



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

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COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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

Winter Bible Study

Sign-up Still Open

You still have time to join the Winter Bible Study *Revelation: Not Left Behind*. Dr. Glen Miles leads the penetrating study of the Bible's most unconventional text. The study begins Jan. 12 and continues on Jan. 20 and 24 and Feb. 2 and 9 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Sadly, there is a great amount of false and misleading information about this beautiful book of the Bible. A serious and thoughtful review of John's ancient work reveals a poetic vision of hope and good news. Oh sure, it uses some very strange imagery and extremely unusual metaphors, but the message of God's desire to reconcile all of creation comes through.

Register by calling 816-333-4917 or emailing marymargareth@cccckc.org.

2009 State of the Church Dinner

Thur., Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.

Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future.

Mark your calendar for Thurs., Jan. 22 to hear Dr. Miles report, *Becoming God's Church: Notes from the Journey*.

Sign up in the Parlor on Sunday mornings or call the church office at 816-333-4917. The dinner is in the Social Hall. Cost is \$11 per person.

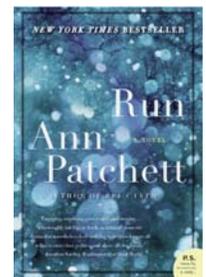


BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK



Sign up for a one-time discussion group of the book *Run*, by Ann Patchett. Then meet the author when she comes to speak at the church on Thur., Feb. 5.

See page 2 for a listing of discussion groups. Sign up for one that works for your schedule.



January-February Sermon Series

Finding Our Way: Through Faith, Belief, Forgiveness, Hope, Truth and Wisdom

Someone asked the preacher, "What does Sunday have to do with Monday?" That is a good question.

In this sermon series, we will consider the life and teachings of Jesus as we seek to travel with him along the way of life. We will explore the ancient yet contemporary topics of faith,

belief, forgiveness, hope, truth and wisdom. Come on Sunday and discover new ways to follow God every day.

Jan. 18 - Finding Our Way: Through Belief. John 3:1-16; Mark 1:14-15

Jan. 25 - Finding Our Way: Through Forgiveness. Ephesians 1:2-10; Mark 3:28-30

Feb. 8 - Finding Our Way: Through Hope. Psalm 33:18-22; Romans 5:1-5

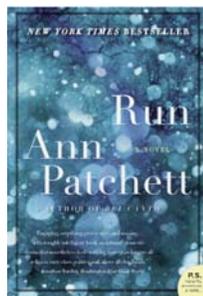
Feb. 15 - Finding Our Way: Through Truth. James 1:17-18; John 8:31-32

Feb. 22 - Finding Our Way: Through Wisdom. Proverbs 3:13-18; Colossians 1:9-14

BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK

Join a One-Time Discussion Group Now

Sign up now for a group that will meet one time to discuss our 2009 selection in the Building Community Book by Book series, *Run*, by Ann Patchett. Then, meet the author when she comes to speak at the church on Thur., Feb. 5 at 7:00 p.m..



This is a great opportunity to read an intriguing book, create community with fellow church members, and meet an acclaimed author. Purchase your copy of *Run* in The Well for \$12. Proceeds benefit disaster relief through Week of Compassion.

Discussion groups will meet in homes unless otherwise noted. Some will include light meals. Contact the hosts for specifics or call 816-333-4917.

- ♦ David and Susie Diebold, Jan. 18, 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ John and Shelly Trewolla, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Ginger Cline and Steve Nix, Jan. 21, 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Cheryl Commerford, Jan. 22, 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Cindy and Randy Irely, Jan. 25, 4:00 p.m.
- ♦ Greg and Nancy Lear, Jan. 25, 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Glenn and Tepríng Crocker, Jan. 26, 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Lara Schopp, Jan. 27, 6:00 p.m., Boozefish Restaurant on Westport Rd.
- ♦ Lisa and Doug Schmidt, Jan. 28, 2:00 p.m.
- ♦ Lee and Kris Brumitt, Jan. 29, 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Patty and Phil Love, Jan. 29, 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Eric and Kathryn Holtz, Feb. 1 at 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Bonnie Blythe Dee and Doug Dee, Feb. 1, 12:15 p.m.
- ♦ Susan and Alan Garner, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Carla Aday, Feb. 4, at church, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Winter/Spring Study Group

Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

If you are seeking to deepen the spiritual journey, then this is the class/group for you. Participants will be expected to read the study materials prior to attending class. The class will study three separate themes and participants may sign up for all three sessions or only one. The facilitator is Rev. Carla Aday.

