



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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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.*

January Sermon Series

New Year's Revolution—Jan. 8 and 15

January is the time of year a lot of us make resolutions to do something new: lose weight, get in shape, save money, etc. This year, Dr. Glen Miles asks you to consider instead a *New Year's Revolution* with a series that will build on the self-monitoring question, "How do I feel right now, and why?" Join us Jan. 8 and 15 as we peek into the mirror for an enlightening look at how we connect with our emotional life and how our past influences how we think, feel and behave.

Confessions of a Preacher—Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5

Dr. Miles will take three weeks to share some of the struggles preachers face and questions they have about God, the Bible, and life in general, featuring issues that will resonate with many of you.

State of the Church Dinner

Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future on Thur., Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the Social Hall. Tickets will be available beginning Sun., Jan. 15 in the Parlor for \$12 per person. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report.

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.

Auction Items Sought

Participate by donating an item for either of the auctions. The auction committee is seeking items such as jewelry, trips, event/sporting tickets, personal service and more for both the silent and live auctions. If you have an item you'd like to donate, contact Nancy Lear at nancylear@gmail.com.



Mission Trips Change Lives

By E. J. Becker

Sometimes the changes are seemingly subtle like a promise to use less water back home (after living with no clean water for days) or an attempt to learn the native language before the trip to better connect with new friends.

Sometimes the changes are more pronounced like when a doctor is so moved by his experience that he plans his next trip before the first has concluded.

Sometimes the changes are truly profound. A young boy, too shy and embarrassed to leave his humble home finally gets the care he thought didn't exist. His transformation is nothing short of a miracle. Or a team member is so transformed that she pursues a new life in-country, leaving everything back home behind in order to serve others.

Mission trips change lives.

Whether you're on the team, hauling concrete slabs, swiping a thermometer across a forehead or playing with a group of children in what appears to be a street.... Whether you're praying at a commissioning ceremony, reading a blog or dropping off a bottle of pre-natal vitamins in the parlor.... Whether you can fathom washing up with a cup and a bucket or think "roughing it" happens on the lower floors of a Hyatt...

...mission trips change lives, yours and theirs.

In about a month, we will send a medical mission team to northwestern Nicaragua near the Honduran border (search Google maps for nearby So-

motillo, Nicaragua). One doctor, four nurses and a support team of 16 will hold clinics and do construction work on our behalf. You are part of that team! Please consider making a donation, pray for the team's safe trip and return or just ask a team member about their expectations and discoveries.

What you'll discover? Mission trips change lives, in big ways, in small ways and always.

Mission Team to Joplin in Late April

The Disciples Home Mission Office and Week of Compassion are partnering to schedule mission teams to help with the rebuilding in Joplin, MO, and Country Club Christian Church is scheduled for April 22-28, 2012. Cost is \$175 per person, which covers transportation, food and lodging. If you are interested in participating, please attend an informational meeting at 12:15 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 22, room to be determined. They have been assessing the situation since the May 22 tornado that devastated parts of Joplin. For more information, please contact Betsy Wilson at betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com.

Pathways to Learning

Healing the Mind, Mending the Soul
Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

This four-part series will look at Healing the Mind, Mending the Soul ... for the aging ... for the young ... for anger issues ... for addictions

Leading experts in each field will address the topics. Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall. Pathways is ideal for those who aren't involved in a Sunday School class or entire Sunday School classes. Visitors and guests welcome.

Coming later this spring:

A Fresh Look at Easter
March 11, 18, 25

Watch for more information.

City of God
May 6, 13, 20

The Bible mentions "the city" more than 850 times. This three-part series will look at the key challenges facing our cities today and how we can faithfully build up our cities.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting to elect members of the nominating committee will be held at the end of all three worship services on Sun., Jan. 8.



A Good Way to Start

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Paul has some good advice for the Church in Ephesus.

Put away falsehood. Be angry but do not sin... don't let the sun go down on your anger. Give up stealing. Let no evil come out of your mouth. Speak only what is useful for building up. Put away bitterness and wrath and slander and malice. Be tenderhearted, forgiving. Be imitators of God. Live in love.

That is a timeless bit of advice on how to live day in and day out.

