



**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 8

# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN

**Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.**

## 2009-2010 Stewardship Campaign

### A Pearl of Great Price – Recognizing God's Gifts

As the season of stewardship begins, we as a congregation – a body of Christ, have the opportunity to not only reflect back on how the Church impacted each of us personally, but also to vision what County Club Christian Church can be in the next year.

This year's theme, *A Pearl of Great Price – Recognizing God's Gifts*, focuses on the familiar parable in which a merchant is seeking fine pearls and who, having found one pearl of great price, sold all that he had to buy it. The result of giving up everything he had for something he

considered valuable was receiving a treasure beyond compare. The stewardship campaign is not about giving up everything you have, but more about considering the gifts that you receive by being part of our church.



Throughout this stewardship period, you will be provided information about the financial, programmatic and general operations of our church. Information on how our church impacts individuals and families within our congregation as well as our community will be shared. You will be asked to consider a gift commitment for the 2009-2010 year.

*continued on page 2*

## Save Your Rummage for the May 6-7 Sale

**Save it!** Save items you no longer need to donate for our all-church Spring Rummage Sale!



**Bag it!** Starting now, bag the items you'd like to donate.

**Bring it!** Drop off schedule:  
Sun., May 3 — 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Mon., May 4 — 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Tues., May 5 — 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

NO ITEMS will be accepted PRIOR to May 3.

**Buy it!** Sale dates:

Exclusive shopping for volunteers:

**TUESDAY, MAY 5**, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Open to the public:

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Includes silent auction on select items.

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Not-for-profit agency shopping:

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Volunteer!** Lots of volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Contact Pat Martin at patmartin1050@aol.com or 816-590-7134 if you can help.

Check www.cccckc.org for updates.



# Palm Sunday Festivities

While the temperature and wind were brisk, the enthusiasm of the Palm Parade was not diminished. Children and parents participated in the parade during the 11:00 a.m. service on Apr. 5.



**Above:** Marie Hunter taught Alyssa Hess, Lexie Corbin and Caroline Brumitt to make crosses from palm fronds.

**At right:** Parents and children waved palms as they entered the sanctuary.

**Below:** Children gathered at the front of the sanctuary during the 11:00 a.m. service.



## New Orleans Mission Trip Set for November 8-14

Country Club Christian Church will send a fifth mission team to New Orleans this fall, leaving on Sun., Nov. 8, and returning on Sat., Nov. 14. We will return once again to Metarie, LA where mission teams have stayed before. Our work projects will be assigned through the St. Bernard Project or the

United Church of Christ's Disaster Recovery Program.

This year Dr. Charles Rolen will join our team as the church staff person. The trip cost has not been finalized but is expected to be about \$300.

## Stewardship, *continued from page 1*

For some, this gift commitment will be in the form of a pledge over a period of a year. This commitment enables the church to make budgetary decisions and plans before we begin the next fiscal year. Still others may choose to make their gift throughout the year without pledging or make a one-time larger gift for the year. Whatever method you choose, please know that your gift is very much appreciated.

However, more importantly and beyond the perfunctory type of information associated with a stewardship campaign on how to give and why, you will be asked to reflect and vision on your gift decision. Reflect back on how the church has made a difference in your life ... the treasures you have already gotten from being part of this community of Christ we have at Country Club Christian Church. Consider how much richer your life is because of the church. Then, vision how your own gift could impact others in a greater way. How many more programs could be improved or developed, how many more people could be reached?

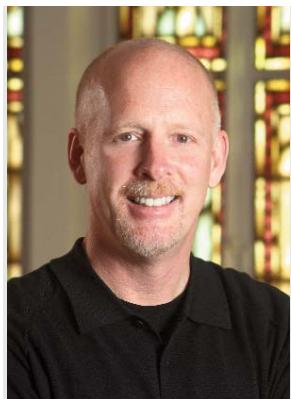
Just like the merchant's purchased pearl, the value of our Country Club Christian Church experience can bring even greater wealth to you, your family, the congregation and others if you are willing to make the commitment.

Please watch the Christian for additional details. You may contact Kelley Quinn at [elmokitty@everestkc.net](mailto:elmokitty@everestkc.net) or 816-333-1859 for more information.



# Surprised by Faith

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails...I will not believe.” John 20:25

Thomas gets shortchanged. He's remembered as “Doubting Thomas.” When someone has a negative attitude we refer to them as a doubting Thomas. Maybe we should change his name. Maybe he should be called “Realistic Thomas.” Barbara Brown Taylor says that folks in the congregation where she used to preach were okay with Easter but what they really believed in was Good Friday. For them the Good Friday service

was more real than Easter. They have known pain and abandonment, loss and sadness, they have looked death in the eye. Easter is fine for parties but as far as they are concerned Good Friday is the life that they know.

