



DISCIPLES
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COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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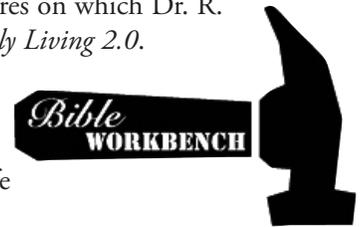
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*We joyfully
welcome
and nurture
all people
by providing
a vibrant
Christ-centered
community
of faith,
dedicated to
spiritual growth
through
worship, study
and service.*

Bible Workbench Begins October 5

Bible Workbench, an eight-week fall Bible study, provides a great way to connect with God, scripture and members of the congregation through study of the scriptures on which Dr. R. Glen Miles will preach during the sermon series *Sacred Tools for Holy Living 2.0*.

The study will include solid scholarly wisdom, modern literature and personal reflection questions, to help participants see how the ancient stories of the Bible unfold anew in the shared journey of life today.



The course is ideal for anyone interested in short-term Bible study. Groups will meet in October and November. Select from one of the following small groups:

Meeting Day	Time	Group Leader, Location
Mon., Sept. 29-Nov. 19	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Keith Washburn, church
Tues., Sept. 30-Nov. 20	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Chuck Murphy, church
Wed., Oct. 1-Nov. 21	7:00-8:30 a.m.	Jeff Zimmerman, church
Wed., Oct. 1-Nov. 21	9:30-11:00 a.m.	Ann Harlan, at her home
Wed, Oct. 1-Nov. 21	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Julie Miles, at her home
Sun., Oct. 5-Nov. 23	8:45-9:45 a.m.	Lesley Holt/Anna Toler/Carla Aday, church
Sun., Oct. 5-Nov. 23	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Susan Washburn, church

The following Sunday School classes will also participate in the Bible Workbench study during their regularly scheduled class time of 9:55-10:55 a.m. Members and visitors are welcome to join in with these groups: YaWhose (ages 22-35); Crossroads (35-50); Outlook (40s and 50s); Koinonia (50s and 60s); One-ders (singles 35 plus); Vistas (all ages). Sunday School classes will study the lesson on the same day that it is preached from the pulpit, beginning Oct. 5 and concluding Nov. 23.

Please sign up by calling the church office at 816-333-4917, emailing marymargareta@cccckc.org or stopping by the table in the church parlor this Sunday. Each participant will want to purchase a Bible Workbench book for \$20 in the parlor or church office. Childcare is available by request.

Old Fashioned Picnic on Sept. 28

Join your church friends for an old-fashioned fellowship opportunity on Sun., Sept. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m in the Social Hall. Bring a salad or dessert to share or canned goods to be donated to the monthly food drive. Enjoy the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Brisket provided. Call 816-333-4917 or email marymargareta@cccckc.org to RSVP.



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Honoring Dr. George Gordon on Oct. 19

Make your reservation by Sun., Oct. 12 to join in the special celebration of Dr. George Gordon's dedicated ministry to the people of Country Club Christian Church and the Kansas City community. Dr. Gordon is retiring after 33 years with us.



building featuring moments from George's life and ministry. The dinner will be followed by a festive trip through the highlights of George's tenure. We will conclude around 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 per person or \$5 per child 12 and under. Please make your reservation by calling 816-333-4917 or emailing Mary Margaret Archer at marymargareta@cccckc.org. You may also make reservations in the Parlor at the church on Sunday mornings.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the church with a progressive buffet of dinner at stations set up around the

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service

Tues., Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Oct. 7 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity for those in attendance to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

2008 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Regional Assembly

Mark your calendar to attend this year's Regional Assembly, "Loving with Christ," on Oct. 25 and 26 at Lee's Summit Christian Church.

On Sat., Oct. 25, workshop and study opportunities will be available to participants, culminating with a contemporary worship service led by Dr. Paul Diehl.

Activities on Sun., Oct. 26 will feature Dr. Sharon Watkins, Disciples General Minister and President. She will lead a youth forum from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.; an open forum from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and a traditional worship service at 6:00 p.m.

Contact Matt Broxterman at 816-842-2341 or matt@fccnkc.org for more information.

