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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.*

Mission Trips: A Ministry of Presence

By Nancy Lear, Chair of the Mission Trip Council

What do we DO on mission trips? How do we measure what we accomplish? These questions are asked both by members of our mission teams and by other members of the congregation.

Sometimes we are tempted to measure our contribution by the number of rooms we have painted or the amount of moldy drywall we have stripped. The painting and the stripping and all of the other “projects” we DO on mission trips are impor-



Family Mission Trip

tant, but perhaps more important is our BEING THERE—a “ministry of presence.” Someone has put it another way, “There can be no sharing of what we have without a sharing of who we are.”

Our missionaries in South Africa, Jon and Dawn Barnes, write that they “are very fond of the idea of ‘ministry of presence’—almost more so than the ‘ministry of DOing.’ It is the ministry of presence where we find ourselves in solidarity with our brothers and sisters...it is where you truly meet one another, not always the case in hammering and painting where you are busy with a wall, a window or a floor. But both are important, and we feel you can do both on a

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Don't Forget These Upcoming Events

Visitor Information Seminar May 1

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? Whether you're ready to join the church or simply want to learn more about the many ministries here, we invite you to attend the Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., May 1, 8:45-11:30 a.m. in the Solarium (Rm. 309). RSVP to Lauren Weinhold at laurenw@cccckc.org.

Celebration of Service on May 6

Your generous and gracious service will be honored at the annual Celebration of Service Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Thur., May 6 in the

Social Hall. Join us for a feast that is a “Trip Around The World” with food from Italy, Mexico, Greece, China, and France. Cost is \$8 per person. Please make your reservations by May 3, in the Parlor on Sunday or with Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917. Child care is available.

Robert Martin to Speak on May 8

The Disciples of Christ Historical Society presents the Reed Lecture here on Sat., May 8 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. featuring Robert Martin. Reservations required by April 30 to mail@discipleshistory.org or call toll free 866-834-7563.



Annual Stewardship Campaign Underway

Love, Serve, Give, our annual stewardship campaign, continues. We invite you to join us at one of several gatherings at which we will share a discussion on the opportunities before us as a church in the next decade, and how this year's stewardship campaign plays a part. The events will be filled with food, fellowship and dialogue. An all-church gathering for this purpose will take place on Sun.,

LOVE,
SERVE,
GIVE.

May 16 at 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Sign up by calling 816-333-4917 or email marymargareth@cccckc.org. Or, visit the church's web site at www.ccccckc.org/stay-informed if you'd like to participate, and a member of the committee will contact you.

Save the Date:
All-Church Prayer Service,
Thurs., May 13, 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Weekend Mission Trip to Cedar Rapids June 17-19

Have you wanted to go on a mission trip but couldn't spare an entire week? This short regional trip is perfect for you. A team will travel to Cedar Rapids, IA, from June 17-19 to help rebuild this community that was ravaged by devastating floods in 2008. This will be our church's second trip to this area. For more information, contact Carty Johannsen (carty@everestkc.net) or Lance Jessee (ljessee@kcnet.com).

Guest Preachers This Summer

Four nationally known, outstanding Disciples of Christ preachers will be in our pulpit Sundays this summer while Dr. R. Glen Miles is on sabbatical. You will have the opportunity to hear:

- ♦**Dr. Mike Graves**, Professor of Preaching, St. Paul School of Theology – May 30 and June 6.
- ♦**Dr. Dick Wing**, Senior Minister of First Community Church in Columbus, OH – June 20.
- ♦**Dr. Sharon Watkins**, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – July 25.
- ♦**Dr. Gene Brice**, former senior minister at Country Club Christian Church (1979-1991) – Aug. 8.

Mission Trips: A Ministry of Presence, *continued from page 1*

mission trip. Did Christ not call us to listen, to be a friend, to sit by the bedside, to touch and to heal? Christ gives us the full picture of what 'ministry of presence' really means."