Fred Craddock says that two thirds of the world lives on the Saturday between Easter and Good Friday. Two thirds of the world woke up this morning hungry with no idea about where to find their next meal. Easter seems far away but they know about Good Friday.

Thomas knows Good Friday. Thomas is a realist. He has seen that the world is stuck on Saturday between Friday and Easter. His doubts and questions are familiar because we share the same questions. What about us? Can we be saved by surprise? Will God come to us? Can we be raised, changed? Is it possible to find our way into a whole new world? Maybe you've been on one of our mission trips or volunteered at a soup kitchen or attended Bible study but like Peter peering into the empty tomb you still haven't found faith.

Maybe that's because most of us really do live on the day before Easter. Perhaps the first step toward new life begins with the admission of our doubt, our confusion, and with the understanding that we cannot find our way through life on our own.

I read about a Christian who is an alcoholic. He explained it is hard for him to find a church. “Most church people give off a self-satisfied air of superiority. I don't sense them consciously leaning on God or each other. Their lives appear to be in order.” He says that his alcoholism has taught him one thing: He can't survive without God. “Maybe that is the redeeming value of alcoholics,” he said. “Maybe God is calling us alcoholics to teach the saints what it means to be dependent on God and on God's community on earth.”

Easter is not just something that happened to Jesus. It is the surprising news that despite our doubt and fear, God is willing and ready to transform our lives even today.

Grace and Peace to you,

## Visitor Information Seminar on May 2

Whether you're ready to join the church or simply want to learn more about Country Club Christian Church, we invite you to attend the next **Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., May 2, 8:45 a.m.-12:00 noon.** Learn about the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Meet the ministers, visit with some of the church's lay leaders and enjoy a light breakfast and lunch. Please contact Lauren Weinhold at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).

## Worship with us!

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

**Sermon Series Begins April 26**

Faith, Hope, Money and Love:  
Finding Our Way through the  
Maze of Life

Part 1: Faith  
Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

**May 3**  
Part 2: Hope

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church



## 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.

**Monday Night Bible Study Resumes** – Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Rm. 302. Rick Cook will lead a study on Genesis.

**Sunday School on Apr. 26** – A six-week series on favorite Bible verses begins, led by Beth Bernier. 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in Rm. 302.

## Saturday Night Live Progressive Dinner

**Sat., Apr. 25, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

Save the date to join other couples with children 10 and under for our annual progressive dinner. Enjoy adult conversation and fellowship along with an appetizer, dinner and dessert at different locations. All the homes are within a mile of the church. Steve and Andrea Bough will host appetizers at Wine, 112 W. 63rd St. Salad and pasta will be hosted by Lara and Jake Schopp, 7328 Madison Ave., OR John and Julia Bartlett, 1018 Arno Rd. Then we will gather at the church for dessert. \$10 per person. To RSVP for the evening and childcare, email [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org), call 816-333-4917, or stop by the church office by 5:00 p.m. Mon., Apr. 20.

## Shopping at The Well

**Also Shop Amazon.com Via [cccckc.org](http://cccckc.org) through The Well**

Have you visited The Well Gift and Book store recently? If not, you're missing out on lots of unique gift items and books. Purchases at The Well directly benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to individuals around the world. Use The Well's page on the church's web site,

[www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org) under the Stay Informed tab, to do your shopping at amazon.com and a percentage of the purchase price is directed to our Outreach projects. The Well is on the ground floor of the church and is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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

The group, which includes couples and singles hosts four quarterly special events and four quarterly Sunday lunches, in addition to meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

**Apr. 26** – The Q Source, led by David May.

## Do We Have Your Email Address?

### Stay Informed through Electronic Communications

Did you know you can help the church save money and be more environmentally friendly by getting your copy of the newsletter and other important communications via email? We already have reduced the number of mailed newsletters by 50 percent, a substantial savings for the church. But we need your help in reducing this number even more.

Do we have a current email address for you on file? If we don't, or you're not sure, contact Jane Fletcher with the correct information at [janef@cccckc.org](mailto:janef@cccckc.org). You'll receive special communications from Dr. R. Glen Miles, as well as the e-newsletter a few days earlier than the mailed edition, and in full color! If you haven't been receiving electronic communications from the church, but want to, let Jane know.

You may also view the Christian on the church's web site, [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org), by clicking on "Stay Informed." Then click the link in the left-hand column.

## Regional Evening Women's Ministries Event

Women's Ministries will gather for its Regional Evening at First Christian Church, 125 S. Pleasant, Independence, MO, on Thur., Apr. 23, at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will include a program by Deb Morche on the Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center. Cost is \$5 per person and husbands and friends are welcome. Make your reservation to [office@kcdisciples.org](mailto:office@kcdisciples.org) or 913-432-1414.



