



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

The Last Best Word
by Glen Miles
~ ~ ~
page 3

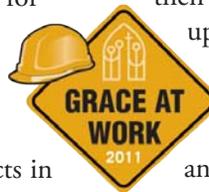
The Best Happiness
by Laine Riley
~ ~ ~
page 5

When I Can't ...
by Catherine Stark-Corn
~ ~ ~
page 7

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.

Sign Up for Grace at Work on September 24

Your chance to participate in the next Grace At Work day is right around the corner. The 7th Grace At Work day is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 24. Whether you're handy with a hammer, enjoy baking or have a gift for organization and cleaning, there is a project for you. You can sign up for one of 15 projects in the Last Supper Sculpture room or you can



register on-line at www.cccckc.org. We will gather in the Social Hall at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 24 and then head out to our various work sites, wrapping up our work around noon. We hope you can be a part of this fun, transformative event! Collectively, our few hours of volunteer work will have a huge impact on our church and our community.

Faithbook: Q&A

Faithbook is a new opportunity especially for women to explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey. It is designed to follow a convenient schedule that fits the lifestyle of busy women. Faithbook meets either Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m..

Your questions about this new opportunity are answered below.

What is the purpose?

To deepen our faith through friendship and learning the scriptures.

What if I can't come every week?

Well, you will be sad, but you won't be lost. Each lesson will stand alone rather than build on the previous week so if you need to miss because of illness, travel, or work that is fine. But your small group will miss you.

Is it every week?

We know you are busy. That is why we meet only 10 weeks in the fall, 15 weeks in the winter/spring. We will not meet in December or

continued on page 2

Capital Campaign Reaches \$2 Million

The three-year campaign to raise funds for capital projects has reached the \$2 million level. A huge thank you to those who have participated in the campaign by filling out a commitment card or otherwise making a donation. Preliminary work on the capital projects is underway.

It is not too late to participate in the campaign. If you'd like to fill out a commitment card, you may pick one up in the church office or visit www.cccckc.org to fill out your card electronically.



Faithbook: Q&A

continued from page 1

May, which are the two busiest months for most women.

Is there homework?

Absolutely not. But if you want to see the lesson it will be available on Facebook and the church website.

Why the age limit of 25-65?

We looked around and noticed that what was currently missing was an opportunity for women in this age range to connect with each other. So we created something new to help women in similar life stages to connect. Faithbook is aimed at women who are busy raising children, working and volunteering in the community but can spare one hour a week to nurture their own souls.

How do I get in a small group?

You can sign up for a specific small group leader or we can assign you to a group. Small group leaders so far: Tuesday night: Anne Hoffman, Lesley Holt, Carolyn Hughes, Mary McClure, Julie Miles, Dawn Murphy, Wednesday morning: Marcia Berry, Kathy Buckley, Michelle Schlatter.

What is the format?

Rev. Carla Aday will present the scripture lesson during the first half and then during the second half we will break into small groups to discuss how the lesson applies to our daily lives.

Is there childcare?

Yes, by advanced reservation at 816-333-4917.

Can I go back and forth between Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning?

Yes, of course. Please pick the time that works best for you and then switch on the weeks that you need to.

When does it start and how do I sign up?

Next week! The Tuesday night session begins Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m. and the Wednesday morning session begins Sept. 28 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org to sign up.

Church's Partnership with Hartman Thrives

In the spring of 2011, Country Club Christian Church began a volunteer program with Hartman Elementary School of the Kansas City Missouri School District. Currently we have approximately 30 volunteers working in the school with staff and students, and approximately 40 volunteers coordinating the Harvesters' Back Snack program for Hartman. On Aug. 21, administrators, teachers and volunteers from Hartman joined us in worship as our partnership with the district was honored in covenant.

If you'd like to volunteer at Hartman or with the Back Snack program, contact Lauren Weinhold at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

On behalf of the school, Hartman Principal, Dr. Jessie O. Kirksey, recently sent this letter of thanks to the church (on right).

Dear Friends,

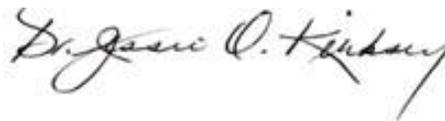
Blessings come in so many forms. YOU have returned to us and we know that there are wondrous times to come.

Being in your company for Festival Sunday was deeply meaningful for all of us. Dr. Miles' message, "Grace Spoken Here," touched each of us in so many different ways. His quiet, yet powerful message was loud and clear. Throughout the beautiful service, we heard commitment to our children and the desire to help each of our students become the best individual he or she could possibly be.

We, at Hartman, look forward to a year filled with memorable experiences for our entire Professional Learning Community. With Country Club Christian Church by our side, we can do no less than be highly successful at bringing about more positive educational and social opportunities for our youngsters.

