



VOLUME 85 · NUMBER 20

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

The Gospel According to Starbucks
by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

Universal Truths
by Lisa McCleish
≈≈≈
page 5

Mountaintop Experience
by David Diebold
≈≈≈
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.

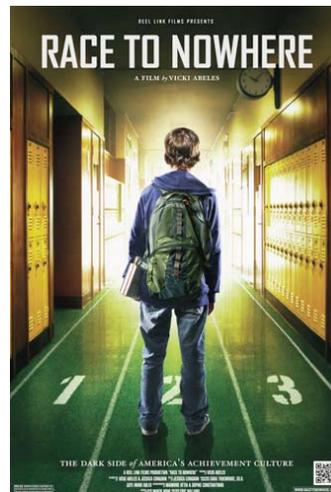
Children, Youth and Families Ministries to Screen Documentary *Race to Nowhere*

A screening of *Race to Nowhere*, a new documentary about the intense pressure students face in today's academic environment, will be presented on Sun., Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall by Children, Youth and Families Ministry at Country Club Christian Church.

The film is about how our high-pressure, high-stakes culture has invaded our schools and children's lives, creating unhealthy, disengaged, unprepared and stressed-out youth. Created by first-time filmmaker Vicki Abeles, the film tells the stories of young people pushed to the brink, burned-out teachers and deeply frustrated parents.

Unlike other documentary films that are distributed in theaters, *Race to Nowhere* is using a unique hybrid distribution approach. All screenings are locally organized with essentially no marketing, distribution, advertising or theater costs.

The film was created to mobilize families, educators and policymakers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens. People are using the film as



the centerpiece for raising awareness, radically changing the national dialogue on education and galvanizing change.

Filmmaker Vicki Abeles said, "I wanted to do something to raise awareness on a large scale, and to bring communities together to galvanize change. Films had always been a powerful force in my life, so I decided the best way to raise awareness on a large scale was to make a film

that clearly captured these stories and issues. I was determined to give voice to those on the front lines of education – students and teachers."

Race to Nowhere points to a silent epidemic in our schools: cheating has become commonplace, students have become disengaged, stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant, and young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.

The screening is free and open to the public but requires reservations. Watch for information on how to sign up in coming weeks.



Grace at Work Service Spreads Throughout Community

Thank you to everyone who participated in Grace At Work on Sat., Sept. 24. Over 150 members and friends of Country Club Christian Church raked leaves, painted fingernails, baked cookies, sorted books, hammered nails and distributed food. When asked what her favorite part of the day was, one participant shared “I loved feeling like I made a difference today and I loved getting to meet new church friends. What a great combination!” Watch for more information coming soon about how you can participate in Grace At Work 2012!



Above: Jackie Cunningham, Jay Wooldridge, Katie Allison, T.J. Snyder, Dawn Murphy, Jill Reynolds and Mary Lynn O'Connor worked alongside Shepherd's Center staff and volunteers.



Left: Lori Bennett replanted hosta plants with the Green Team.



Above: Alayna Beck and Fran Rainey baked cookies for our AA and Al-anon groups.



Bill Schalekamp and John Story worked at a Habitat for Humanity site.



The Gospel According to Starbucks

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Leonard Sweet wrote a fun little book called *The Gospel According to Starbucks*. It is a light-hearted read but every now and then he will zing the reader with tough but honest comments. Early on he says that the church may be “doomed by Satanic mediocrity.” That phrase hit me personally like a ton of bricks. How many times have I sought the easy path, the calmer scene, the lukewarm way?

He says that the success of Starbucks comes because they don't sell coffee; they sell a coffee experience. It is more expensive but the people

working there are true believers; they put their whole selves into the experience.

I think he is on to something there. When it comes to the Christian faith, I can argue and reason and quote scholars and use logical reasoning to defend my point of view. However, in the long run what do we need in the church? Well-reasoned arguments or a collection of passionate true believers who are willing to give their whole selves into the experience of Christian faith? A church filled with passionate followers who live with love at the center will go a long way toward new life both within and outside of the congregation.

The problem is not that Christianity can't be believed but that it just hasn't been lived, that it hasn't been experienced. Seventy percent of people of faith stay home every Sunday because there are too few Christians who live with passionate love at the center of their lives.