## Family Photo

by Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



This past summer, my husband and I attended a family reunion with members of his extended family. Because I had never met many of the people at the reunion, the booklet that his aunt made, complete with photos and contact information for everyone in the family, became a helpful tool. On the way home from the reunion, I studied the directory trying to put faces I remembered with names and matching parents with children.

In much the same way, rarely a Sunday goes by that I don't go home and flip open my church directory to find the name of someone I met that morning. The curled, stained pages of my directory, complete with a torn plastic cover and handwritten notes in the margins, indicate the amount of use the booklet gets. I count on the directory to help me put a name with a face. It's my way of getting to know the other members of my church family. I love to open the directory, find the person's photo and exclaim, "Oh, that's who that is!" I feel connected to that person.

I had the pleasure of visiting a newer member of the congregation in their home recently. When I sat down at the kitchen table, I saw the church directory she and her husband were given the day they joined the church, open with curled pages and notes written in the margins. I commented that I was glad to see her using their directory. She replied that several members of the church had called to welcome them and while she was on the phone, she pulled out the directory to put a name with a face. These newer members are using their directory for the same purpose that I am—to get to know members of their church family.

When I study the booklet from the family reunion, there is a sense of belonging that comes from seeing my photo in the book. Even though I don't know a majority of the other faces and will probably never see them again, there is a common bond we share. We are members of one family. I remember feeling similarly when Scott and I opened our first church directory after joining this church. Even though we didn't know many of the faces, we shared a common bond with them. We were members of one family.

Later this summer you will have the opportunity to be included in a new church directory. Watch for all the details in a few months. Think of this new directory as our "family reunion" booklet. This "portrait" of our family would be incomplete without you in it.

Blessings,

## CYF to Cedar Rapids

CYF youth, including graduating 8th graders, will travel to Eagle Butte, SD, June 14-20 to learn about and live for a week among Native Americans.

This is an opportunity to leave the fast-paced, over-scheduled Kansas City lifestyle behind and experience a completely different one. We will be in one of the poorest counties in the U.S., working with the Cheyenne River Youth Project in Eagle Butte.

We will work in the reservation's organic garden, help organize the warehouse of donated items, break up a basketball court in preparation for building a new one, and experience a pow-wow.

Leading the trip will be Dr. Glen Miles, Senior Minister, and Mary Lehoczky.

We will travel by van. Bring your sleeping bags as we will be staying in the Volunteer Center at the reservation. The youth will prepare most of their meals. Cost of the trip has not been finalized but is estimated to be \$350. A \$50 deposit is required to reserve your place. Contact Chris Trout at [christ@cccckc.org](mailto:christ@cccckc.org) to sign up.

## Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service

**Tues., May 5 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., May 5 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

# 2009 Pastors' Class Baptized on April 5



Members of the 2009 Pastors' Class were baptized on Apr. 5. From left to right, Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, Jake Hensley, Miguel Murguía, Parker Hoffman, Ross Commerford, Alexandra Anderson, MacKenna Lockhart, Alexandria Thomas, Maggie Jackson, and Emmy Niewald, Mr. Justin Zeigler, Dr. Glen Miles.

## VBS to Feature Crocodile Dock on July 27-31

Calling all kids four years old through fifth grade to join us this summer at Crocodile Dock from 9 a.m. to noon on July 27-31.

At Crocodile Dock, kids will keep an eye out for "God in action" in their everyday lives—and they'll discover how they can be a God Sighting by showing Christ's love. Our children will develop a sense of God's loving presence. And they'll know God is alive...and active...and with them! Storytelling, cooking, and more!



Sign up now as group sizes are limited. Registration forms are available online at [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org) or in the education wing on the second floor. Submit your registration form with payment to Chris Trout in the church office.

The Vacation Bible School finale will be Sun., Aug. 2 from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

We also need adult and youth volunteers to make our Crocodile Dock event a success. Please contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at 816-333-4917 or [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).

## Senior Recognition Is April 26

Our graduating high school seniors will be recognized in the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Apr. 26.

Immediately following the service, the seniors will be honored at the Senior Celebration Brunch in the Social Hall. Cost for the brunch is \$12 per person. Make your reservation with Mary Margaret at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org).

## 6th/7th Grade Mission Trip

The 6th and 7th graders will be going to St. Louis for their mission trip experience this year. The dates are from the early afternoon of July 19 to later in the evening July 23. More is coming soon! If you have any questions contact Justin Zeigler at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org)



## Receiving the Breath of God

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



When you board an airplane you are given clear instructions. "Should oxygen masks appear please place your own mask on first and then assist anyone around you needing help." My friend who pilots jets for American Airlines tells me that in studies people rarely follow these directions. What happens is that a mom first assists her child in tightly pulling the straps of the mask around his face and then she passes out and can't put her own mask on. If the mom would put on her own mask first, even if her child passes out, the child will revive once the mask is applied. But once she passes out she can't help him or herself.