Thank you, for making Hartman School feel so welcome on Sunday. It was a day that we will always cherish.

Most sincerely yours,





The Last Best Word

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The Last Best Word is the one that God wants the whole world to hear and know.

Paul wrote about this to the church in Corinth: “The love of Christ urges us on...Therefore we regard no one from a human point of view.”

When we see the world through eyes of God we see the world through the eyes of love. When we are able to see people with a love-filled vision the church becomes a reflection of God’s grace and love.

Love, the last best word. Through the love that we have encountered and seen revealed in Jesus we can now see each other, and in fact every person we meet, through the eyes of God.

H. Richard Niebuhr, a remarkable theologian, said, “The great Christian revolutions come not by the discovery of something that was not known before. They happen when somebody takes radically something that was always there.” The love of God has been there since the beginning of time. It is there today. It illuminates a pathway that is waiting to be followed.

Paul writes, “If anyone is in Christ there is a whole new world.” The Corinthians might not have liked hearing this word from their founding pastor. They were well known for their great culture, their high intelligence and thoughtful intellect. Corinth was wealthy and strong. But Paul wanted them to see that in Christ the world was being transformed and reformed.

William Willimon points out that “one of the peculiarities of the New Testament is that it so rarely tells us what to do. Mostly, it tells us what to see.” It is as though Jesus decides that what we need are a bunch of stories and parables that will help us find a new angle of vision on the world. Even Jesus’ life and the way he lived it is a sort of parable on how to be a person of faith.

When we choose to follow God as revealed in Jesus Christ we are saying that we will no longer see the world through the artificial human barriers that we have constructed. Instead, we will see things from heaven’s point of view.

Love will change our vision, transform our lives and renew our spirits. Love is the last best word.

Upcoming Infant Dedications

New babies and young children are a delightful addition to our congregation. We welcome them into the Country Club Christian Church family through special recognition on designated Sundays as part of the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The next two dedications are scheduled for Oct. 9 and Dec. 4. Please contact Heather Rotter at 816-333-4917 or heatherr@cccckc.org to be included in either of these two services.

Worship with us!

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

Forgive and Remember

September 18

Forgiving Ourselves
Luke 6: 37-42

September 25

Finding Hope in Forgiveness
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Embracing an Adult Faith

Who is God? What does salvation mean? This 5-week group invites us to revisit Christianity's fundamental questions and explore authentic answers as our faith matures. Book: \$12.95 in church office. Tuesdays, Oct. 11-Nov. 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Facilitator is Lauren Weinhold. Sign up by contacting Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Green Team Class

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 Social Hall.



Miroslav Volf Delivers Powerful Message

On Sun., Sept. 11, a crowd of more than 400 gathered in the Social Hall to hear acclaimed author and theologian Dr. Miroslav Volf speak on how Christians should respond to 9/11. His powerful message of forgiveness was an appropriate segue into worship services centered on part one of Dr. Glen Miles' sermon series *Forgive and Remember*. At the 11:00 a.m. service, the church was honored to welcome Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff, Senior Rabbi of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehuda, and Imam Ahmed El-Sherif, Founder of the American Muslim Council of Greater Kansas City, who shared personal reflections from each of their faith traditions and perspectives.



Miroslav Volf

2011 Tall Oaks Gala Is October 28



Tall Oaks Conference Center's 14th annual gala fundraiser, Solid Gold Gala 2011, will celebrate 50 years of the camp with a trip down memory lane featuring the Solid Gold hits of the 1950s.

The event is Fri., Oct. 28 at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Plaza. Fellowship time and silent auction begin at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 7:45 p.m. followed by a spirited live auction at 9:00 p.m. Cost to attend will be \$90 per person, \$900 to host a table of 10, or \$1,200 to sponsor a table of 10, or guests can become a Solid Gold sponsor at \$1,500 for a table of 10.

Auction donations are greatly appreciated as well. Auction items that are record-breakers are gift certificates, arts, crafts, sporting events, theme baskets, labors of love, travel and entertainment tickets, and cash donations. All donations are tax deductible. The deadline for reservations and auctions donations is Oct. 17. Contact Tall Oaks Ambassadors Tim or Vicki Lopatofsky at 913-908-1048 with any questions.

Soul Mates for Engaged and Newlyweds

If you are recently engaged or recently married, we invite you to participate in Soul Mates, a class designed specifically for you. Soul Mates will meet Sundays, Oct. 2-Nov. 6, 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Rm. 116. There is no required text for this class, however resource books are available for those who are interested. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Lauren Weinhold at 816-333-4917.

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on October 4

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Oct. 4, 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.



