



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.

Join Us Aug. 17 for Festival Sunday!

Join us for worship on Festival Sunday, Aug. 17! This annual celebration kicks off our program year with fun, fellowship and festivity. Don't miss this exciting day, featuring:

- 🎵 New worship times debut with services at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- 🎵 Dr. Glen Miles presents the sermon *Grace Notes*, Ephesians 3:1-12.
- 🎵 New Sunday School time begins (9:55-10:55 a.m.)
- 🎵 Brunch following each service in the Social Hall. Suggested donation is \$5/person or \$20/family. Visitors invited as our complimentary guests. Make your reservation in the parlor on Sunday morning or call 816-333-4917 to RSVP.
- 🎵 We welcome The Kansas City Brass at the 11:00 a.m. service.
- 🎵 Receive your copy of the Fall Ministry and Events Guide. Learn about the many opportunities to grow, connect and serve.
- 🎵 Children and youth meet their new teachers as they move to the next grade level at 9:55 a.m. Sunday School.



For more information, e-mail marymargareta@cccckc.org or call 816-333-4917.



Mission Team Returns from Nicaragua



Our mission team returned from Nicaragua on July 20 after spending a week in a remote village. After encountering a glitch at customs with some of the medical supplies, the group set out for the eight-hour drive to their worksite. Participants included: Rev. Carla Aday, Stephanie Pilkington, Lori Bennett, Carty Johansen, Beverly Johnson, Anne Ingersoll, Allison Stanford, Ashley Stanford, Jim Stanford.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities New Orleans – Oct. 19-25

From Oct. 19 to 25, a mission team will make a fourth trip to the New Orleans area to assist in the ongoing rebuilding efforts. Anyone 16 years of age or older may participate. Contact Kelley Quinn, lay leader, at elmokitty@everestkc.net or 816-333-1859.

Nicaragua – Jan. 24-Feb. 1, 2009

If you missed the recent trip to Nicaragua, you will have another opportunity early in 2009. For information about the next trip, contact Rev. Carla Aday at 816-333-7538 or carlaa@cccckc.org.

South Africa – Mar. 7-21, 2009

A team returns to the Kei region of South Africa in March 2009. Contact Nancy Lear at nlear@gilmorebell.com for more information about this opportunity.

Find Unique Gifts and Reading Materials at The Well

The Well, our book and gift store, carries reading materials which help nurture the spiritual life, as well as gift items, many of which are the work of artisans in developing global economies. Purchases at The Well directly benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world.

If you purchase books, music or anything else through the Amazon.com web site, a percentage of your purchase price will go toward The Well's benefi-

ary. Go to www.cccckc.org and click on Bookstore, then click The Well and use the Amazon search engine.



The Well is located on the ground floor directly opposite the east entrance and just north of the main staircase on the ground floor. It is open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays and on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Newsletter Goes Green

Starting in August, if we have your e-mail address on file we will begin automatically sending the Country Club Christian newsletter electronically via e-mail, rather than mailing you a hard copy. By moving to an electronic newsletter, we will save the church a significant amount of money in postage, paper and ink costs. In addition, we are helping the environment by using less paper and fewer printing chemicals. Those of you who already receive the newsletter by e-mail know that it arrives earlier in the week than the mailed hard copy, and it has the added bonus of color photos.

Of course, if you don't have an e-mail address, you may still receive the Christian in the mail.

If we have your e-mail address on file, you will begin to see the newsletter arrive in your in-box very soon. If we don't have your e-mail address on file, please send it to Jane at janef@cccckc.org or call 816-333-4917, ext. 228. If you are unsure, send us your e-mail address anyway. Thank you for helping make Country Club Christian Church more environmentally friendly!



God's Annoying Love

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



Do you remember the parable Jesus told about a man who owned a vineyard? You can find it in Matthew 20. The short version is this: A man owned a vineyard and needed help to harvest the grapes. Early in the day he found some workers. He promised them \$100. Later in the day he saw that he needed more workers. Around noon he hired many more and promised them \$100 each. Still later, as the day was winding down, there were still too many grapes. He hired another group and promised \$100 per person when the work was through. You can

see where this is going can't you? When the checks were handed out the folks who worked the longest were very upset that everyone received the same amount.

To one of the complainers the vineyard owner said, "Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage...didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?"

William Willimon preached on this text during his time as chaplain at Duke University. A woman came up to him afterwards and asked, "Where do you get all of these stories that you tell in your sermons?" He answered, "Well, from my childhood in South Carolina, from here at Duke. I'm always looking for stories." She asked, "Where did you get that story about the vineyard?" He replied, "That's not mine. That one belongs to Jesus, it's from the Bible." She said, "Well, I've not been to church much in my life but I've got to tell you that I don't like that story. It doesn't make any sense. It's annoying."

