



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Conduct Yourself Honorably
by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

What Would You Do...?
by Lara Schopp
≈≈≈
page 5

A Place Like Home
by Carla Aday
≈≈≈
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.

State of the Church Dinner January 26

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. Dr. Miles will speak on *Faith without Maps: Learning to Trust God in Uncharted Territory*.



Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator; Stuart Hoffman, President of the Congregational Board, and Suzanne Willey, Chair of the Elders, also will speak.

Tickets are available 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. You may purchase tickets online at www.cccckc.org.

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.



Upcoming Sermon Series

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.

Jan. 22 – Part 1: Fighting with Loneliness

Psalm 69:13-21

Jan. 29 – Part 2: Facing Doubt

Mark 9:20-24

Feb. 5 – Part 3: Wrestling with Ambition

Luke 9:23-27

The Real World: Stuff that Matters—Feb. 12 and 19

To prepare for this series, Dr. Miles met with the Country Club Christian Church youth groups and let them ask him ANY questions they wanted. The conversations provoked interesting and refreshing opinions on what issues are most important in our world today.

The Journey through Lent

This year during lent, we invite you to join us on a spiritual journey by choosing a path of study or reflection which will help you better connect with the Spirit, your church, and the significance of the season. In recognition of the sacred nature of Lent, the church will focus all of its energy on worship, study and fellowship, forgoing all business-related meetings.

Ash Wednesday

Traditional Ash Wednesday worship culminating in the imposition of ashes. Wed., Feb. 22, 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary

Lenten Sermon Series: The Journey

Join us as we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem on The Journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Feb. 26, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, and Apr. 1

The Journey . . . Chose a Path

Bible Study, Prayer, Service, Sacred Conversations

Special classes, groups and service projects throughout the season of Lent will enable you to deepen the spiritual Journey towards the cross and Easter morning. Watch for the Lenten brochure with detailed information on all the offerings.

Nicaragua Mission Team Prepares for Departure

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. The team will be commissioned during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Jan. 29.

As part of this trip, the group will be providing home health kits to local families. The team is no longer collecting medicines or other supplies to take on the trip, but if you would like to make a cash donation, there is still time to do so.

Christmas Offering Update

The 2011 Christmas Offering collected \$26,425.14, which will be distributed to three agencies under the theme *Serving God's Children with Love*. The agencies are, Orthopedic Workshop and Physiotherapy Center (OWPC), which provides physical therapy treatments, prostheses and assistive devices for those with disabilities; ReStart, which targets homeless youth and children, providing a homeless service center, a family emergency shelter and other services; and The Children's Place, which works to nurture and promote healthy development of children who have survived abuse, neglect and trauma. Thank you for your generous contributions to the 2011 Christmas Offering.



Conduct Yourselves Honorably

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Back in January of 2003, I woke early, looked out our bedroom window and saw that there was about six inches of snow on the ground. I know now that six inches of snow is no big deal in Kansas City but we had just moved here from Atlanta. Six inches of snow there will shut everything down. I looked out at the snow, and said to my wife, “Toto, we’re not in Kansas anymore.” She laughed because we had moved to Kansas, but she knew what I was getting at.

Dorothy’s famous words to her little dog were not about geography. They were about the fact that things had dramatically changed for her and her little dog. The tornado had taken them to a whole new land where everything was different. There were flying witches, men made out of tin and talking scarecrows. It wasn’t just geographical change Dorothy encountered. It was a complete cultural transformation.

The Church Universal is undergoing a similar shift. Brian McLaren wrote about these changes in his book, *A New Kind of Christian*. He used the imagery from the *Wizard of Oz* to make a very similar point: The church is no longer in Kansas. Churches like ours need to pay attention to the changes that are occurring around the world and prepare to respond to them with the undying gospel of Jesus Christ and God’s unconditional love.

There was a time when the church was at the center of society. Sundays and Wednesdays were reserved for church activities. No one would dare schedule a little league baseball game (or anything else) on those days. Now, the church is on the margin. This feels sad but there is good news here. The church in the first century was on the margin also. Although our situations are not parallel, we can learn from the early church. The church was formed in the midst of conflict and oppression but it flourished. Did it flourish because they had the government lined up on their side? Money? Power? No. They grew because as the title of this column instructs (it is a quote from Peter), they conducted themselves honorably.

Conducting ourselves honorably means we pay attention to and live by the teachings of Jesus. We learn to pray for those who persecute, to love God, neighbor and maybe, if we can find the courage, to love enemy. We care for the least of these. We give ourselves to each other and the world in the name of grace.