Session 1 is under way but you can join in the discussion starting with Session 2.

Session 2 – Feb. 5, 12, 19

We will read and discuss *The Power of God and the Gods of Power* by Daniel Migliore. This book is available for purchase in The Well or to borrow in the church library.

Session 3 –Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9

Lenten Study of the scriptures using the Bible Workbench materials. Cost for materials \$25. Order in the church office. These lessons will correspond with the sermons on the Sunday following our class.

Please sign up in the church office by calling 816-333-4917 or email marymargareth@cccckc.org. Childcare available by advance request.



New Year, New Way

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The Bible often reminds us of our need to repent. That word gets a lot of bad press but at its core it means: turn around and move toward maturity. This may be the single most difficult thing we are invited to do in the Christian life. Perhaps even more difficult is the call to the church to turn around, to pay attention to the things that matter the most.

Brennan Manning, in his book, *The Signature of Jesus*, asks a series of very difficult questions:

- After 2,000 years of Christian history why is our world's population less than one-third Christian?
- Why are the personalities of so many pious Christians so opaque?
- Why doesn't our contagious joy, enthusiasm and gratitude infect others with a longing for Christ?
- Why are the fire and spirit of Peter and Paul so conspicuously absent from our pallid existence?

Ouch! Manning's point is addressed to the church universal, of course, but is also attempting to get the preachers and the folks in the pews to ask themselves these questions and wonder out loud about what might need to happen. This call to repentance in the church is an invitation to return to the work of the kingdom of heaven.

You remember, I'm sure, that Jesus invites us to pray, "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." What does it mean then to see the will of God work, to see the kingdom of heaven being established? Matthew 25 gives us a terrific picture. The least of these—the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned—are being fed, clothed and visited. The kingdom is based on the good news of God. For example, it is the psalmist who tells us that there is nowhere we can go, not even hell itself, and not be found. Peter in one of his letters to the church says something similar about Jesus, he'll descend into hell if necessary in order to proclaim release and good news.

Repentance, in the long run, is an opportunity to simply and courageously give in to the grace of God. That is a new way of living for a new year.

Grace and Peace to you,

Welcome to our Visitors!

You're invited to the next **Information Open House on Sun., Jan. 25** from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Stop by for dessert and learn more about the exciting events that will be taking place in the coming months.

We also invite you to become a member of the Country Club Christian Church family! New members will be welcomed on Sun., Feb. 8 at the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would like to be included in the celebration, simply let Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, know by calling 816-333-4917 or emailing laurenw@cccckc.org. We look forward to sharing your faith journey with you!

Worship with us!

**Services at 8:00, 9:00,
10:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Jan.-Feb. Sermon Series
Finding Our Way**

Jan. 18
Through Belief
John 3: 1-16
Mark 1: 14-15

Jan 25
Through Forgiveness
Ephesians 1: 2-10
Mark 3: 28-30

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Pathways to Learning



Healthy People, Healthy Nation

Pathways to Learning presents *Healthy People, Healthy Nation*. This series will include a current look at Alzheimer's, the rising costs of healthcare and heart health.

Jan. 18 – “The Heart Truth,” Dr. Tracy Stevens, cardiologist.

Jan. 25 – “Understanding Alzheimer's,” Michelle Niedens, Education Director, Heart of America Alzheimer's Association.

Feb. 1 – “Skyrocketing Costs,” Professor Mike Wood, UMKC Bloch School.

Second Sunday

Where parents of children ages 10 and under nourish mind, body and soul. Children enjoy dinner and activity in the child care wing, while parents gather for a light supper, followed by a program. Dinner \$7.50 per person. 5:00 p.m., second Sunday of each month.

Feb. 8 – “Will you be my valentine?” A refreshing look at how parents can keep the romance alive.