When I began my ministry here at Country Club Christian, I read through the bound copies of our church's newsletter, the Christian, from the year 1960. That was Dr. Lawrence Bash's first year as Senior Minister. In those early columns, he was concerned about attendance, tithing, bringing in new members and so on. Central to all of his concerns, though, was the hour of worship:

"In a world desperately needing a sense of the reality of God, a sense of direction or purpose in life and some means of drawing upon the power of God to enable us to face the challenges of our time, the worship service of the church has a central importance to us all."

I was both encouraged and challenged by those words. I was encouraged, because Dr. Bash focused during his first years here at Country Club Christian on getting the basics straight. Challenged because it was a reminder to me that the basics we need for living and loving within the light of God's love are discovered and nurtured in the Sunday morning worship service, in the communion of saints, in the fellowship of God, at the table of our Lord.

Part of the challenge that Dr. Bash put forth all those years ago is directed beyond the pulpit to the pews. This challenge is rooted in the teaching of the Apostle Paul. Can we live together in the light of God's love? Do we choose to stay away from revenge, to let no evil talk come out of our mouths but only what is useful for building up...so that your words may give grace to those who hear or read them?

Dr. Bash was right. So was Paul. Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we can discover the power we need to live in this simple yet profound way.

Grace and peace to you,

Visitor Information Seminar on January 28

You're invited to the Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Jan. 28 from 8:45-11:30 a.m. Learn more about our history as a denomination and a church and discover the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Our ministers will be on hand to talk about the church's ministries and how you can get involved. Ask questions, enjoy breakfast and meet the church's lay leaders. Then, if you're ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Feb. 12**. For more information or to reserve your spot at the seminar, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

Worship with us!

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

**New Year's Revolution
January 8**

Part One: Finding Time to Dance
Philippians 4:4-9

January 15

Part Two: Letting Your Soul Rest
Psalms 62

**Confessions of a Preacher
Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5**

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

New Faithbook Session Begins January 10

More than 60 women ages 25-65 are participating in this faith formation group. Any women interested in joining in the discussion are invited to come to the next session, starting Jan. 10/11 or sign up by calling 816-333-4917. Join us to explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey as we listen to a brief Bible presentation and then share reflections in guided small groups. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. OR Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Pick the time frame that works best for your schedule. Led by Rev. Carla Aday and Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn.

Save the Date for Grace at Work

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.

Books Needed for Prison Ministry

The Prison Ministry needs paperback books to donate to Lansing Correctional Facility (for men). All kinds are needed — horror, suspense, adventure, fantasy, best sellers, and Spanish books. Please do not bring romance or true crime books. About three times each year, volunteers deliver the books to the facility to help sort, type, and catalog books to ready them for shelving. The deadline for donations is Sun., Jan. 15. Call Shirley Hansell at 913-831-4432 for more information.

CWF Fellowship Circles Speaker

Circle 17 is hosting a luncheon for Christian Women's Fellowship circles on Wed., Jan. 25 at noon in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). Bring a sandwich and join us for fellowship and a presentation by Sally Ford, author of *My Life Beautiful*. Come hear Sally's thoughts about making your life more interesting and meaningful as we begin another year. She is well aware that life is not perfect but suggests we can use our thoughts, words and actions to make our own lives more fulfilling. RSVP to Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917. In case of bad weather, we will reschedule.



Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Sundays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Michelle Schlatter at weddings@cccckc.org or call the church at 816-333-4917.

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.

New Member Sunday February 12

We typically welcome new members on New Member Sundays. The next opportunity will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Feb. 12. Email or call Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, to express your desire to join the church. Lauren will work with you to make your New Member Sunday a memorable and meaningful one. Contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



The Best Gift

by Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



For several weeks leading up to her big day, Megan, the little girl I tutor at Hartman Elementary, had been reminding me that her 8th birthday was coming up. You could tell she was overflowing with excitement. When I asked if she was going to do anything special for her birthday, she explained that because her birthday was so close to Christmas, they wouldn't be celebrating her birthday at home. A few days later, I called her teacher and asked if I could bring treats for the class in honor of Megan's big day. Her teacher was overjoyed with the offer since Megan's parents would

most likely not be providing treats.