Mission team members have experienced the ministry of presence while sharing meals

and worship services with folks in



South Africa Trip

townships in South Africa, talking with residents of the Samaritan Centre in East London, South Africa, playing baseball and soccer with children in villages in Nicaragua, sharing cinnamon rolls with residents of Greenville, Kansas, and getting reacquainted with old friends in New Orleans.

Michelle Schlatter experienced the ministry of presence on the family mission trip to South Dakota: "A ministry of presence means attending a sacred Native-American ceremony. Simply by being in Red Scaffold, South Dakota, at the right time, we were able to witness a centuries-old Lakota ceremony called Wiping of the Tears. A Lakota Elder then spoke to us about how important it is to him that we bring our children to the reservation to learn of the Lakota ways and to begin friendships and foster understanding between the Native-Americans and the White Man. He never once mentioned how he wanted us to repair the ceiling in the community center or cut the grass growing over the church steps. A ministry of presence is my daughter being taught how to shoot a bow and arrow from a Lakota Elder, who worked diligently to teach the Lakota youth skills of the bow and arrow so they will not forget the ways

of their people. But most importantly a ministry of presence means realizing that just by offering a smile and encouraging word to a young Lakota mother I can be the start of a real friendship."

In her book *Here If You Need Me*, Kate Braestrup says, "I am here to be with you...when you freak out or grieve or laugh or suffer or sing. It is a ministry of presence. It is showing up with a loving heart. And it is really cool."

And she is right. It is really cool. So—next time you talk to someone who has been on a mission trip, instead of asking, "What did you DO?" ask, "What did you experience?" You will hear about amazing things!



Discovering the Joy of Sabbath

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



On May 15, after pronouncing that Danielle Knotts and Sean Knight are husband and wife, I will begin a three-month sabbatical. This will be the first time in my 29 years of ministry that I have had an opportunity like this to take an extended time for rest, travel, study and renewal. I am very grateful for our congregation's sabbatical policy and its insistence that our clergy enjoy a holy sabbath.

I expect that this will be a valuable learning experience for me but not in the way I am used to "learning." Yes, I will do a great deal of reading, much of it in the areas of theology and ecclesiology. And, yes, I will review my preaching with a trusted mentor and listen for insights on ways to creatively communicate the gospel. And, yes, I will be meeting with our mission partners, Dawn and Jon Barnes in South Africa and will write a report on our partnership with the United Church of Southern Africa and the work we did in the Kei region of South Africa. But I am most excited about, and frankly a little bit worried about, learning how to "remember the Sabbath and keep it holy."

The great theologian of the early 20th century Karl Barth once wrote, "A being is free only when it can determine and limit its activity." That is a daunting commentary on life in the 21st century. We tend to think that busy is better. We seem to believe that having more to do than we have the time to do it is the only measuring stick worth using in this life. Barbara Brown Taylor in her wonderful little book, *An Altar in the World*, writes, "For millions and millions of people, busy-ness is The Way of Life." She is right and that way leads to something less than holy.

Frankly, that is what worries me. For 29 years I have prided myself on being a high energy, I can do it all and more, kind of pastor. More than once I have said to concerned board members or worried parishioners: "Don't worry about my energy and time and all of that. I can get it done!" There are many advantages to this kind of personality in our crazy culture. However, I am beginning to discover that there are disadvantages too – not the least of which is the failure to remember the sabbath.

So that is my number one goal during the next three months: to discover the holy practice of sabbath, to find out what it means, in Taylor's words, "to live in God." I suppose it seems somewhat unusual that a pastor might have this as a goal, after all, isn't making room for the Spirit what we do for a living? Yes, of course, but even preachers are tempted by the demon in our culture named "busy."

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Some of you might be thinking, "haven't you been preaching about this stuff for years and yet you still don't get it?" Well, frankly, yes. I suspect I have been preaching to the reflection in the mirror 'cuz that is the guy that needed it most. By making room for less "busy-ness" in my life I am praying that I will be making room for more God.