YaWhose

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

Join YaWhose on Sunday morning from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m., Rm. 304 for a presentation and discussion of faith issues in our everyday lives. On the first Sunday of the month,

Crossroads and YaWhose meet together.

Jan. 18 – “The Environment—Real Solutions for Church, Business and Life,” Fritz Zschietzschmann.

Jan. 25 – “Martin Luther King and Non-Violence,” Chris Howard.

Monthly Evening Gathering – Tues., Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. Casual dinner and program (to be announced).

Crossroads

For adults ages 35-50. We each face many different crossroads in our lives. Each Sunday provides an opportunity to build relationships, learn more about our faith tradition and discover the spiritual guidance needed to face the various crossroads. Meets every Sunday in the Pine Room (Rm. 10), 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Jan. 11 – Mar. 1 – Genesis. Talk about Crossroads! The first book of the Bible explores family relationships, job transfers, the pressures of living in a secular culture, and much more. Take a look at the dramas of Noah, Rebekah and many others who struggle with how God interacts with us at each and every crossroad we face. Learn the meaning and the mystery of the stories as we share our own stories with one another.

Couple Communication

Learn practical communication skills to protect and sustain a vital partnership. In this class you will develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating faster, better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free.

Saturdays, Feb. 21 and 28 – 9:00 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org or Michelle Schlatter at weddings@cccckc.org or call the church at 816-333-4917.

Grief Support Group Meeting in January

A grief support group called “New Beginnings” is meeting each Saturday through January. It is held in the church library from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The group is facilitated by Good Shepherd Hospice. For more information or to sign up, call Mary Linda McDonnell at 816-822-2292.

Women's Ministry

Keystone Network will meet Jan. 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Erma Hess. The program will be given by Sandy and Mike Allen, who will report on a mission trip to Haiti. Guests are welcome!



Fish

by Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



*If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
If you're happy and you know, then your smile will
surely show it.
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.*

While it's a simple song, these words ring true for me today as I think about our church's growth. This past year, our church welcomed 87 new members into the congregation. Behind each of those 87 faces, there is a unique story about their individual faith journeys and how they came to

the church. Some were invited by a friend. Some came for a concert. Some were planning a wedding here. Some were led inside by curiosity. Others met Fish...

Back in November of 2007, a women's one-day retreat was held on our campus. The featured speaker that day brought her mother along to see her presentation. Following the event, the guest speaker was packing up her things and preparing to leave. Her mother, Joan, was sitting at the back of the room, patiently waiting for her daughter. With that, Fish, a member of our church's custodial staff, entered the room to begin cleaning up. He greeted Joan and the two struck up a conversation. During the course of their visit, Joan mentioned that she had never been here before. Without hesitation, Fish welcomed her and encouraged her to come back on Sunday. Fish went on to say what a blessing this church had been to him personally and confessed that the highlight of his Sunday is sneaking up to the balcony during Dr. Miles' sermon to listen in.

Joan took Fish up on his invitation and returned the very next day for worship. The rest, as they say, is history. Ten months later, in September of 2008, we welcomed Joan as a member of the Country Club Christian Church family. You'll now find Joan sharing her musical talents on Sunday mornings as a member of the Chancel Choir.

I'm not typically a fan of New Year's resolutions, but this year, I'm making an exception. I resolve to have more "Fish" moments. I resolve to "clap my hands" and share my love of God and this faith community with the same exuberance, authenticity and warmth that Fish did that cold November day. I hope you'll join me.

Thank you, Fish, for clapping your hands!

Blessings,

January Collection Connection

Baby Yarn for Knitting Circle

The Collection Connection for January is baby yarn for the knitting circle in our church. Your contributions will help these knitters to make baby blankets and hats for Truman Medical Center where almost 200 babies are born each month. Our church members have also taken these baby items on mission trips to Nicaragua, South Africa and South Dakota. Please leave your yarn in the box provided in the church parlor.

Mondays in March

Starting Mar. 2 and continuing through Mar. 30, David Diebold will offer insights in how to listen to sacred and secular music and how our culture is enriched by the presence of serious music in our lives. The class will meet from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the Music Room (Rm. 100). Register through Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org. If enough interest is shown in a daytime session, this class will be offered the same dates at 9:15 a.m.