Food Drive Is Oct. 19

On Sun., Oct. 19, please bring your non-perishable food items for our collection for local food pantries which 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.

Update from the Congregational Board

By Bonnie Blythe Dee, Congregational Board Chair

In my first message to the congregation, I hadn't really planned on talking about the budget. After all, there are so many other wonderful, exciting things to focus on at our church, and we are all so blessed to be part of this community of faith. Our talented, dedicated staff is providing fabulous programming for every age group. We now have four services on Sunday morning to provide a variety of worship experiences to meet our needs and schedules. Three new adult Sunday school classes were just launched. The choirs have never sounded better. Our various service, outreach and mission efforts are growing as we attempt to meet needs here in the KC area and places around the world. And new members are joining at a faster rate than we have seen for many years. But the



bottom line is that these wonderful ministries require funds.

When the Board met this month, we reviewed the proposed budget and had to face the sobering reality that pledged giving had dipped down at exactly the time that costs had escalated. Even after reducing most program budgets (except Outreach) by 10% and providing a very modest increase to our staff, we are still short about \$50,000. After careful deliberation, the Board approved the budget. We made a commitment to raise funds to offset the shortfall, but it will take everyone's help to meet this challenge.

During the next few weeks, we will be finalizing our plans to address this deficit. As we reach out to each of you, please consider how you and so many others benefit from the wonderful ministries at our church. Let's count our blessings and let the church know that it can count on us!



God Is Bigger than We Are

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



God is bigger than we are. I suppose that statement is an obvious truth, one that all of us would agree with, but there are times, especially during political seasons, when this basic truth is forgotten, ignored or twisted.

I mentioned in a recent sermon that both parties have tried recently, in subtle and not-so-subtle ways, to adopt God as their mascot. This is nothing short of theological silliness but there is a great temptation for many to say, "It is clear that if you vote with us, you are voting with God."

Jesus preached against this simplistically sectarian view of the Creator of all. Of course, we should note that when Jesus made this rather strong point in his very first sermon (see Luke 4:16-30) the congregation tried to kill him. The crowd was incensed because Jesus read from the Bible to make the point that as part of the chosen people God expected them to expand their group to everyone, not shrink it down to a nice tidy manageable size.

Peter Gomes emphasizes that this first sermon set the tone for the rest of Jesus' ministry. Gomes, in his book, *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus*, writes that Jesus was indicating that God is above and beyond our differences.

"That is something of the point Jesus was trying to make in his sermon in Nazareth, and he would perhaps have reminded his fellow Jews that 'our' God is bigger than we are. Although he did not finish that sermon, throughout the rest of his preaching and teaching, as recorded in Luke and in the other Gospels, the claim of a God bigger than those who worship him, more gracious, more generous, more hospitable than they are, is at the core of what Jesus calls the good news or the gospel, and it ought to be good news that God is bigger than we are."

Gomes is correct; God is bigger than we are. The test for our church, for any church in the USA during what is becoming a very bitter and angry campaign, is the ability to place our faith in the generous, gracious, creator of the universe.

Here is a way to test yourself: Think of the person (in your family, your neighborhood, the national stage, wherever) that you disagree with the most politically. Now, stand at the Lord's Table and ask, "If Jesus invites me and that person—and he does—to dine with him, am I able to sit with that one at the table of our Lord?"

Grace and peace to you,

Winter Bible Study

Revelation: Not Left Behind

Join Dr. Glen Miles this winter for a serious study of Revelation, the Bible's most controversial and confusing book. The group will meet on Mondays - Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2 and 9. Watch for more details.

Bible Workbench Sermon Series

Sacred Tools for Holy Living 2.0

This sermon series, during October and November, accompanies the Bible Workbench study experience during which small groups will hold weekly Bible studies to discuss and learn about the scripture on which Dr. Glen Miles will preach the following Sunday. See page 1 for more information on Bible Workbench.

Worship with us!

at 8:00, 9:00, 10:00
and 11:00 a.m.
Dr. R. Glen Miles

Sept. Sermon Series
The Politics of Jesus

Sept. 28

Politics for the Least of These
Matthew 25: 31-46

Oct.-Nov. Sermon Series
Bible Workbench
*Sacred Tools
for Holy Living 2.0*

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

YaWhose

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

This group has begun a new Sunday morning schedule and format, meeting weekly from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m., Rm. 304. Stop by for a presentation and discussion of faith issues in our everyday lives. On the first Sunday of the month, Crossroads and YaWhose meet together for a lesson in the Pine Room (Rm. 10).