Beginning May 11, I'm going to focus on "applying my own oxygen mask." During my three-month sabbatical, I will take a break from the work on "spiritually nurturing others" so that I may spend some time receiving the breath of God myself. Rather than teaching multiple classes each week, I'll take some time to read, study, attend workshops/classes (one in Connecticut on Faith and Writing and one in North Carolina on New Visions for the Long Pastorate). Instead of leading worship and writing prayers, I'll listen for God in the Gregorian chants led by priests at an ancient monastery on a hillside in rural Italy. In lieu of implementing strategic plans, I'll pause to take a walk and ride a bike in hopes that God might whisper a word that transcends all my plans.

One of my goals is to write. As a journalism major, I've long had the dream of writing. Whether or not published material emerges, I hope to write each day as a way of listening for the voice of God within. With the help of several writing mentors, I may discover that some of the written material could guide others in the spiritual journey.

I will miss you. This congregation is life-giving and very dear to me. But I know that to be a good pastor, I must take time away. Research shows that sabbaticals nurture both clergy and congregations. I deeply admire and appreciate the forethought and creative planning of the church Personnel Committee, our church Board and the many church leaders who designed the sabbatical program 20 years ago. I am grateful to my colleagues on this amazing and talented staff who will ably cover my responsibilities. Do not hesitate to call the church office with any concerns/questions. With many prayers, much affection and abiding grace,

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

#### The Covenant: The Body of Christ

Apr. 19 – May 17

1st through 5th graders will explore how the early church began after the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Using the image of the Church as the Body of Christ, the children will come to know some of the early experiences of the first Christians. Moving through the various sessions of cooking, art, storytelling and more the children will learn ways the faith community and individuals can participate in the Kingdom of God as expressed here on earth.

### Spring Fling

Sat., May 16 – 4:00- 7:00 pm

Join other families for a spring cookout and fun at the home of Rob and Tracey Ridle in

Kearney, MO.

Petting zoo,  
moonwalk,  
crafts, games  
and lots of  
wide open  
space for the  
kids. Dinner  
will be served,  
with lemonade



Children played in the petting zoo at the 2008 Spring Fling.

and water available, or bring your own drinks. Remember your lawn chairs and blankets. Cost is \$20 per family. RSVP to Mary Margaret, [marymargareth@ccc-ckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@ccc-ckc.org) by Wed., May 12. Make plans to join us for this great family event!!

### Club Kids

May 3 – Messy Games, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

May 10 – No meeting, Mother's Day

May 17 – Season Finale – Family picnic,  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

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



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. R. Glen Miles**  
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**  
Director of  
Financial Services

**Ms. Lisa McCleish**  
Director of Early  
Childhood Programs

**Ms. Laine Riley**  
Associate Director  
of Music/Interim Youth  
Director

**Ms. Lara Schopp**  
Director of  
Communications

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

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

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

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538  
email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)

## 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.

## Our Church Family Sympathy

RUTH WEBB passed away Apr. 5. Services were Apr. 8, at Mt. Moriah, Dr. Charles Rolen officiating.

CLAUDE HOOVER passed away Apr. 7. Services were Apr. 18 in Sunbury, OH. He is survived by a son, Dr. Larry Hoover, and a daughter, Linda Hoover.

MARYLYN ATHA passed away Apr. 12. She is survived by her mother, Babe Atha; daughter, Kristie Bowden; sister, Alyson Platten; and brother, Andrew Atha. Services were Apr. 17 in the Chapel, Dr. Charles Rolen officiating.

## Memorials

LETHA B. BASH

Tom & Linda Lieurance  
Chris Rice

ROBERT W. SEE

Jack & Marilyn Waller  
Dale & Jonna Hunter

Jeff & Jan Zimmerman

ROBERT J. THOMPSON  
Karla & Michael Herrington

VIRGINIA T. GORDON

Karla & Michael Herrington  
EVELYNNE L. MCFARLAND  
Chris Rice

Boy Scout Scholarship Fund

ROBERT A. RAMSEYER  
Jack & Marilyn Waller  
Earl Love  
Bob & Alyce King  
Louis & Naomi Kurz

Jim & Betty Blackwell

Roger Etnyre  
Norman & Frances Foster  
Barbara & Tom Flannelly  
Eugene & Beverly Snyder  
Kristi Sue Steed  
Rick & Emily Boeshaar  
Robert & Shirley Wuerth  
Marilynn Nairn

### Music Memorial Fund

ROBERT A. RAMSEYER  
Jay & Mary Buehler  
ROBERT L. WOLF  
Jay & Mary Buehler  
ROBERT W. SEE  
Jay & Mary Buehler  
LETHA B. BASH  
Jay & Mary Buehler