are also needed: limestone landscaping rocks, crushed gravel or river rock, compost, and mulch.

We are also looking for people interested in finding the best option for the church's coffee cups and the best



option in low-flow toilets bathrooms by the Sanctuary (four units have already been sponsored). As we begin

these green efforts at the church we also want to offer some green-themed classes for the congregation next fall and are looking for an education coordinator as well as task force members.

If you would like to join the Green Team in general, we are also looking for a few new members who are passionate about Creation Care. We usually meet the third Thursday of each month at 5:45 p.m.

For more information, please contact Mindee Forman at 816-822-4033 or [greenteamcccc@gmail.com](mailto:greenteamcccc@gmail.com).

## Youth Elders and Deacons

Any member of the church can nominate a youth in grades 7-12 to serve as a youth elder or deacon. The deadline for nominations is Sun., Mar. 15. Youth Elders serve at the communion table during worship and can serve in-home communion to those who are unable to attend worship. Youth Deacons lead worship by collecting the offering and serving communion. Youth Elders and Youth Deacons are chosen as a process of the Nominating Committee. Forms are available in the parlor or on our website ([www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)).

## Summer Camps

For many, church camp is the ultimate of faith experiences. A week at Tall Oaks Conference Center camp includes meeting other Disciples of Christ youth, participating in small groups, and learning how to live in faith. Activities include teams course (Chi Rho), high ropes (CYF), swimming, talent show, dance and many other fun events.

Register by Apr. 15 by going to [www.talloaks.org](http://www.talloaks.org) and clicking the link to "Camp," where you'll find a list of all the camps, dates, rates, and directors along with links to the on-line registration and link to all the forms that can be downloaded. Be sure to read the procedure information very carefully to make sure you are completing all the registration documents. Contact Chris Trout for more information at 816-333-4917 or [christ@cccckc.org](mailto:christ@cccckc.org).

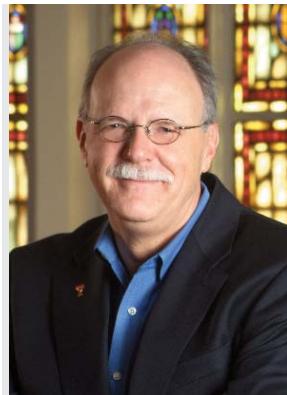
### Tall Oaks Camp Dates:

- |            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| June 1-5   | Chi Rho 1 (6-7 grades) |
| June 7-12  | CYF 1 (9-12 grades)    |
| July 5-11  | Eighters (8th graders) |
| July 12-17 | CYF 2                  |
| Aug. 4-8   | Chi Rho 2              |



## Slow Down, Reflect, Fast

by Dr. Charles Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



It snowed recently and I never feel more “southern” than on blustery, cold, snowy days. I was forewarned when I headed west to Kansas City there would be more winter weather than I am used to. I had no idea. It isn’t so much the cold or ice or snow that is proving the challenge to get used to, it is the “go ahead and deal with it” mentality. Linda, my wife, made a great observation during this recent “winter weather event.”

“When it snows in Atlanta,” she said, “it is like a ‘mini vacation,’ everything grinds to a halt. Stores close, schools close ... it’s a great time to snuggle, nap, cook comfort food. Here, everybody just keeps going.” I don’t intend to address the virtues of being hearty and robust regardless of the weather or the inadequacies of “southerners” who hibernate at the sight of the first snowflake, but I do sense a message for the season of Lent – for us all.

On Ash Wednesday, we joined multitudes of sisters and brothers in Christ around the world and received ashes in the sign of the cross and our souls resonated with the daunting reality of our mortality. Getting in touch with our physical selves on Ash Wednesday can be like getting hit with a blast of arctic air. It is a deeply spiritual and moving thing to pause and face the limits of human life. For me, this is one of the great gifts of the season, the journey called Lent. These 40 days of Lent constitute a divine invitation: “Slow down, reflect, fast – that is, let go of some distractions – in order to focus and give God room to plant hope, to claim life, and to establish a reign defined by grace, mercy, and love.”