He thanked her for sharing with him. He said, "You know, we Christians hear these stories so many times we forget how shocking they are. In fact, Jesus was crucified because he told stories like this."

I confess that I don't really like Jesus' story either. I'm uncomfortable with the idea that someone who works less than me gets the same pay. It bothers me a lot until I hear myself speak a word in anger toward one I love or I fail to live my life with love at the center. Then, when I see my need for forgiveness, for grace, for God's annoying love, it suddenly dawns on me: the most shocking aspect of God's annoying love is the simple fact that God loves me. And you.

Grace and Peace to you,

New Worship Times

Beginning Aug. 17

8:00 a.m. – Service in the Combs Chapel. During this quiet and reflective service, clergy will deliver a brief homily. Featuring familiar, traditional music out of the denominational hymnal.

9:00 a.m. – Service in the Sanctuary. A more informal service featuring familiar parts (offering, Children's Moment, communion, sermon, etc.), with a heavier focus on congregational singing.

10:00 a.m. – Service in the Combs Chapel. This service is more intimate, usually featuring soloists instead of choirs.

11:00 a.m. – Service in the Sanctuary. The most traditional of the four services, this service combines offering, communion, a sermon, hymnal songs and music by the Chancel Choir.

Worship with us!

at 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Dr. R. Glen Miles

Aug. 3

The Unforced Rhythms
of Grace
Matthew 11:28-30

Aug. 10

Rev. Kelly Ingersoll preaching
C+ Faith
Romans 10: 5-15

Aug. 17

Festival Sunday
Grace Notes
Ephesians 3: 1-12

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Pathways to Learning



It's the Economy: Four Perspectives – Money or “mammon” is the most talked about subject in the Bible. And today, people still worry about their pocketbooks as well as the complex issues of a global economy. Take a fresh look at the issues from the vantage point of an individual, a U.S. citizen, a global person and a Christian. Each Sunday in September from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m., we will present a different perspective. Speakers will be announced.

Sept. 17 – Personal Perspective

Sept. 24 – United States Perspective

Sept. 21 – Global Perspective

Sept. 28 – Biblical Perspective

Seven Spiritual Mini-Retreats for Women

How do we find the quiet center in the midst of all of life's busyness and clutter? How can we follow the Spirit's leading until we become aware of the Spirit's presence in our own lives? Beginning in September and continuing throughout the coming year, a series of short mini-retreats for women will focus on exploring and deepening our spiritual journeys through prayer, meditation, and guided reflections. Cost \$85 for all seven retreats, including two lunches and all leadership.

The first session will be Sept. 24 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Sacred Space in Combs Chapel. Subsequent retreats will be Oct. 22, Dec. 3, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25 and April 22. Watch for more information.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

Save the date and join us for a special celebration of Dr. George Gordon's 32 years of dedicated ministry to the people of Country Club Christian Church and Kansas City. Don't miss this opportunity to thank George and congratulate him on his retirement as Minister of Congregational Care.

College-Age Group [age 18-24]

A Sunday School class for young adults of college age meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:40 a.m. in room 116 and uses the *Fruits of the Spirit* curriculum. Everyone between 18 and 24 years of age is invited.

Summer for social events:

Aug. 6 – Cosmic Bowling. We will meet at Mission Bowl, 5399 Martway, at 9:15 p.m.

Contact Rev. Kelly Ingersoll, Minister to Youth and Young Adults, at kellyi@cccckc.org for more information.



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. Join us for the **One-ders Bible Study**, Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in Rm. 302 on the third floor of the church. For more information, contact Suzy Spencer at 816-668-4156.

Aug. 5 – We will spend the morning preparing a meal for the Argentine Food Kitchen. For more information on our planned and spontaneous social events, contact Betsy Wilson at betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com.

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

Tuesday Evenings: Beginning Aug. 5 we will meet for dinner on the first Tuesday each month. Gather in the Youth Center (Room 205) at 6:30 p.m. for a home-cooked dinner. Suggested donation \$5; first-timers eat free! Enter the east/back door of the church and follow the signs to Room 205. Reservations appreciated for dinner – call 816-333-4917 or email janef@cccckc.org.

Learn More: YaWhose sends a weekly e-newsletter with all the latest news. To receive this, please email janef@cccckc.org. Or if you have questions, contact Rev. Carla Aday at 816-333-4917 or carlaa@cccckc.org.



Musings on Connections

by Cynthia Heller, Minister of Parish Vistation



Frequently I find that people are reluctant to visit folks in a nursing home because they “just don’t know what to say.” I must admit, it is a challenge to visit with someone whose background is unfamiliar, or someone who has forgotten the things you used to have in common.

