



# 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.*

## Festival Sunday Is August 21

Join us this Sunday for Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth and adults. Dr. R. Glen Miles will preach the sermon *Grace Spoken Here*, children and youth will advance to the next Sunday School grade level, and we will gather for lunch on the front lawn.



Representatives of the Kansas City Missouri School District and church members who volunteer in the schools will be recognized during the 11:00 a.m. worship service and will pledge to assist the children of the district.

## Picnic on the Front Lawn



**11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m.**

- ◆ Fun, food and festivities for all!
- ◆ 5 Star Jazz band will play old favorites.
- ◆ Picnic lunch served. (\$6 per person, maximum \$25 per family. Guests and visitors complimentary.)
- ◆ Enjoy games such as bean bag toss and an inflatable bounce house.
- ◆ Fruit and breads in the Parlor; sign up for fall classes and events.

Special thanks to Jennie Beck and more than 60 members who shared time and talent to make Festival Sunday a grand celebration!

## 10th Anniversary of September 11

### Special Worship Times

The 10th anniversary of 9/11 will be recognized during two worship services on Sun., Sept. 11, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Clergy representatives from different faith traditions will join Dr. Glen Miles in leading services focused on unity and hope for the future. There will be no 10:00 a.m. chapel service that day.

### Miroslav Volf to Speak



Country Club Christian Church and Central Baptist Theological Seminary are partnering to bring acclaimed author Miroslav Volf to Kansas City. On **Sat., Sept. 10** at 6:30 p.m., Dr. Volf will speak at Central's Baugh Marshall Chapel,

6601 Monticello Road, Shawnee, KS. The event is free and open to the public, but requires a ticket as space is limited. Call 913-667-5700 for ticket information. On **Sun., Sept. 11**, Dr. Volf will speak here as part of the Pathways to Learning series. His presentation, entitled *A Christian Response to 9/11*, is from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

### Book Study

Purchase *Allah: A Christian Response* in The Well Book and Gift store for \$25, and then join a 4-week study and discussion group facilitated by Phil Love that will meet on Tuesdays beginning Aug. 30 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.



# New Members Welcomed on August 14



Sally Nielsen  
**New Member Host:** Shirley Hansell



Stacy Bowers and Jason Miles  
**New Member Hosts:** John and Mallory Leach



Nicole Churchwell and Eddie Ellermeier  
**New Member Hosts:** Justin and Kate Beebe



Reagan and Kathleen Brewer  
**New Member Hosts:** Eric and Kathryn Holtze



Dan and Julie Murray with son, Evan, and daughter, Lauren  
**New Member Host:** Heidi Hicks



Garrett and Courtney Sullivan with children Gray and Aislinn  
**New Member Hosts:** Lori and Daron Bennett



Rob and Carrie Gilkerson (not pictured are children Ella and Baden)  
**New Member Host:** Matt and Laura Wildman



Adam Markt  
**New Member Host:** Scott Fuller



## Wrestling with God

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



In the Biblical story of Jacob, we find him wrestling in the middle of the night with God. God has come after Jacob. God has come to him.

Kathleen Norris, author of the book, *Amazing Grace*, isn't so sure that we want a God who comes after us, a God who assaults us in the middle of the night, a God who gives us GRACE whether we want it or not. She writes:

*"One so often hears people say, 'I just can't handle it,' when they reject a biblical image of God*

*as Father, as Mother, as Lord or Judge; God as Lover, as angry or jealous, God on a cross. I find this choice of words revealing, however real the pain they reflect: if we seek a God we can 'handle,' that will be exactly what we get. A God we can manipulate, suspiciously like ourselves, the wideness of whose mercy we've cut down to size."*

We don't need a safe God, we need one who is larger and holier and maybe even downright more dangerous than ourselves. Maybe, when we are ready to wrestle with that One, we will discover the blessing that is waiting.

Søren Kierkegaard prays, "Now with God's help, I shall become myself."

Is that what we are most afraid of, becoming ourselves, being true to the one that God created us to be? I knew a minister who went on retreat. He met with the leader of the event, a spiritual director. The minister said to him, "I'm so afraid my congregation will find out who I really am because I am no saint. I am so far short of being the one they think I am." The leader of the retreat replied, "Maybe all your congregation needs is the awareness that their pastor is one of them, wounded, broken, blessed."

When daylight finally arrives for Jacob, God is nowhere to be seen. But Jacob is gone, too. For he has been wounded and in the wounding he has been reborn, he has been renamed, he has been blessed, he is Israel. Has he encountered the dreaded holy and survived? Yes. Oh, he is wounded, but alive and that limp, that blessed limp, will remind him and us until the end of our days, of the very grace of God.