Facing the limits of human life can be empowering. Lent can be a season, like a winter storm in Atlanta, of slowing down, gathering, reflecting, and harnessing energy for the journey ahead. Unrealistic or deflating agendas and schedules might be some of the things we give up during Lent. Honoring our need for rest and recreation might be a spiritual discipline also worth considering. Lent is a time of reflection, preparation, and honing our gifts for life and ministry. Plowing through a winter storm is one thing, honoring our need for reflection and renewal is another.

“Let me take it upon myself to speak to my Lord, I who am but dust and ashes” (Genesis 18:27).

*Chuck*

## Children and Families

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

#### The Covenant: Holy Week

Children in grades 1st–5th have begun exploring Holy Week and how events within this week lead to a renewal of God’s covenant with humanity through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through cooking, storytelling, art and more children will learn of God’s desire for people to be in relationship with our Creator and each other. Join us Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. on the second floor.

#### Baby Dedication



Sophia Julianna Asante with her parents, George and Cherie.

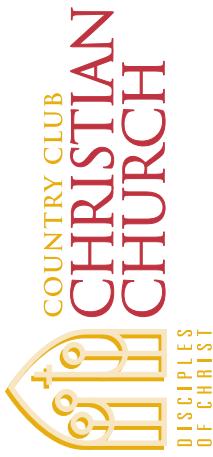


Henry Adam Mayor with his parents, Erica and Heath.



Eva Josephine Ridle with her parents, Rob and Tracey, plus brother Liam and sister Maya.

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Senior Minister

**Rev. Carla Aday**  
Senior Associate Minister

**Rev. David Diebold**  
Minister of Music

**Rev. Cynthia Heller**  
Minister of  
Parish Visitation

**Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn**  
Minister to Children  
and Families

**Dr. Charles Rolen**  
Interim Minister of  
Congregational Care

**Mr. Brian Campbell**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Sandy Eisenman**  
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Financial Services

**Ms. Lisa McCleish**  
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**Ms. Laine Riley**  
Associate Director  
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Director

**Ms. Lara Schopp**  
Director of  
Communications

**Ms. Lauren Weinhold**  
Director of  
Church Growth

**Ms. Marilyn Wimer**  
Director of  
Administrative Services

# Our Church Family

## Congratulations

Logan Taylor Schambow was born Mar. 2 to Kimberly and Brett Schambow of Libertyville, IL. Jeanne and Perry Cockayne are maternal grandparents.

## Sympathy

GENEVIEVE L. GOODING BROWN passed away Feb. 20. She is survived by her daughter, Beverly Yantzi. The memorial service was Feb. 24 in Combs Chapel, Dr. Charles Rolen officiating.

FRED E. SHROUT, father of Sandy Riggle, passed away Feb. 18. The service was Feb. 23 in Boonville, MO, Rev. Carla Aday and Rev. Scott Ehrlich officiating.

PAMELA NEWCOMER BLACKMORE passed away Feb. 27. She is survived by sons David Newcomer IV and Douglas Newcomer. Services were private.

BOB SEE passed away Mar. 2. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, and four sons. Services were Mar. 6 in the Sanctuary, Dr. Glen Miles and Dr. Charles Rolen officiating.

BOB RAMSEYER passed away Mar. 3. Services were Mar. 9 in the Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday and Dr. Charles Rolen officiating.

## Memorials

LETHA B. BASH  
Thomas & Martha Lieser  
Barbara Nottberg  
Betty Foster  
Ronald & Sandra Riley  
John & Erma Hess  
Virginia Reed

LORENE CARRELL  
John & Erma Hess  
VIRGINIA GORDON  
John & Erma Hess

LAWRENCE RITTER  
John & Erma Hess  
**Transportation Fund**

ROBERT L. WOLF  
Greg & Nancy Lear  
Marjorie Scott

### Music Endowment Fund

LETHA B. BASH  
Dean & Sue Dyer

### Women's Ministry Fund

LETHA B. BASH  
Don & Mary Dibble

### Library Memorial Fund

FRED E. SHROUT  
Anniversary Class  
John & Erma Hess  
Tim & Twilla Shrout &  
family  
Russell Fahrenbrink  
Kenny & Marian Lenz  
Charles & Betty Murdock

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