Charlie “Bird” Parker, the great jazz legend, said, “If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn.” You can't fake jazz. You can't fake the blues. You can't fake love.

I remember hearing a story about a missionary back in the 1950s who was home on leave. She was shopping for a globe to take back with her to use as a teaching tool in the school at her mission station. The clerk showed her an inexpensive globe and another one with a light bulb inside. “This is nicer,” the clerk said, pointing to the illuminated globe, “but of course, a lighted world costs more.”

A world, illuminated by love, is a costly, risky venture. It is not the most practical thing either.

Love is costly but love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Grace and peace to you,

Thanksgiving Dinner Is Nov. 17

Mark your calendars for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall on Thur., Nov. 17 for a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. Reservations will be taken beginning Sun., Oct. 30.

Worship with us!

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

October 2

For Mature Audiences Only
Matthew 21: 33-46

October 9

The Judgment of Grace
Matthew 22:1-14

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

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.

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.



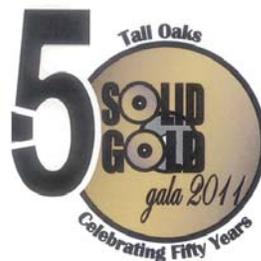
Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on October 4

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.

Christmas Trip to Branson

To celebrate the Christmas season, please join energetic seniors as we travel to Branson, MO, on Wed., Dec. 7-Fri., Dec. 9. Entertainment includes shows, shopping and fellowship. If interested, please contact Rev. Chuck Murphy at chuckm@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 or Wilda Zollars at 913-451-0684 for more details.

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 is \$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.

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.

Faithbook Is Open to New Participants

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



Universal Truths

by Lisa McCleish, Director of Early Childhood Programs



The 2011-2012 school year has started in Parent's Day Out and Preschool; we have been back just under a month. The 21 people who make up the staff of both programs have been teaching, cumulatively, at Country Club Christian Church for 136 years.

Those first days of school, after everyone left, I would reflect on how certain things never change from year to year. I asked some of the teachers who have been in the "business of children" for many years what universal truths they have

observed year after year. Here they are:

1. When you miss your mom and dad, and you are not really sure if you like this new class yet, a story in the teacher's lap helps alot.
2. There will be certain children in your class that you will always wonder about—even 20 years later.
3. While children protest at having quiet time in the afternoon, adults would love to turn out the lights, crawl on a cot and sleep with a warm blanket.
4. Band-aids (and popsicles) can fix almost any injury.
5. Running water and empty boxes are the most fascinating toys.
6. In a child's eyes you never have a bad hair day.
7. Every child loves music, even the babies will start to dance when it starts to play.
8. Snack fixes most problems but if it's something you don't like (and you are under the age of 2) it is perfectly acceptable to throw it on the floor.
9. Teachers have favorites (even though we aren't supposed to).
10. Eventually, the child who cries when you leave will be telling you to leave.
11. In every class you will have the leader of the pack, the class clown, the teacher's helper and the drama queen/king.
12. Children will tell you more about their family than you want to know.
13. Bubbles will make you miss your mom and dad a little less.
14. Children will always remind you of the person you want to be.

Lisa

Welcome to our Visitors!

You're 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

CYF Lock-in – 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 at justinz@cccckc.org by Oct. 19.

Worlds of Fun Outing

Sun., Oct. 16, Noon - 7:00 p.m.
Cost is \$30. This will cover admission to the park and lunch at church. Bring extra spending money for snacks and dinner. RSVP by Oct. 12 to Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

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.

Greeters Needed for Worship and Wonder

We need “greeters” for our Worship and Wonder Classes (3 ½ to Kindergarten) during the Sunday School hour, 9:55-10:55 a.m. You can sign up to help once a month or a couple of times a year; scheduling is very flexible. The children love it when their parents and/or grandparents help in this role! Greeters help get the children settled upon arrival and assist the story teller as needed. Please contact Karla Herrington at karlah@cccckc.org to learn more about serving as a greeter.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

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, 2011. 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.

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 are especially needed, but no special skills required. A team from Country Club Christian Church will travel to Nicaragua Feb. 11-19, 2012. Contact Rev. Carla Aday, carlaa@cccckc.org for more information.

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.