The Wednesday following Megan's birthday, I arrived at my regularly scheduled time with overly iced cupcakes and a small gift in hand. The class and I had a great time sharing cupcakes, talking about birthdays and they even told me I looked "way younger" than my age (I LOVE this class!). Before I left, Megan asked her teacher if she could open up the small gift bag I brought for her. As she slowly removed each of the small trinkets, tears began to form in her eyes. She whispered to me, "This is the best birthday gift I got this year." I asked what other fun things she received for her birthday and she whispered, "This was the only gift I got this year." I hugged little Megan, telling her how honored I was to get to celebrate her birthday with her.

As I got in my car to come back to work, I sobbed. It was just a few books and pencils. How could that possibly be the best gift? I went home later that night and told my husband that we would be adopting a second grader. Fighting back tears of his own, he said, "You know, Laur, you and Megan are a lot alike. You both really value the gift of presence." He was right. Megan didn't care about the party or the gift bag. She didn't care about the presents. She cared about my presence.

Thanks to the lesson I learned from little Megan, this year, I resolve to be present. Present in my relationship with God. Present in my time with loved ones. Present in my conversations with friends. Present in my time with Megan. I pray that you, too, find opportunities to give the gift of being truly present.

Blessings,

Lauren

Collection Connection

Health Supplies for Nicaragua

Country Club Christian Church is sending a group to Nicaragua to provide medical and construction work to the poorest of the poor. This group will be leaving Feb. 11 and returning on Feb. 19, 2012.

As part of this trip, the group will be providing home health kits to local families. They will provide the most basic of items we all take for granted for the most simple of everyday health issues. We are collecting the following items during January to take with us to Nicaragua: acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil), antacids (Tums), cough drops, antibiotic ointment (Neosporin), bandages, toothbrushes, adult vitamins, children's vitamins (no gummies – they melt), prenatal vitamins (no softgels – they melt). Our greatest needs are for prenatal vitamins (no softgels) and antibiotic ointment. These two items are among the most expensive items we take with us and are of great importance to the people we will be visiting.

Due to restrictions on what we are allowed to bring into Nicaragua, we will be purchasing soap and toothpaste in Nicaragua to include in each kit.

If you would like to donate any of the above items [Note: All expiration dates must be no earlier than October 2012], or cash to help with the purchase of items in Nicaragua, please place your donations in the Parlor.

Upcoming Youth Events

Chi Rho and CYF Youth Group

Join Dr. Glen Miles this week at youth group on Sun., Jan. 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205) as we explore questions of faith. All Chi Rho (6th-8th graders) and CYF (9th-12th graders) are encouraged to attend.

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!

Chi Rho and CYF Laser Tag

If you are interested in joining the Chi Rho and CYF crew for a night of laser tag on Fri., Jan. 20, please contact Justin at justinz@cccckc.org. We will be meeting at the church at 7:30 p.m. and getting back to the church around 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$18 per person.

Chi Rho to Harvesters

All families and youth in the Chi Rho age group (6th-8th grade) are invited to join us as we go to Harvesters Community Food Network on Thur., Jan. 12 to serve by sorting food. Please contact Justin by phone or email if you

are interested. We will be leaving the church at 5:45 p.m. and returning to the church at 8:00 p.m.

Parent Gathering

Sun., Jan. 29

Parents of youth are invited to gather from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 29 in the Youth Center for a time of fellowship and conversation. Our focus will be a conversation about the film *Race to Nowhere* and how the ideas that were gathered from the film impact us as a youth ministry. Even if you were not able to attend the viewing, please plan to come and share your insights and ideas. A light dinner will be served. RSVP to Heather Rotter at heatherr@cccckc.org.

Pastors' Class

Beginning Wed., Feb. 1, Pastors' Class for youth 6th grade and older will meet on Wednesday evenings until Palm Sunday. The class is designed to provide time, space, and tools to help students more clearly name their identity as Christians and their connection to this faith community. The sessions will help the youth identify what God is doing in the world; reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; and explore how this impacts who and how they are in the world. Students will have the opportunity to celebrate these insights and transformation through the ritual of baptism and church membership on Palm Sunday, Apr. 1. The class will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For information, contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

Preschool Open House

The Country Club Christian Church preschool will have an open house Tues., Jan. 31-Wed., Feb. 2, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent board members will be available to give tours and answer questions about the program.

Enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year will be the following week:

- Preschool and Transition with Parents Day Out siblings for *currently* enrolled families will be Mon, Feb. 6, at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.
- Parents Day Out for *currently* enrolled families will be Tues., Feb. 7, at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.
- Preschool and Parents Day Out open enrollment for the public will be Thur., Feb. 9 at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Please contact the school office at 816-333-6311 with questions.

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. Rehearsals begin this Sun., Jan. 8, during the regular choir rehearsal, 10:40-11:00 a.m. For more information, contact Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music, at lainer@cccckc.org.





The Grace to ...

by Rev. Chuck Murphy, Minister of Congregational Care



When I received the recent news that a friend died suddenly, I was devastated. Yes, he was older and had been ill over the past year, but his quick decline stunned his family and friends. Feelings of guilt dominated me. I should have spent more time with him. Why hadn't his family called me and asked me to participate in his memorial service? Had I done something that disappointed him or them?

During the days that followed, I thought about the times I had spent with him. I marveled how dedicated he was in the care of his wife, who had been ill for many years. Could I have been able to care for her as he did? Where did he find the strength every day to care for her and visit her in the nursing home? I remembered how he loved his children and found ways to help them achieve their lifetime goals. Then, the guilt crept in again and I felt bad that I had not spoken to my nieces and nephew over the past few weeks.

I knew I needed to go to his memorial service to hear, to participate, to mourn, to... As I sat in the service, I heard words that I have often heard before, "Speak to our hearts your words of comfort; touch us with the hope as promised in Scripture." But, this time, the words felt as if they were my own, words that I had not been able to voice within my heart. The comfort that I was seeking was to be able to share what was in my heart, what I felt about my friend and how I had admired him.

In that moment, I had received the grace to feel what I had felt, no more and no less. The guilt I had experienced on hearing the news of his death was blocking what I felt deep within. Grace had acted to remove the guilt. It was good to be able to feel sadness at the loss of a friend. And, it was good to recall memories that may be God's way to help me to learn from my friend to be a better husband and friend to others. By removing the guilt, grace allowed me to accept my feelings of grief, receive comfort and honor my friend as I continue my sacred journey.

Chuck

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith Rotation

Wisdom & Prophets: Jesus as Prophet
Jan. 8-Feb. 5

1st-5th graders will gain an understanding of how Jesus' teachings and preaching were words of a prophet calling us to a faithful and loving life. Jesus instructed all in ways to care for one another and God's creation. As the children explore New Testament stories about Jesus they will gain understanding of his prophetic role to us today. Through cooking, art, storytelling and service children will learn about the role of a prophet.

Club Kids

Club Kids will resume Sunday evening gatherings on Jan. 8.

Save the Date - Sunday, January 22

tubing at Snow Creek in Weston, noon-5:30 p.m. Watch for full details in the weekly Children and Family email.

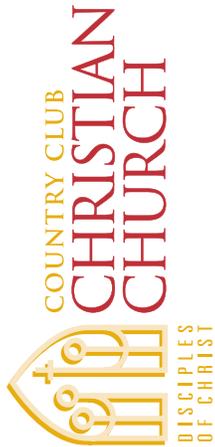
Mystery Trip

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? 1st and 2nd graders make plans to join us for a mystery trip on Sat., Jan. 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$13 per child. Space is limited to 12 so sign up soon. We will gather at church that morning and head out to an undisclosed destination.

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.

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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
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Virginia Reed Food Drive on Jan. 22

On Sun., Jan. 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. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

Our Church Family

Sympathy

ZENO "BUD" YATES passed away Dec. 30. The service was Jan. 3 at Mt. Moriah. He is survived by daughters, Kathy Kinnaman and Sara Wiklund.

Memorials

Milt Luce

Linda & Dick Nixon

Theron Swank

Don & Mary Dibble
Linda & Dick Nixon
John & Erma Hess

John Tilton

Bette & Byron McDaniel
John & Erma Hess
Paula Lane
Linda & Dick Nixon
Martha Jo Strickler
Marie Furlong

Radio Broadcast

John Tilton

Carol & Richard Chapman

Capital Campaign

John Tilton

Greg & Nancy Lear

Capital Campaign

Theron Swank

Greg & Nancy Lear

Cross-Lines Food Kitchen

John Tilton

Bob & Jane Marty