Change is hard but it is also an opportunity for new life to begin.

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.**

**Confessions of a Preacher
January 22**

Part 1: Fighting with Loneliness
Psalm 69:13-21

January 29

Part 2: Facing Doubt
Mark 9:20-24

February 5

Part 3: Wrestling with Ambition
Luke 9:23-27

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Pathways to Learning

Healing the Mind, Mending the Soul

PA+HWAYS + LEARNING Jan. 22, 29



This series looks at Healing the Mind, Mending the Soul. The topic on Sun., Jan. 22 is Anger Issues and on Jan. 29, Addictions. Leading experts in each field will address the topics. 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.

Mission Team to Joplin in Late April

Information Meeting January 22 at 12:15 p.m.

The Disciples Home Missions 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. If you are interested in participating, please attend an informational meeting at 12:15 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 22, in Room 201. Cost of the trip is \$175 per person, which covers transportation, food and lodging. 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.

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.

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.



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.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on January 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."



What Would You Do...?

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



About a year and a half ago, as the anticipation of a big birthday ending in a zero began creeping into my consciousness, I decided it was time for a challenge. So I started training, and in September I completed my first triathlon. Three days later, I began training for my first half marathon, and in November, finished it in a totally respectable time of two hours, seven minutes.

Never, in my wildest dreams, did I imagine I could run that far, or compete in a multi-discipline sport. But I did. And buoyed by the confidence gained from those accomplishments, I did something else that has always scared me: I snow skied. As a 40th birthday gift to my husband, who is an expert on the slopes, I planned a surprise party in Vail, CO, with ten of our closest friends, and I took a lesson and skied. Even (accidentally) tackled a blue run. (Actually, it's more appropriate to say it tackled me, but I survived.)

Reflecting on these recent accomplishments, I'm reminded of this question: *What would you do if you weren't afraid you'd fail?*

At some point in my life, I was afraid to try these things: triathlon, half marathon, skiing. But somehow, one step at a time, I accomplished all three. And, as cheesy as it sounds, having done so makes me feel like I could do just about anything.

So as we enter 2012, I'm wondering what we, as a church, might accomplish if we weren't afraid to fail? If we weren't afraid to take risks, to be challenged, to think big ... Where would we go? Who would we serve? What problems could we help solve? How might we transform the world?

In this next year, I'm challenging myself to take some risks and be innovative when it comes to communications for Country Club Christian Church. The way you and I receive and consume information is changing rapidly, and it's important to keep up, to stay on top of trends, and to adjust accordingly.

As we do, I encourage you to embrace the change that might come and not be afraid of trying something new.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Do one thing every day that scares you." Just imagine where we all might go if we, as Glen often says from the pulpit, "leave fear behind."

Lara

Save the Date for Grace at Work on March 31

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.

Micah Volunteers Needed

The church's monthly ministry at Micah Ministry at Independence Blvd. Christian Church needs your help. Volunteers are needed during the day on the second Monday of each month to cut and plate desserts and roll silverware and napkins for the nearly 800 guests that will dine there later that night. If you have two hours to give and would be interested in joining this dedicated group of volunteers, please contact Lauren Weinhold at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Youth Events

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.

Youth Group

Sun., Jan. 29, 6:00-8:00 p.m. – Salvation Army Service Night

Sun., Feb. 5

- No Fellowship Singers rehearsal.
- **Chi Rho - Souper Bowl Sunday**
We will eat a light lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service, then head to Harvesters to serve from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We will return to church by 3:30 p.m. (No evening meeting.) RSVP to Justin at justinz@cccckc.org. Space is limited so RSVP soon.

- **CYF – Latté Land**

Come Join Justin from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Latté Land at 7900 State Line Road, Prarie Village, KS 66208 for a pre-Super Bowl bit of caffeine and sugar. That will be our youth group for the evening.

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

are Sundays 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.





A Place Like Home

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



My husband and I were sitting in the den when I heard someone turn the back door handle. I walked Kyle, Dave's son. "Hey, how's it going?" As we chatted I realized that there are very few places where one can just "walk in" without knocking. Even though Kyle is 30 and hasn't lived at home for 12 years, our home is still his home, a place where he can walk in, any time and feel at home.

And then I realized that there is only one other place where I can just "walk in" without knocking and that is 2327 Colonial Parkway in Fort Worth,

TX. But this week my parents are moving out of that home where they have lived since I was 10. And in a few more days the wrecking crew will come to demolish that old house and there will no longer be that other place where I can just "walk on in."