Grace at Work Is Apr. 18

Mark your calendar for Sat., Apr. 18 to join in Grace at Work, a one-day volunteer opportunity to reach out to organizations in our community. During this church-wide event individuals are invited to experience fellowship while serving others and creating visible change in our community. A range of volunteer opportunities is available including projects on our campus. Sign up begins in late March.

Rummage Sale Coming in May

Mark your calendar for the week of May 3-9 for the all-church rummage sale. Help raise funds for Country Club Christian Church's Outreach Ministry by donating gently used items you no longer need. For information, contact Pat Martin, patmartin1050@aol.com or 816-590-7134.

Youth Sunday Is Feb. 1

Our high school youth have begun planning the worship services on Youth Sunday, Feb. 1. All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for CYF on Sunday nights to help.

On Sat., Jan. 31, we will rehearse from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you are a youth and want to be involved, contact Justin Zeigler, Youth Ministry Intern, at justinz@cccckc.org or Laine Riley, Interim Youth Director, at lainer@cccckc.org.

If you play a musical instrument and would like to share during Youth Sunday, contact Laine as soon as possible at lainer@cccckc.org.

Chi Rho and CYF Retreats

Feb. 13 and 14

The youth of Country Club Christian Church will head out to Tall Oaks Conference Center on Fri., Feb. 13-Sat., Feb. 14 to relax and grow spiritually. We will arrive at Tall Oaks before dinner on Friday, and conclude our retreat on Saturday afternoon. These will be two separate retreats, with separate housing for Chi Rho and CYF. We will be hanging out, doing outdoor activities and eating a lot!! Approximate cost is \$50 per person.

Children's Musical

Sun., Mar. 1

Join us as the Cherubim and Children's Choirs present their third annual musical. This year's show, *It's Cool in the Furnace* by Buryl Red, is packed with adventure and laughs. Don't miss this fun-filled afternoon featuring a light lunch preceding the show.

2009 Ministries and Events Guide Available

Pick up your copy of the 2009 Ministries and Events Guides. The guide is your one-stop reference to all of the opportunities for worship, Bible studies, educational offerings, fellowship groups, community service, outreach, mission trips, and special events at Country Club Christian Church over the next six months, including a handy reference calendar. When you pick up your copy, take a few minutes to look through it, then designate a spot in your home or office where it will be readily available for reference throughout the year. Most members will receive a copy in the mail by mid-January, but if you do not receive a copy or would like more than one, please feel free to pick up an extra at the church.

Food Drive Is Jan. 18

On Sun., Jan. 18, please bring your non-perishable food items for our collection for local food pantries which serve the homeless and hungry. A van will be in the Chapel parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the barrels located at the east and north doors.

Financial donations are also appreciated and can be made by marking your check "Virginia Reed Food Drive" and leaving it in the offering plate or church office.

Share Your Heart With the World: Missions Fair

On Feb. 8, the Country Club Christian Church Mission Trips Council will host a missions fair entitled "Share Your Heart with the World." Through visual displays, crafts, food, and activities, this event will allow attendees to get a first hand view of how our church members have previously shared their hearts with the world. Discover opportunities that exist for you to share your heart with the world. Stop by for a taste of rice and beans Nicaragua style or a hands on experience assembling health kits. Learn more about our mission partners around the nation and globe. All ages welcome. Plan to join us starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.





A Time of Reflection

by Dr. Charles Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



One of my favorite vignettes for a lesson about life occurs in the story of *Alice in Wonderland*. An artist's depiction of the life lesson is a scene of the innocent Alice standing before several road signs pointing in many different directions. Alice is clearly overwhelmed with all the opportunities. Perched up on a tree branch is the toothy Cheshire cat who wisely says something to the effect: "Alice ... you will never know what direction to take unless you know where you want to go!"

The "Chessy-cat" is right. Life has many opportunities and potentials, and it is easy to get disoriented or even in trouble if one bypasses the all-important step of determining where one wants to go. Of course, not all decisions are potentially life threatening or catastrophic, but the direction one is headed has everything to do with the road one travels and where a journey ends.