However, “visiting” does not necessarily mean conversation. One reason I have so many books on Kansas City with abundant photographs is to facilitate sharing. Just looking at old pictures can be enjoyable, and sometimes they spark a pleasant memory.

Music is another means of connecting. Often we can remember songs we learned at an early age better than words or pictures. (If you want proof of this, sing the Doxology that you sang in church as a child. Don’t think about it, just sing. How’d you do?) I find folks can sing along with hymns they learned in Sunday school or worship longer than they can remember all the words to the Lord’s Prayer. I’ve learned most of my shut-ins enjoy “Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” which was often sung as a closing hymn. Other favorites include “The Church in the Wildwood,” “Rock of Ages” or camp songs like “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.” You don’t have to be a member of the choir or have a good voice to sing one of these old tunes – just a willingness to connect. I have copies of old hymnals in my office to share, including the *Hymns of the Faith* hymnal used by the former Married People’s Sunday school class.

A simple activity is a pleasant way to spend time together also. Just rolling around the facility or for a short distance outside can be a treat for someone who can’t wheel themselves independently. Enjoy the scenery together. Play Chinese checkers or a basic matching game. Emphasize fun over rules.

Allow for surprises. I’ll always remember the time one of our shut-ins, a former kindergarten teacher with dementia, took the book I was reading to her, gave it to my son, and proceeded to encourage him to read. For 20 minutes she was once again a teacher, doing what she loved, doing what no one expected her to be able to do. Moments like that make the extra effort of a visit worthwhile. Blessings,

Cynthia

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service

On Aug. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel will be our special “hymns by request” Healing and Wholeness prayer service. If you have a special hymn to request that is not in *Chalice Worship*, please call Rev. Cynthia Heller at 816-333-4917 or bring the hymn to her office by Fri., Aug. 1.

Tall Oaks Gala Is Oct. 10

Every Day’s A Holiday at the 2008 Tall Oaks Conference

Center annual benefit dinner. Proceeds help benefit camps and conferences in which



our congregation participates. The 11th annual gala fundraising event will be Oct. 10 at the Muehlebach Tower of the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Sharon Bracken at Tall Oaks, 913-301-3004, or Ken Mohler, 816-444-1553.

Sticks and Phones Orffestra CD Available in The Well

A CD of 14 selections recorded by our Sticks and Phones Orffestra is now available. The recording is 42 minutes and is available in The Well for \$10.00. All proceeds go to The Well’s beneficiary, Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world.

Chi Rho Youth Work in Oklahoma

What can 16 people do in Oklahoma City for a week? A Chi Rho mission trip of course! The group worked, served, and learned together as they went to various schools and agencies around the Oklahoma City area. These places included the YWCA, The Infant Crisis Center, Orvis Reisner (a school with a high population of low income students), and Positive Tomorrows (a school for homeless children). Thank you for all your prayers and support for this group of youth.



Left, some of the youth visit the Oklahoma City Memorial. Left to right are Polly Haun, Lucy Lehoczky, Michaela O'Connor, Ben McBride, Connor Ehman and Zöe Ziegenhorn.



Members of the mission team pose at the Infant Crisis Center in Oklahoma City. Back row: Christopher Wehr, Andrew Long, Connor Ehman, Ben McBride and Tyler Moffat. Third row: Carly Trout, Beth (the Director at Infant Crisis Center), Zöe Ziegenhorn, Lucy Lehoczky, Polly Haun, and Tori (a volunteer at the center). Second row: Christopher Martin and Steven Miles. Front row: Kellin Martiny and Michaela O'Connor.

Youth Ministry Extravaganza

Sun, Sept. 7, 9:30 a.m.

Come hear what is going on in Youth Ministry during 2008-2009. Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Center (Room 205) for coffee and a light breakfast. The formal program will begin at 10:15 a.m. We will distribute Youth Ministry packets to youth and parents and you will have an opportunity to sign up for volunteer teams. We will be done at 12:30 p.m.

Save the Date

Race to Grace 2 Is Coming!

All middle school and high school youth are urged to mark their calendars for Aug. 22-24 for Race to Grace 2, a follow-up to the highly acclaimed Race to Grace 2007.

If you have seen TV's *The Amazing Race* you have an idea of what the event is all about. Teams of middle school and high school students will travel all over the metro in a race to solve clues and compete in different mental and physical challenges. Think of it as a high-energy scavenger hunt with something for everyone. Invite your friends for a fun-filled weekend.

This is also an opportunity for adults to create a weekend of faith development and fun for our youth. If you are a parent or adult who is interested in volunteering, contact Rev. Kelly Ingersoll at kellyi@cccckc.org or Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org. We are pumped for R2G2 this year and hope that you will join in the fun, fellowship, and growth in faith.