What does God want from you? Just you and nothing more...and nothing less.

Grace and peace to you,

*Glen*

## Annual Elder/Deacon Retreat

The annual Elder and Deacon Retreat led by Dr. Glen Miles is Sat., Aug. 27, from 8:15-11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Donuts and coffee will be served at 8:15 a.m., followed by the program. The theme is *Love Never Fails: Leading with Faith, Hope and Love*.

The installation of new Elders has been rescheduled for Sun., Aug. 28 at 11:00 a.m. worship. For those who are unable to attend, there will be another opportunity on Sun., Sept. 18 at 11:00 a.m.

## Worship with us!

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

**August 21**  
**Festival Sunday**  
Grace Spoken Here  
*Romans 5: 1-5*

**August 28**  
Love From the Center  
*Romans 12: 9-21*

**September 4**  
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Adult Bible Studies Beginning Soon

### Short-term and Long-term Options Available

Opportunities for Bible study and faith formation groups are beginning this month. Options are available for both short-term groups and longer term study.

**Allah: A Christian Response** – Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God? Beginning Aug. 30 and continuing through Sept. 20, this group will meet on Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Phil Love will lead this four-week discussion of a new and timely book by a cutting edge theologian named Miroslav Volf. The class will encourage participants to ponder one of the most sensitive and critical questions of the 21st century. The book is \$25 in The Well.

**Disciples Bible Study I (DBS)** – This overview of the entire Bible invites you to know the whole story and to let it shape your life in new ways. Participants engage in daily/weekly homework reading of the Bible and the Disciple Bible Study workbook. The course benefits from the most modern scholarship available and challenges students to become Disciples. **Thursday Afternoons** – Led by Rev. Steve Mason, this class meets every week from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Sept. 1-May 17. The book will be available in the church office for \$35.

**Jesus in the Gospels** (pre-requisite: Disciple Bible Study I) – Compare and contrast the four gospels in this 30-week study which explores the images of Jesus found in scripture and how we might faithfully follow in his path. Homework is required. **Wednesday Evenings** – Led by Rev. Chuck Murphy, this class meets the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning Sept. 7, from 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

**Faithbook** – 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. For women ages 25-65. **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. Sign up with Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org).

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** – This group for seniors will study the book of Hebrews. It meets Wednesday morning beginning Sept. 7 through May from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205), led by Rev. Chuck Murphy.

More opportunities will continue in the fall and in 2012. Check out the listings in the Fall 2011 Ministries Guide

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## Green Team Classes

### Salsa From the Garden – Canning 101

**Tues., Aug. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Take your first steps toward preserving fresh local produce by learning how to water bath can salsa. Hands-on experience with Karen Elliott, Nutrition and Health Education Specialist, University of Missouri Extension. We will meet in the Social Hall kitchen on the ground floor. Please register in advance through Mary Margaret House, [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917. Cost is \$15 at the door, payable to University of Missouri Extension.



**Compost: Breakfast of Champion Gardens:** Thur., Oct. 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Don't pay to have someone take away your fall leaves and yard waste! Learn simple composting methods to recycle yard waste into organic matter that will turn your soil into champion soil. Instructor: Kathy Hoggard, Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City. We will meet in the Youth Center (Rm. 205).

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## Collection Connection

### Cross-Lines Community Outreach

In August, we are collecting items for Cross-Lines Community Outreach for its shower facilities. Guests who are day laborers, homeless, or are new in town and looking for jobs, often shower and change into appropriate clean clothing there for interview opportunities. Items needed include full size shampoo and conditioner, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper and diapers (especially sizes 3-5). Please bring your donations to the Parlor. Cash donations are also accepted.



## Lessons from the Journey

by Ms. Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



“I think we have a defective Jesus,” my husband, Jake, said, peering into a vase filled with water. In the bottom was a tiny plastic Jesus figurine, given to him as a gag gift. The packaging promised that if immersed, Jesus would grow to 600 percent of its original size. Our Jesus, submerged for a day, was still, sadly, his tiny plastic self.

We got a good chuckle out of the conversation, and I assumed that would be that. Plastic Jesus would stay tiny, relegated to the junk drawer with the McDonalds Happy Meal toys and Polly

Pocket shoes. The vase would go back to holding fresh flowers.

Yet there Jake was, two days later, checking on Jesus, who by this time appeared to have grown just a smidge. He (Jesus, not Jake) had also fallen forward in the vase so that he appeared to be doing a set of pushups. “I think he’s getting bigger,” Jake reported, as he reached into the water to prop Jesus back upright.