While we are away I hope you will pray for my family and me that we will discover, "strength for the journey and grace for the soul."

Grace and peace to you,

Glen

Worship with us!

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

May 2

Love, Serve, Give – Part 2

John 13:1-16

Dr. Glen Miles preaching

May 9

Love, Serve, Give – Part 3

Dr. Glen Miles preaching

May 16

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Tues., May 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Please join us on Tues., May 25 as we light candles in memory of deceased friends and loved ones at the Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness. This will be a peaceful evening of remembrance as we come together in song, scripture and prayer. Note, this is a combined service for May and June. Following this service, the next one will be July 6.

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 Jane Fletcher at jane@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 for more information.

May Collection Connection Supplies for Family Mission Trip

In May, we are collecting items to take on the Family Mission Trip to South Dakota in June.

We are collecting the following supplies for one of the health clinics:

- Reading glasses (any power)
- Bottles of artificial tears
- Vitamins specifically for eye health (A, E and C, or ones that are marketed for eye health)
- Children's over-the-counter pain/fever reducers
- Cool-mist humidifiers
- Multi-vitamins for children

Please place the supplies in the container in the parlor. Cash donations to purchase supplies are also appreciated.

Orffestra Workshop

Saturday, May 1

Come learn about Orff instruments and get hands-on experience with this unique style of music making from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Sat., May 1.



We will learn about the instrument families, improvise short, original compositions, and prepare an easy anthem to perform in the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services the following day, May 2.

This Orff mini-workshop is a great chance to discover just how fun and approachable playing in the Orffestra can be. Prior musical experience not required. A willingness to bang on things with sticks and have fun definitely required. Folks in the 9th grade through age 99 welcome. RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org or Tepring Crocker at tepring@gmail.com.

Coming Soon:

New Building Community Book by Book Selection

Join the congregation this summer in reading the newest selection in the Building Community Book by Book series, *Andy Catlett: Early Travels* by Wendell Berry. After you've read the book, join in one of many one-time book group discussions. Then, meet the author when he comes to speak at the church on Thur., Sept. 23. This is a great opportunity to read an interesting book, create community with fellow church members, and meet an acclaimed author. A list of book discussion groups will be available mid-summer. Watch for more information.

Save the Date for Our Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendar for our annual Ice Cream Social! Enjoy frozen custard, grilled hot dogs, ice tea and lemonade on Sun., June 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the front lawn.



Moments

by Marilyn Wimer, Director of Administrative Services



Normal days are filled with routine...work responsibilities, household chores, grocery shopping, paying bills. Occasionally, of course, we are blessed with the “Ah!” moments, when things suddenly look different or exciting or wonderful.

Many years ago I had that feeling every time our car topped the last hill before arriving at my grandparents’ farm, 40 acres that created the ultimate childhood playground. It happens now when I’m waiting at the airport and see the face of one of my far-distant children as he or she

steps off the plane. It happens when the curtain rises on what promises to be a fabulous theater production and when the first shoots of my beloved peony bushes appear each spring.

There are also “Ah Ha!” moments. Something that was hazy becomes clear. Something you’ve only looked at one way takes on new meaning. A book plot appears firmly headed to a certain conclusion and suddenly there’s an *O. Henry* twist at the ending. You discover the mystery ingredient that made a particular dish so delicious and interesting.

I had one of those “Ah ha!” moments at the April meeting of the Congregational Board. The meeting was organized as usual with different committee chairs and officers giving updates, making requests and reporting plans. I was especially struck that evening, however, by the way the people on the agenda fit together to form a whole picture of our congregation and its needs.