The Best Happiness

by Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music



This past Friday, I was tossing around ideas for my staff article. I had plans to write about what a good time of year it is to join a choir or instrumental group here at the church –that it is a great way to serve, you don't have to be a professional, and we could use your talents. It was shaping up to be the typical back to school, back to choir article. Then I was given a first-hand lesson in service.

As I sat at my home computer, a little 7-year-old blonde ninja ran by and left behind a piece of computer paper in her wake. She was gone in an instant, so I went back to my task. From the stairs I heard a whisper, "Pssst, Mama, *read* it." A little irritated at being interrupted, I glanced down at the paper. "You are Invited to Jordan Riley's Carnival and Day Spa. Saturday -11:00 a.m. Jordan's Room."

My husband, Shawn, got a similar invitation, so at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, we both headed up to Jordan's room, expecting to be coerced into our daughter's master plan that would result in us entertaining her for a bit. Upon entering the room, I was amazed. It was clear that she had been preparing for days.



Everything was labeled with bright, beautiful signs. There were lists of "play and relax" stations, all designed for our entertainment – stations for creating art work, playing with various dolls and toys, receiving neck rubs and hand lotion, a hair salon, and a fabulous accessory station. We were adorned with her most precious jewelry and accessories, and invited to play with her most treasured possessions. She had set up a schedule so that we would take turns playing on our own, while Jordan was serving the other.

When it was my turn for a "spa" treatment, I asked Jordan, "Wouldn't you like a break? Maybe you might like to have someone do these things for you, too?" Jordan answered with a smile as she anointed my hands with lotion. "You don't understand. It's doing all these things for you that gives me the best happiness." Just like that, a lesson in service, and to think that in my busyness, I almost missed it.

So I guess it doesn't matter if it's through singing in a choir, preparing a meal, teaching a class, building a house, packing a snack-pack, or running your own mini carnival and day spa. It's the simple act of doing for others that "gives (us) the best happiness."

Laine

Welcome to our Visitors!

Are you a frequent visitor who has been considering becoming a member of our church but just haven't taken the next step? Are you new to the Country Club Christian Church community and want to find out what there is for you here? Whether you're ready to join or simply want to learn more about Country Club Christian Church, we invite you to attend the next **Information Open House on Sun., Sept. 25** from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Last Supper Sculpture room off the parlor. Stop by for dessert and learn more about the exciting events that will be taking place in the coming months.

You're also invited to the next **Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Nov. 5, from 8:45-11:45 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. 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.

We invite you to become a member of the Country Club Christian Church family! New members will be welcomed on Sun., Nov. 20 at the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would like to be included in the celebration, simply let Lauren know. We look forward to sharing your faith journey with you!

Youth Events and Opportunities

Grace at Work – Sept. 24

CYF and Chi Rho will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 24, to help out during the all-church Grace at Work.

Chi Rho Service Night – Sept. 29

Chi Rho youth (6th-8th graders) will meet at church at 5:45 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 29, to head to Harvesters Community Food Network. Return to the church by 8:00 p.m. A snack will be provided.

CYF Lock-in – Note Date Change!

Due to a scheduling conflict, the CYF Lock-in has been changed to Oct. 22-23. All CYF (9th-12th graders) are invited to a lock-in beginning at 8:00 p.m. Sat., Oct. 22 and continuing through 11:00 a.m. Sun., Oct. 23 in the Youth Room (Rm. 205). RSVP to Justin Zeigler by Oct. 19 at justinz@cccckc.org.

Youth Groups

CYF and Chi Rho youth gather most Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for a light meal, fellowship and time to explore and grow in Christian faith.
Sept. 18 – Church service night
Sept. 25 – Fall fun games at church

Pastors' Class Informational Meeting

All youth and their parents interested in Pastors' Class are invited to an informational meeting on Sun., Nov. 6 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Pastors' Class prepares the youth for baptism and/or church membership. We will share information about the planned sessions and determine which night of the week the class will be meeting (Feb. 1–Apr. 1, 2012). Please save the date for this important gathering. Questions? Contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

2012 Nicaragua Mission Trip Sign Up Is September 25

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 are especially needed, but no special skills required. A team from Country Club Christian Church will travel to Nicaragua Feb. 11-19, 2012. To learn more about the opportunity and to sign up to participate, join us at 12:00 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 25 in Rm. 201. Contact Rev. Carla Aday, carlaa@cccckc.org for more information.



2011 Mission Team

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 betwilsonkc@yahoo.com.

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. Contact Rev. Steve Mason, stevem@cccckc.org.

Pathways to Learning: A Christian Response to 9/11



This series focusing on the aftermath of 9/11 continues Sun., Sept. 18, from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social

Hall. Pathways is a periodic series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology.