I began to wonder just how long Jesus was going to stare out at me from his vase on the kitchen counter. And if indeed he was growing, how big might he eventually get? Six hundred percent seems like some pretty substantial growth for a tiny plastic Jesus. And then...what would we do with him?

Amused by Jake’s daily tending of this toy, I was reminded of my tomato plants. Potted in the spring, I have lovingly watered and watched over my little plants. I envisioned a summer of delicious salads cultivated in my own back yard. But as the plants have grown and flourished into huge bushes, we’ve enjoyed not a single fruit. Squirrels have run off with all the bounty, and yet I still water, prune and tend, waiting for new growth.

I realized I often find myself watching, tending and waiting. Here at church, where the staff works to feed you spiritually, to nourish your faith development, to encourage community, to keep you informed so that we can grow our congregation and share the gifts of this church. At home, where I try to protect, teach and nurture my daughter so that she grows into a well-rounded young woman.

But maybe waiting for something to finish growing isn’t the point. Jesus, the tomatoes, the church, my child...maybe the point is the journey that growth requires. The common experience, the lessons learned, the love shared.

So maybe our Jesus isn’t defective...maybe he’s just on his way.

*Lara*

## Grace at Work on September 24

Please join us Sat., Sept. 24 for our fifth Grace at Work event. Many hands will make for light work and a great impact in our community! A few hours of service can make a difference at a local organization in Kansas City or even complete projects right here at Country Club Christian Church. Grace at Work is a wonderful opportunity to make a short time commitment of service that results in a widespread impact in Kansas City. It offers a unique occasion for rewarding fellowship and service that you will not want to miss. Watch for sign-ups later this summer.



## Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on September 6

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 6, in the Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings. Come join a worship of grace and acceptance, a sacred place for prayer that will create moments where hope may carry you in the journey ahead.

## Food Drive Needs Your Help on August 21

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 lot or in the barrels located at the east and north doors. Food is also purchased in case lots for the pantries so cash donations are welcome. On **Aug. 21**, please bring your non-perishable food items for our collection. Mark your cash donations “food drive” and place in the offering plate.

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# Christian Community Camp 2011



A group from Country Club Christian Church enjoyed fellowship and community among the sights of Colorado during Christian Community Camp July 31-Aug. 6. Watch for information to sign up for the 2012 camp on July 28-Aug. 4.



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## Change in Sunday School Classrooms

With the start of a new Sunday School year, three adult classes are moving to new rooms.

The **Koinonia** class will meet in Room 305.

The **Anniversary** class will meet in the Pine Room (Rm. 10).

**Crossroads** is moving to Room 301.

## Upcoming Mission Trips

### New Orleans Mission Trip

For the seventh time, Country Club Christian Church will send a mission team to New Orleans to help with the reconstruction following Hurricane Katrina. The trip will be Sun., Oct. 30 through Sat., Nov. 5. We will once again work in partnership with the United Church of Christ to obtain our work projects. Betsy Wilson will be the trip leader. Contact Betsy at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com).

### Nicaragua

Help conduct medical clinics and construction projects in a small, rural village. Those with medical and dental training, a command of the Spanish language or construction skills especially needed, but no special skills required. Feb. 11-19, 2012  
Contact Rev. Carla Aday, [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org)

### Young Adults to Nicaragua

College students and recent college graduates of all skill backgrounds are invited to continue our work with our partners at CEPAD in Nicaragua on June 5-13, 2012. This trip is a chance for young adults to experience a week of cooperation and service, and have their eyes opened to global realities Nicaraguan brothers and sisters face. The trip will be precluded by three sessions of study and discussion (date and time to be decided by the mission trip members). Space is limited, so please sign up soon. Rev. Steve Mason, [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org).

### Joplin

Country Club Christian Church has volunteered to send a mission team to help with the rebuilding efforts after the May 22 tornado and is awaiting assignment. Date to be announced. Contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com) or call the church office.



## Come Hear Miroslav Volf

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



He was born in Croatia, the son of a pacifist Pentecostal minister. He was often sent to the principals office for discussing his religious beliefs. As a college student in Serbia he played in a Christian band that was once attacked and beaten by a gang of communists. While serving in the Yugoslavian army, he was interrogated and spied on because of his beliefs. So Miroslav Volf speaks from experience when he talks about living with hope in a world filled with violence and embracing the other in a world filled with various religions and cultures.

By a somewhat miraculous turn of events, Miroslav Volf, one of the world's most celebrated theologians, will speak at Pathways to Learning on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. I am grateful to Central Baptist Seminary and President Molly Marshall for partnering with us to make this possible.