CYF and Chi Rho Upcoming Events

- Race to Grace—Aug. 22-24
- Fall Kick-Off—Sept. 7
- CYF Fall Retreat—Nov. 21-23, Tall Oaks Conference Center
- Pastors' Class Information Session—Oct. 1



A Fond Farewell

by Dale Ramsey, Associate Organist



As this is my final article before retiring as Associate Organist, I want to take the opportunity to thank Country Club Christian Church for the privilege of serving nine years on this staff. It has been a joyful, productive and fulfilling tenure for me. David Diebold has been a most gracious colleague. The members of the Chancel Choir have been welcoming and appreciative. The general membership of the church has been encouraging and friendly. Other staff have been cooperative and professional. We have all toiled together in harmony and with mutual respect. I can't

imagine a more positive environment in which to work and minister. I have been blessed.

I do want to clear up a confusion. During that nine years, I was never full-time with the church. And during that time I did have a "day job." I am amused when I have conversation with folks who did not realize that. I operate a small business out of my home. I am retiring from my work as an organist, but will continue the publishing/music editing business I own. I am not moving to another church. I am "hanging up my shoes."

And, the reason I am doing that is because, after far too many years, I have come to the age when my tired body objects to working 6½ days a week, plus some evenings. Something had to give. It was my decision to keep the home office.

When I first came to Country Club Christian Church, my business was flourishing—and still is. At that time, I actually scaled back the work at home a bit to create time to be your Associate Organist. For me, working here was never a necessity. I didn't need the job. But, I wanted to be a part of this wonderful church and to share with David Diebold in this incredible music ministry. It was a pleasure and an honor to do so. It was a wonderful opportunity to do ministry.

I have all the confidence in the world about the future of Country Club Christian Church. I would favorably compare this staff with any church in the Midwest. The congregation remains strong and vital. Young leadership is stepping up with effectiveness and vision. The future looks very good to me, and I wish only the absolute best for all of you. May God's blessing continue with you and this wonderful congregation.

Dale

Note: Rev. Ramsey's last Sunday as our associate organist is Sept. 14. Watch for more information about a reception thanking him for his years of dedication to Country Club Christian Church.

Children and Families

Backyard Movie Night

Fri., Aug. 29, at 7:00 p.m.

Families are invited to join us for an outdoor movie night on the back lawn of the church. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and snacks.

TGIF (This Group Is Fun)

Mark your calendar for Fri., Aug. 22.

Parents of youth children (under the age of six) gather on the fourth Friday of each month for food, fun and friendship through a host-focused discussion exploring parenting with Christian foundations.

Third Grade Bibles

New NRSV Children's Bibles will be presented to incoming third graders at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Aug. 17.

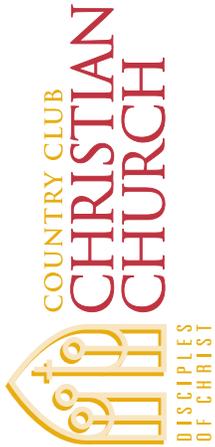
Letters have been sent to the families of those receiving bibles. If you know of a third grader who has been missed, please tell Chris at christ@cccckc.org or call 816-333-4917 as soon as possible.

Infant and Child Dedications

We joyfully welcome new babies and young children into our congregation through special recognition during a worship service.

The next opportunity is Sun., Aug. 24, during the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would like to be included in this service, contact Chris Trout at 816-333-4917 or christ@cccckc.org.

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Dr. George Gordon III
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Old Fashioned Picnic

Sept. 28 at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall

Mark you calendar to join your church friends for an old-fashioned fellowship opportunity on Sun. Sept. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m in the Social Hall. The meat will be provided. Bring a salad or dessert to share and enjoy the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. If you don't cook, bring canned goods to donate to a local food bank.

Our Church Family Sympathy

LIDA SCHWEGLER passed away July 17 in Liberty, MO. She is survived by sons Robert, Stephan and Thomas. Services were held July 26 in the chapel, Dr. George Gordon officiating.

BETTY PHILLIPS TRACY passed away July 20. Services were July 27, Rev. Cynthia Heller officiating.

In the Hospital

As of July 24, we are calling on the following individuals: Milt Luce at Manor Care and Theron Swank at St. Joseph.

Memorials

PAULINE M. DUER
John & Erma Hess

FRANCES A. WALDO
John & Erma Hess

CLEO M. LITTLE
Tri C's Sunday School Class

KC Food & Shelter Fund
SYDNEY L. BAIR JR.

John & Erma Hess

CLEO M. LITTLE
Robert L. Wolf
LIDA L. SCHWEGLER
Robert L. Wolf