Plans for worship, finances, care of the building, personnel issues, the 90th anniversary celebration and other agenda items were covered. The staff and lay leaders making the reports have all become experts in their areas, both by experience and by heart. They care deeply about the well-being of this church. I’ve seen that consistently during my years on staff here, but at that meeting I was moved to see how these people have made our church such a strong priority in their lives. They become puzzle pieces that fit together to form a very special whole.

I’m grateful for the “Ah ha!” moments that pop up from time to time here at church and for the “Ah!” moments, too. They lighten the load, give spice to the days, and give plenty of confidence that this church will continue to thrive for another 90 years.

Community Camp in KC: Summer Socials

Families, singles, couples – ALL are invited to gatherings of fellowship and fun on Wednesday evenings this summer June 9, 23, July 7, 21 and Aug. 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 6:30-7:00 p.m. followed by informal activities for children, youth and adults.

This time of intergenerational fellowship is inspired by the annual Community Camp in Estes Park – but closer to home! June 9 will feature the Barclay Boys, a band of church members. Cost is \$3 per person or \$10 for immediate family. Watch for more information and make plans to attend!

Looking for Singers!

The Women’s Ensemble will be singing in worship on Sun., May 23. We are looking for any additional female voices that would like to join us. Our rehearsals are scheduled to accommodate those that find it difficult to commit to a long-term choir.

Here is the rehearsal schedule:

Wed., May 5 – Noon-12:30 p.m. in the choir room and 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Pine Room (Rm. 10).

Wed., May 12 – Noon-12:30 p.m. in the choir room and 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Pine Room (Rm. 10).

Wed., May 19 – 7:00-8:00 p.m., sanctuary

You are not expected to attend every rehearsal, just the ones that work for you. We hope to see many new and familiar faces in the coming weeks! Please contact Laine at lainer@cccckc.org with any questions. See you at rehearsal!

Club Kids Overnight in Omaha



Club Kids traveled to Omaha Apr. 24-25 for an overnight at the Omaha Zoo. Participants included:

Front row: Luke Lopatofsky, Garret Moffat, Ellie Gilles

Second row: Amalia Murguia, Wynne Reddin, Megan Herrington, Karoline Shelton, Margo Hunter

Third row: Jade Christian, Lucy Patterson, Lauren Reddin

Fourth row: Ashley Bough, Isabella Patterson, Lita Lockhart

Back row: Xander Hulse, Ben Crocker, Taylor Corn, Sam Berry

Adults not pictured: Sandra Reddin, Marie Hunter, Evan Patterson, Brian Corn, Karla Herrington, Catherine Stark-Corn

Graduating Seniors Recognized on May 2



Andrew Garner

Andrew is the son of Allen and Susan Garner. His faith mentors are Randy and Cindy Ire. He is graduating from The Pembroke Hill School and will attend the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.



Stewart Jensen

Stu is the son of Dan and Shelle Jensen. His faith mentor is Jay Woolridge. He is graduating from Shawnee Mission East High School and plans to attend the University of Missouri.



Jay Lehoczky

Jay is the son of John and Mary Lehoczky. His faith mentor is Lee Brumitt. He is graduating from Shawnee Mission East High School and will attend the University of Arkansas.



Kyle McCallister

Kyle is the son of Brian McCallister and Cyndy Short. His faith mentor is Nancy Lear. He is graduating from St. Pius X High School and will attend Central Methodist University majoring in business.



Ericka Schubert

Ericka is the daughter of John and Lisa Hickock. Her faith mentors are John and June Turley. She is graduating from The Pembroke Hill School and will attend Boston College.



Potential for New Life

by Chuck Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



As I enter the final phase of serving as your Interim Minister of Congregational Care, I sense assurance and anticipation of what God is doing in our midst as Country Club Christian Church journeys from one era to another.

You may not realize it, but interim ministry is as timeless as the earliest stories in the Bible. Whether it is the story of Moses leading the Hebrew children on their Exodus journey or John the baptizing prophet preparing the way for Jesus of Nazareth...all have the calling to lead into new

realities. Moses struggled to keep the people from looking back to Egypt, and John was uncompromising in his belief and preaching that a new day was at hand.