Sept. 28 – God and Politics. How do Christians live out their faith by getting involved in politics?

Oct. 5 – Bible Workbench 2.0. Rev. Carla Aday will kick off the eight-week study that ties into the sermon series for October and November. Joint meeting in the Pine Room (Rm. 10) with Crossroads.

Seven Spiritual Mini-Retreats for Women

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

The first session will be Wed., Sept. 24 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Sacred Space in Combs Chapel.

On Oct. 22, the retreat will be at the Shantivanam (Forest of Peace) House of Prayer in Easton, KS from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This will be an individual silent retreat providing sacred solitude and a place of retreat in a contemplative, rural setting. Space is limited to 10 participants.

Subsequent retreats will be Dec. 3, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25 and Apr. 22. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at 816-333-4917 or carlaa@cccckc.org.

Pathways to Learning



It's the Economy: Four Perspectives –

Money or "mammon" is the most talked about subject in the Bible. And today, people still worry about their pocketbooks as well as the complex issues of a global economy. Take a fresh look at the issues from the vantage point of an individual, a U.S. citizen, a global person and a Christian. Each Sunday in September from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall, we will present a different perspective.

Sept. 28 – Israel Kamudzandu teaches New Testament at St. Paul School of Theology. He will help us look at economic issues from a Biblical and global perspective.

Crossroads

For adults ages 35-50. We each face many different crossroads in our lives. This class offers spiritual guidance, educational insights and the support of fellow travelers on the journey. Meets every Sunday in the Pine Room (Rm. 10) from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

Sept. 28 – Crossroads of Faith. Panel discussion led by members of five other adult Sunday School classes.

Oct. 5 – Bible Workbench 2.0. Rev. Carla Aday will kick off the eight-week study that ties into the sermon series for October and November. Joint meeting in the Pine Room (Rm. 10) with YaWhose.



One-ders

A diverse group of singles ages 35-60-ish, where everyone is always welcome. Focusing on developing spirituality, service to others, and providing opportunities for growth through fellowship. Join us for the **One-ders Bible Study**, Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in Rm. 303 on the third floor of the church. For more information, contact Suzy Spencer at 816-668-4156.

Sept. 27 – Dinner and Movie Night. Contact Suzy Spencer at 816-668-4156 for more information.

Oct. 4 – Annual picnic at Shawnee Mission Park. Anyone in the church and community, married or single, is invited to join in the fun and fellowship.

Oct. 5 – Begin Bible Workbench on Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in Rm. 309.



Making Our Doors Inviting

by Rev Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



In Marilyn Robinson's new novel *Home*, Jack returns home to care for his elderly and dying father. I first met Jack in Robinson's novel *Gilead*, which features the same characters from a different perspective. Jack is the black sheep of his family. His life is filled with tragic events that distance him from his family and his faith.

In a brief excerpt I read from *Home*, Jack leaves the house one morning for church. But an hour or so later he returns home. When his sister hears the screen door slam she looks up. "My courage failed." Later he tells his sister about how he arrived at the corner of the church but couldn't bring himself to cross the street and go in. In exasperation he tells his sister, "I'm so tired of myself."

One review of the book claims that part of its power comes from Jack's father, a retired Presbyterian minister. "He is a fierce, stern, vain old man, who wants to forgive his son but cannot." (*New Yorker*, Sept. 8, 2008)

I am eager to read the entire book not only because of Robinson's beautiful writing, but because she seems to be exploring that haunting connection between human and divine forgiveness. Is it possible for us to receive God's forgiveness before we have felt the embrace of a loved one who forgives us wholeheartedly? What does it take to restore us to wholeness where we are finally able to forgive ourselves and to begin life anew? What does it take for us to finally come home – to ourselves, to each other, to God?