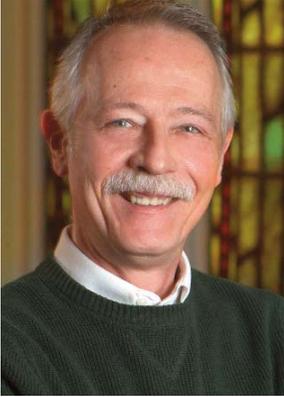
Joplin

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 or call the church office to put your name on the interest list.



Mountaintop Experience

by Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music



Last weekend, I had the high honor of performing with the Kansas City Symphony. As members of this congregation heard the news of my involvement or attended one of the concerts, many of you asked me “what was that like?”

As a musician, it was a mountaintop experience: working with professional musicians and a conductor the caliber of Michael Stern was certainly transforming. But, as I thought about the question more, I realized that there are many similarities between my experiences downtown and how we function as a community right here at 61st and

Ward Parkway.

The orchestra is made up of highly skilled individuals, working together to bring music to life. There is always a constant balance between individual ability and the team work necessary to accomplish their task. That is very much like our various teams functioning within the life of this congregation.

When there is a project to undertake here, assignments are made, individuals work on specific parts, and the team comes back together to put the project together. I can see our various leaders as if they are the soloists within the orchestra. When it is their time to be in the spotlight, their supporting team members function like the finely tuned accompaniment to the leader’s solo; both sides working together to bring the project to life.

There was a passage last weekend that began with a delicate solo accompanied by very quiet string accompaniment. Gradually, others in the orchestra, including me, had critical entrances that were very exposed. One misplaced entrance, or one that was too loud or soft, would have destroyed the mood being conveyed by the music. As the section began, each entrance was made, balance was present, and the moment was transformed. It was life changing.

Now I realize that some might say that this is a fine analogy, except that the symphony players are paid professionals and we are mostly volunteers. How true! The truly amazing thing for me throughout my 31 years as part of this congregation is that the transformative successes we have shared are even more heightened because we are volunteers and choose to participate.

David

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.

First Steps

Sunday, October 2

Parents with children 3 and under are invited to join with other families on the first Sunday of the month for a time of fellowship and informal faith exploration. Bring your little one with you for play time with others. First Steps meets in the Play Zone – Room 215 in the Children’s Wing. See you Sunday!

Fountains of Faith Rotation

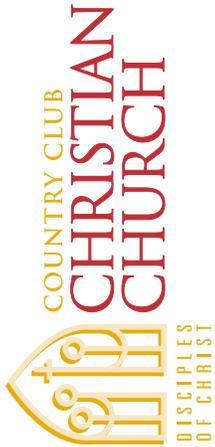
The Divine as Wisdom

First through fifth graders are exploring wisdom traditions in the Bible on Sunday mornings through Oct. 23. The emphasis of this rotation is that wisdom is found in experience. We can find a sense of awe and wonder in many places and experiences from the Old Testament. Helping the children stop and say “WOW” is key to these sessions. Through “star gazing,” spending time at the beach, dancing, cooking, and creating a word box the children will have opportunities to encounter the divine with a variety of their senses.

Mystery Trip for 1st and 2nd Graders

The Oct. 15 trip has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

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 October 16

On Sun., Oct. 16, 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 Sympathy

AUDREY JANE SHAFER passed away on Sept. 17. She is survived by two daughters, Pamela Burke and Alison Bond. Services were Sept. 26 in the Sanctuary, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

Memorials

Roy Garrison

Peggy Brinkman

Eleanor Hardy

Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Colerick
John & Erma Hess

Preston Dean

John & Erma Hess

Millie Crawford

Thomas & Maribeth McMahan

Judge AJ Higgins

Robert & Marjorie Blosser
Margaret Bien
James B Nutter, Sr.
Don & Mary Sharp
Lorene Lockwood
Ron & Jeff Mills
John & Erma Hess
Mrs. John E. Wilson
Stinson, Morrison & Hecker, LLP
Jim & Pat Martin
Kelley Quinn
Mary Reiff
Judy & Mike Schaeffer
Harry & Karen Gallagher

Hardy Memorial Library

Eleanor Hardy

Bobbie Vanice

Outreach

Eleanor Hardy

Betty Foster