Whether 3,000 years ago, or today, Interim Ministry is about proclaiming and preparing for new horizons and possibilities for ministry. Jesus was clear: new wine calls for new wineskins (Matthew 9:17). Country Club Christian Church has stood strong and faithful for almost a century. The faithfulness and sacrifice of many across generations is a huge part of this congregation's legacy. You have, and are, trusting God to be faithful in providing the direction, leaders, and resources to be a church based on grace.

As I look ahead to these final few months with you I am confident of what God has done and is doing here. The presence and potential for new life is everywhere...just take a look around you!

Chuck

Children and Families

T.G.I.F. – May 21

TGIF (This Group Is Fun!) is for parents with children under age 6 and meets on a Friday of each month. The Lopatofsky Family will host parents and children at their home (2513 W. 141st, Leawood, KS) from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will have a cookout with the main dish provided. Please bring a side dish to share. RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Tall Oaks Camps

Camps are available at Tall Oaks for children completing kindergarten and up. Go to www.talloaks.org to sign up for church camp at the Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center this summer!!!

Club Kids (3rd – 5th graders)

The final sessions for this year!!

May 2 – Regular session from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

May 9 – No Meeting (Mothers' Day)

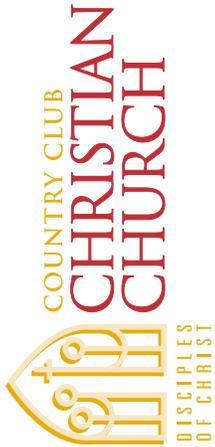
May 16 – Messy Games from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

May 23 – Family Cookout from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

Save the Dates: July 26-30

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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Associate Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn
Minister to Children,
Youth and Families

Dr. Charles Rolan
Interim Minister of
Congregational Care

Dr. Brian Campbell
Associate Organist

Ms. Sandy Eisenman
Director of
Financial Services

Ms. Karla Herrington
Director of Children's
Ministries

Ms. Lisa McCleish
Director of Early
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Food Drive Needs Your Help!

Did you know that each month our church supports local food pantries which serve the homeless and hungry of our community? Each month, we collect food donations in vans in the church parking lots. On **May 23**, please bring your non-perishable food items for our collection, or mark your cash donations "food drive" and place in the offering plate.

Calling All Gardeners

The Green Team invites anyone with an interest in gardening to meet weekly to help care for the church's rain garden near the chapel parking lot, the Peter Rabbit Garden for the pre-school, and edible landscaping at the south entrance to the church and the columbarium.

Volunteers will gather from 6:00-7:30 p.m. each Monday near the rain garden. Bring basic garden tools including trowels, weeders, pruners, scissors and gloves. Please contact Mary McClure (Mary@MMcClure.net – 816-561-2213) or Jenny Doty (jjilly@yahoo.com – 913-789-9374) for more information.

Our Church Family

Sympathy

ROSEMARY KIDD passed away Apr. 27. The service is at 11:00 a.m. on Sat., May 1, in the Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

Honorariums

Virginia Reed
Virginia Reed Food Drive
Erma & John Hess

In Honor of the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Paula and Evans Folder
Beth Ingram

Memorials

Barbara Nottberg
Bonnie Veskerna

Mildred Schooling
Pat & Jack Crehan

Betty Sullivan Goss
Cindy & John Dalton
Richard & Coleen Davis
Carl & Chris Hopkins
Kurt & Lisa Kuhnke
Gary & Eliza Ace
Harold & Joan Goss
William & Jacqueline
Madden

Mrs. Gordon Robertson
Laurie & June Russell
Clint Umphenour
Gary Umphenour

Music Fund
Vera Golly
Christian Women's
Fellowship

PMEF
Vera Golly
Bonnie Veskerna