Sept. 18 — An Interfaith Panel Reflects on 9/11 – Bill Tammeus,

Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn and Mahnaz Shabbir.

Sept. 25 — Sunday School classes are invited to continue the discussion begun in the presentations on Sept. 11 and 18 with a study guide that will be provided.



When I Can't ...

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



Munching on s'more cookies and sitting around a faux campfire I talked with third graders about the oral tradition of the Bible, when families and community members gathered around to tell stories about their lives and how they understand and know God. One of the students talked about what it must have been like so long ago – how they lived, what they did. She said it was too hard to imagine that far in the past. I mulled over that exchange periodically for the rest of the day, but what my mind kept wandering to was imagining what these young children would encounter in

their future. What kind of world are we making for our children, for future generations? What has happened to God's amazing creation throughout time?

I know with the focus on the anniversary of 9/11 these past weeks we all may have been thinking about the state of our community, our country, our world – taking stock in what has transpired both in our individual lives and in the world. If I am honest, optimism about the future is not always present in my assessments. In these periods of heightened anxiety I can feel stuck, wanting to find God's goodness in the world but finding my view a bit too clouded with daily headlines of widespread famine, on-going wars, worldwide economic chaos, escalating poverty, natural disasters, and on and on. But staying in this place of constant worry does me no good.

I read a devotional reflection that lifted up a passage from Romans 8:26:

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

I have kept these words close to me, knowing that when I am too full of the pain, the worry, and the helpless feelings I am not alone. I can trust that God is present in ways I may not be able to see or feel or know but my faith can assure me with every breath I take that God is able to handle all of it.

Perhaps these moments of deep despair come forward to surface a thirst and hunger for God. Perhaps in the full schedules and overbooked days my soul pushes me towards the Holy One. Perhaps my quiet center calls me to heed my longing for God and for transformation of myself and the world. Perhaps I can feel hope with God embracing the world that what we leave for future generations may not be so bad....

Children and Families

Club Kids

Team Building at Tall Oaks

3rd to 5th graders are invited to come for an afternoon of team building on the low ropes course at Tall Oaks Conference Center on Sun., Oct. 2. We will eat lunch at church at noon and depart for our activity. We will return to church by 5:30 p.m. (we will have a south pick-up location, too). Cost is \$20 per child (covers lunch, snacks and fees). Please RSVP to Karla Herrington at karlah@cccckc.org. Registration sheets will be sent after you RSVP.

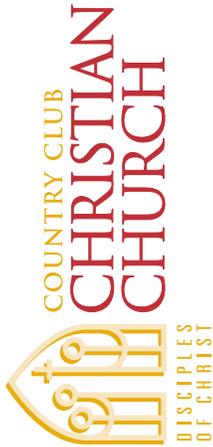
Volunteer Opportunity

On Wed., Oct. 5, children 6 years-5th grade are invited to join us in serving at Kansas City Hospice House (120th and Wornall Road) from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. We will bake cookies and assemble activity bags. Please contact Karla Herrington at karlah@cccckc.org to reserve your spot.

Moms' Group Outreach Resumes

Are you looking for an opportunity to reach out and help others? Join us on Sept. 27, 9:30-11:15 a.m. at Rose Brooks Center for Women as we start another year of serving on the fourth Tuesday of each month. It's a great way to get out and make connections with other moms while helping break the cycle of domestic violence. Our group usually sorts women's and children's clothing for "Rosie's Closet" or sometimes can be found helping in the kitchen. Childcare is provided at church with your RSVP to Karla Herrington by Sept. 22. Please contact Karla if you can join us.

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

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

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538
email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org

Recital by Dale Ramsey

Our Sanctuary will be filled with the sounds of recent compositions by former Associate Organist Dale Ramsey on Sun., Oct. 2. The program will begin at 3:00 p.m. Since Dale retired from active church music, he has continued to compose. Among the works performed will be compositions for organ, a song cycle for voice and piano, as well as other chamber works. Join us!



Food Drive on September 18

On Sun., Sept. 18, please bring your nonperishable food items for the Virginia Reed Food Drive, 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 Congratulations

JACQUELINE TALMAN and STAN CYPHERS were married Aug. 20 in the Combs Chapel.

STEPHANIE PILKINGTON and E. J. BECKER were married Sept. 10 in the Sanctuary.

Sympathy

ANDREW JACKSON HIGGINS passed away Sept. 14. He is survived by daughters, Susan Garner and Laura Tyler. The funeral will be at 1:00 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 20 in the Sanctuary.

Memorials

Raymond Rowland
Tri C's Sunday School Class

Eleanor Hardy
Susan Shook Williams and family

Congregational Care

Roy Garrison
Mrs. James Rawlings