Professor Wendy Farley wrote:

Forgiveness "might be understood not as something that happens within God but something that happens within us when we become aware of the impossibility of turning God away from us, so precious are we to God."
("The Wounding and Healing of Desire: Weaving Heaven and Earth")

Maybe our task as a Christian community is simply making our doors so inviting that the person standing across the street looking at the church will finally be able to come inside.

Carla

Tall Oaks Gala Is Oct. 10

Every Day's A Holiday at the 2008 Tall Oaks Conference Center annual benefit dinner.

Proceeds benefit camps and conferences in which our congregation participates. The 11th annual gala



fundraising event will be Fri., Oct. 10 at the Muehlebach Tower of the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. All donations are tax deductible.

If you would like to donate an auction item or for more information, contact Susan and Alan Garner, Gala Ambassadors, 816-822-7194.

Women's Ministries

Circle 12 will meet on Tues., Sept. 23 for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Contact Janet Roberts at 913-661-9581 for more information.

Circle 17 will meet on Tues., Sept. 23 for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Contact Gloria McLerran at 816-942-1438 for more information.

Circle 18 will meet at the church on Fri., Sept. 26 for lunch at 12:30 p.m. Contact Lois Russell at 913-338-1064 for more information.

Keystone Network will serve at Micah ministry on Oct. 11. Contact Mary Dibble for details.

Pastors' Class Informational Session on Oct. 1

The Pastors' Class, designed for youth 6th grade and older who are interested in becoming members of Country Club Christian Church, teaches the Bible, the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the history and heritage of the Christian faith. Participants are encouraged to think more deeply about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the importance of making a decision to be a strong member of the church.

An informational session about the next class will be held on Wed., Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center, Rm. 205. All youth, especially 6th graders, are invited to bring their parents to learn about the Pastors' class schedule and information for becoming full members of the congregation.

For more information, please contact Rev. Kelly Ingersoll at kellyi@cccckc.org.

Sorting Clothing for Crittenton



On Sept. 14, youth gathered in the Youth Center to sort clothing donated for children living at the Crittenton Children's Center in Kansas City. Helping sort were Kellin Martiny, Kathryn Kubin and Jansen Hess.

Second Sunday: Where Parents of Children 10 and Under Nourish Mind, Body and Soul

Parents gather for a light supper at 5:00 p.m. followed by a program at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Children enjoy dinner and activities in the childcare wing. RSVP by calling 816-333-4917 or email Mary Margaret Archer at marymargareta@cccckc.org.

Oct. 12 – "I Pledge Allegiance ..." What will our kids learn about voting and politics, about country and conflict during the election cycle this fall? Deth Im, a pastor and former candidate for public office, brings his passion as a parent of three small children and his dedication to public life and faith development to this timely topic.

Nov. 9 – Hoppo – 2008 Family Mission Trip Report.

Youth Directory Updates Due

We are in the process of updating the youth directory with a deadline of Oct. 5. Forms were emailed to your homes or can be picked up in the youth center. Pictures can be taken on Sun., Sept. 28 during Sunday school or on Sun., Oct. 5 during the Sunday School hour or from 6:15-6:45 p.m. in the youth room. This is the last day we can accept forms or pictures for inclusion in this year's youth directory.

Return your forms to Chris Trout at christ@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

New Orleans – Oct. 19-25

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

Nicaragua – Jan. 24-Feb. 1, 2009

If you missed the recent trip to Nicaragua, you will have another opportunity early in 2009. A \$200 deposit is due on Oct. 1 for those participating. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at 816-333-4917 or carlaa@cccckc.org for more information.

South Africa – Mar. 7-21, 2009

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



Sacred Journeys

by Rev. Kelly Ingersoll, Minister to Youth and Young Adults



Often in youth group settings, whether during Sunday School or in a small group at church camp, participants will be asked by leaders to create a life map. It is usually a linear map which starts at one's birth and ends at the present time. The participant is supposed to draw arrows away from the line. These new lines are to denote significant life experiences like entering kindergarten or junior high or high school. Sometimes the information includes when a person started playing sports or when they met their best friend or when the all-freeing driver's license

was obtained. More often than not, really personal information will be shared: This is when my parents divorced. That's the year I got really sick. We moved and I felt really alone—I tried to commit suicide. You'd be surprised what a simple exercise brings out in people, especially when they are surrounded by friends with whom they feel safe.