Professor Volf, who teaches at Yale Divinity School and directs the Center for Faith and Culture, was in New York on 9/11/01 giving a talk at the United Nations. He has never given a formal presentation about his memory of this day. I am so excited that we will have the opportunity to hear this world renowned theologian reflect on this important day. I cannot think of anyone more qualified to guide us forward.

“He is a lot smarter and more knowledgeable than me”\* said former Prime Minister Tony Blair after he and Miroslav Volf co-taught a course “Faith and Globalization” at Yale for two years. Though they brought different philosophies to the table, they taught with mutual respect. One of the students in the class described Volf as having a “magnetic personality.” \*

A variety of books by Volf are now available in The Well. I'm pleased that Phil Love will offer a four-week discussion group on one of Volf's recent books *Allah: A Christian Response* beginning Aug. 30.

I hope to see you in the Social Hall on Sept. 11 and I hope you will invite a friend to church with you on this occasion.

\*(Yale Daily News)

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Shepherd Sunday

**August 21**

Children will meet by grade level this Sunday, Aug. 21 for Sunday School to connect with their Shepherds for the year. We hope to see all 1st-5th graders from 9:55-10:50 a.m.!!

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

**August 28 – September 18**

The first rotation of the year will have a focus by grade level to help children gain some basic tools to enhance their growing faithfulness.

1st grade = Worship Basics

2nd grade = Faith Practices

3rd grade = Know Your Bible

4th grade = The Church Year

5th grade = Into the World

### First Steps

**Sunday, September 4**

Parents with children under 3 are invited to join other families on the FIRST Sunday of the month from 10:00-10:50 a.m. We will explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness. Join us for informal fellowship in our new space in the Play Zone (Rm. 216) on the second floor in the Children's Wing.

### Club Kids

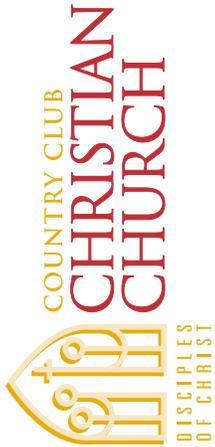
**September 11 – Kick-off Family Picnic**

All 3rd-5th graders and their families are invited for fellowship, fun and food from 5:00-7:00 p.m. hosted by the Lopatofsky family. Burgers, hot dogs and drinks provided; families are asked to bring a side dish to share. Watch for further details in the weekly email. We will be back to meeting at church on Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 18.

**Save the Date – Sunday, October 2**

Team building at Tall Oaks Conference Center, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
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. Catherine Stark-Corn**  
Minister to Children,  
Youth and Families

**Rev. Chuck Murphy**  
Minister of Congregational  
Care

**Mr. Justin Zeigler**  
Minister to Youth

**Mr. Rob Gilkerson**  
Business Administrator

**Ms. Karla Herrington**  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

**Rev. Steve Mason**  
Pastoral Resident

**Mr. Brian Mathias**  
Associate Organist

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

**Ms. Laine Riley**  
Associate Director of Music

**Ms. Lara Schopp**  
Director of Communications

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

## Brian Mathias to Give Recital

For the second time in a year, our Associate Organist, Brian Mathias, has been invited to participate in a prestigious international organ competition. In October of this year, Brian will fly to Montreal, where he and a small number of additional organists will vie for the coveted first prize. In preparation for the competition, Brian will present an organ recital on Mon., Aug. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary. That evening, he will share some of the works he will play in Canada. Composers represented on the recital are J.S. Bach, Vierne, Gagnon, and Liszt.

We have marveled at Brian's immense talent over the past year as a worship organist and accompanist. Join us that night to not only hear a great program, but to support him as he prepares for Montreal.

## Our Church Family Sympathy

Raymond Rowland passed away on Aug. 11. He is survived by his son, Richard Rowland. Services were Aug. 16 at Mt. Moriah and Freeman Funeral Home, Dr. Miles officiating.

ELSIE THOMPSON has passed away. She is survived by a daughter, Joan Riffe, and a son, Tommy Thompson. Services were Aug. 19 at Park Lawn Funeral Home, Rev. Aday officiating.

## Memorials

### Eleanor Hardy

Mrs. George Everhart  
Owen & Alice McPherson  
Janice & Frank McCollum  
Bob & Shirley Legg

### Music

### Millie Crawford

Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Houseworth

### Outreach

### Eleanor Hardy

Nancy Barnes

### Congregational Care

### Roy Garrison

Gay & Hal Woosley

### Permanent Mission Endowment Fund

### Millie Crawford

Max & Sue Deweese

### Roy Garrison

Max & Sue Deweese

### Art Bowen

Max & Sue Deweese

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)