At first I thought it seemed silly that I even noticed these passages. So what. Isn't a place just a place? Does it really matter? But then I realized that even as I am letting go of one place that has been formative in my life, I am also preparing to visit another place that has become very familiar to me.

In a few weeks I will travel with our church's mission team to Nicaragua. It used to feel like going to a foreign country, but now it feels like hopping a plane just five hours straight south of Kansas City to visit some good friends. I will carry with me a baby gift for one Nicaraguan friend whose wife is expecting in February, and a favorite U.S. beverage for another Nicaraguan friend. I look forward to hearing the parrot on the patio say "Buenos Dias" and to eating "gaillo pinto" frequently. I imagine again trying to fall asleep when every bone is tired from the day's physically demanding work but the roosters and dogs are just revving up to perform their evening symphony. I realize that I am going to a place where I feel at home and the door is always open for me to just walk on in.

A few years back our mission trip team decided that rather than just doing good work around the world we would form partnerships with particular places. When we made that decision, I never dreamed that I would find a place that felt like home in another culture where I don't speak the language. But God works in mysterious ways, inviting us to feel at home in places we never imagined.

Carla

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith Rotation

Wisdom & Prophets: Jesus as Prophet

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

Jan. 22 and 29 – Regular sessions, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Feb. 5 – Souper Bowl Sunday. We will eat a light meal and serve at Harvesters after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will return to church by 3:30 p.m. (No evening meeting.) RSVP to Karla at karlah@cccckc.org. Space is limited.

Feb. 12 – Tubing at Snow Creek in Weston. Noon – 5:00 p.m. Watch for full details in the weekly 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.

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	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
Mr. Rob Gilkerson Business Administrator	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

Our Church Family

Sympathy

BEATRICE B. DAVIS passed away Jan. 5. She is survived by her children, Christopher D. Davis and Caroline D. Davis. The service was Jan. 12 in Combs Chapel, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

FRANK "RUSTY" WOODBURY, IV passed away Jan. 4. He is survived by his wife, Debbie. The service was Jan. 10 in Combs Chapel, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

ROBERT C. BATES passed away Jan. 6. He is survived by his children, Greg Bates, Jeff Bates, Sue Lowder and Tom Bates. The service was Jan. 9 at McGilley Antioch Chapel, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

JAMES "JIM" MARTIN passed away Jan. 10. He is survived by his wife, Pat, and sons, Patrick and Christopher. The service was Jan. 13 in the Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday and Rev. Chuck Murphy officiating.

Memorials

Milt Luce

Linda & Dick Nixon
 Hank & Joan Riffe
 John & June Turley
 Jeanne & Perry Cockayne
 John & Erma Hess
 Milburn & Evalyn Hobson
 Keith Washburn
 Harvey & Dorothy Ray
 Martha Jane & John Stewart
 Bill & Brucie Hopkins
 Alyce & Bob King

Theron Swank

Don & Mary Dibble
 Linda & Dick Nixon
 John & Erma Hess
 Hank & Joan Riffe
 Jill Reynolds
 Martha Jane & John Stewart
 Alyce & Bob King

John Tilton

Bette & Byron McDaniel
 John & Erma Hess
 Paula Lane
 Greg & Nancy Lear
 Linda & Dick Nixon
 Martha Jo Strickler
 Marie Furlong
 Bob & Jane Marty
 Hank & Joan Riffe
 John & June Turley
 Jamie Lantz & family
 Alan & Susan Garner
 Gloria McLerran
 Alyce & Bob King
 Lee & Jarene Stanford
 Mary & Jay Buehler

Frank Woodbury, IV

Madalene & Thomas Woodbury
 Erma & John Hess

Martha Jane Starr

Lee & Jarene Stanford

Zeno "Bud" Yates

Alyce & Bob King
 Robert Mason
 Martha Jane & John Stewart
 Bobbie Vanice

Robert Bates

Bill & Dana Miskell
 James B. Nutter, Sr.
 Steve & Andrea Bough
 Tony & Peggy Quirarte
 Erma & John Hess
 Linda & Dick Nixon
 Bill & Brucie Hopkins
 Bonnie & Doug Dee
 Bobbie Vanice

Bea Davis

Erma & John Hess

Colombarium

Theron Swank

Jon Hart & Leslie Swank

Capital Campaign

Theron Swank

Greg & Nancy Lear

Capital Campaign

John Tilton

Greg & Nancy Lear

Radio Broadcast

John Tilton

Carol & Richard Chapman