There is also another exercise. It looks to the future and is a bit morbid. Yet, it is a good tool to find out what one's hopes and dreams and goals in life are. And, it is interesting. This exercise calls for the participants to write their own obituaries—which is a hard thing for teenagers to think too seriously about. The information is usually about college, jobs, marriage, families, etc. Often, a line at the end will be shared, something like...was a friend to all or treated all with respect and kindness or lived life passionately and compassionately. The important life goals are almost always shared in the last line.

Frederich Buechner writes these words in his book, *The Sacred Journey*:

My interest in the past is not, I think, primarily nostalgic... What quickens my pulse now is the stretch ahead rather than the one behind, and it is mainly for some clue to where I am going that I search through where I have been, for some hint as to who I am becoming or failing to become that I delve into what used to be...I think of my life and the lives of everyone who has ever lived, or will ever live, as not just journeys through time but as sacred journeys.

Whether you are in a looking-forward or a looking-backward time of life, remember God travels down the path with us. Find what is significant. Know that the journey is sacred.

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith

The Covenant: Abraham

First through 5th graders will explore the theme of covenant through the stories of Abraham's faithfulness to God. This covenant established so long ago binds us, calls us, demands of us that we worship God and acknowledge the grace and salvation offered to us through God's everlasting love. Even though we are not always in right relationship with God, God's promise is still valid. "I will be your God and you will be my people." The Sunday School rotation on Abraham will be taught through Oct. 19. Through cooking, storytelling, art and more, the children will learn the Biblical stories of Abraham.

T.G.I.F

Fri., Sept. 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Parents with young children (under 6) are invited to join this group for food, fun and fellowship. Childcare at church (beginning at 5:30 p.m.). Parents will be hosted at the home of John and Julia Bartlett. RSVP and make reservations for childcare to Chris at christ@cccckc.org.

Club Kids

Paper Airplane Launch

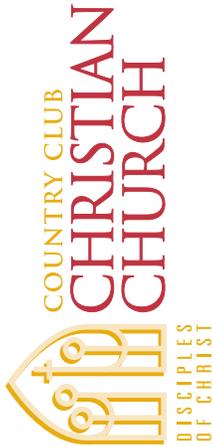
All 3rd - 5th graders are invited to join us Sun., Oct. 5 for a special Club Kids with Dr. George Gordon. After Dr. Gordon shares some tips on paper airplane making, we will launch them from a special place in the church. Come and enjoy the fellowship and fun from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

First Steps

Sun., Oct. 5, 9:55-10:45 a.m.

Parents with children 3 and under are invited to join other families for fellowship and informal conversation on the first Sunday of the month in Rm. 304. Come and join us as we explore how your child comes to know God and what your role as parents can be.

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Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Associate Minister

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Minister of Music

Dr. George Gordon III
Minister of
Congregational Care

Rev. Cynthia Heller
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Parish Visitation

Rev. Kelly Ingersoll
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Young Adults

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Director of
Administrative Services

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email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org

Park University Concert

Sun., Oct. 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Plan to join us for a glorious concert in our sanctuary by performers from the music department at Park University. A reception will follow.

Our Church Family Congratulations

Congratulations to David and Pat Hewitt on the birth of a granddaughter, Ruthie Gene Harrow, born Sept. 5 to Paul and Stephanie Harrow.

Congratulations to Sandy Eisenman, Director of Financial Services, and her husband, Marty, on the birth of a granddaughter, Elena Mazer Mandell, on Sept. 3.

Sympathy

JOHN KLEVER, brother of Phil Klever, passed away Sept. 2 in Colorado Springs, CO.

JESSEE CHILDERS passed away Sept. 10 in Santa Barbara, CA. He is survived by daughter Jean Claire Childers-Barlogio of Santa Barbara. A memorial service at Country Club Christian Church is planned for October.

MARGARET HILMES passed away Sept. 17. Service were on Sun., Sept. 21 in the Chapel, Dr. George Gordon officiating.

In the Hospital

As of Sept. 18, we are calling on the following individuals: Virginia Reed and Leola Bernard at Bishop Spencer Place; Brown Jenkins at Research Kansas City; and Theron Swank at Timberlake Nursing Center.