As Christians we are invited by our Creator God to value, enhance, and celebrate life. Many of us consider the coming of a "new year" as a time to make resolutions. Resolutions require reflection, assessment, vision, making a plan, and commitment. As Christians, God wants to be part of our resolutions. Faith is a journey, not a one time "leap" or decision we make. Churches also have the calling to journey the ways of faith. Healthy churches understand and implement their calling to proclaim the grace and hope of God's love in defined, intentional ways.

I am looking forward to the upcoming "State of the Church Dinner." This will be a time of reflection, assessment, and defining our journey – a journey all of us are invited by God to take. Country Club Christian Church is definitely on a journey of faith that is defined by grace, discipleship, and love. I am grateful to serve a congregation that is intentional about growing in ways of planning for the future and engaging ministry beyond our church walls. We are a church that does not stare blankly at the abundance of choices that point in every direction at every crossroad of life. We are a church that accepts its calling to proclaim the love of God in Jesus Christ and that is something to celebrate!

The coming of a "new year" is a time of reflection, evaluation, and dream-casting. May you and all of us at Country Club Christian Church be blessed, be faithful, and be the Christians and church God calls and envisions us to be!

Blessings to you and yours,

Chuck

Children and Families

Club Kids

3rd – 5th graders are invited to join us for a special outing on Sun., Jan. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will have lunch at church then go to Mission Bowl, returning to church by 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per child which covers lunch, shoe rental and bowling fees. Make time to knock some pins down with your Club Kids buddies. Space is limited so RSVP to Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Family Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Jan. 25, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Each summer families are invited to experience an opportunity for service and fellowship on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The 2009 dates are June 17-23. Join us on Sun., Jan. 25 for an informational session to learn more about the trip. Make time to view the photos from past years trips in the first floor photo gallery. RSVP for the information session to Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Sunday Mornings

Fountains of Faith: 1st – 5th Graders

We continue our rotation focusing on *Kingdom Parables: The Great Feast*. Through interactive storytelling, a wood-based art project, cooking and more children will learn how Jesus used the parables to reveal a new vision about how we should all live together and with God.

Worship & Wonder: 3 ½ year olds – Kindergarten

Join one of the two early childhood classes that uses a Montessori-based program to share Bible stories with the children. Through the use of simple storytelling materials the children experience a range of stories for the Bible that help them know God's love for all. Following the story children have "work time" to express themselves. The session concludes with a feast. and blessing.

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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Associate Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

Rev. Cynthia Heller
Minister of
Parish Visitation

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn
Minister to Children
and Families

Dr. Charles Rolan
Interim Minister of
Congregational Care

Mr. Brian Campbell
Associate Organist

Ms. Sandy Eisenman
Director of
Financial Services

Ms. Lisa McCleish
Director of Early
Childhood Programs

Ms. Laine Riley
Associate Director
of Music/Interim Youth
Director

Ms. Lara Schopp
Director of
Communications

Ms. Lauren Weinhold
Director of
Church Growth

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Our Church Family

Sympathy

THELMA FIELDS passed away Dec. 24. She is survived by her husband, John. Services were Dec. 27, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

ED SETZLER passed away Jan. 5. Services were Jan. 9 in the Chapel, Dr. Charles Rolan officiating.

DOROTHY STURGEON passed away Jan. 6. Services were Jan. 10 in the Chapel, Rev. Cynthia Heller officiating.

EVELYN COCKAYNE, mother of Perry Cockayne, passed away Dec. 7 in Carrollton, MO. Services were Dec. 13 in Carrollton.

MARY MAY passed away Dec. 19. Services were Dec. 23 at the Lake Ozark Christian Church.

In the Hospital

As of Jan. 8, we are calling on the following individuals: Bob See at Research Hospital; Bob Wolf at Foxwood Springs Nursing Center; Isabel Buehler, Helen Ruth Williams and Sharon VanDyke at Manor Care; and Mary Ann Cooper at Claridge Court Health Center.

Memorials

UMATILLA M. ARNOLD
Perry & Jeanne Cockayne
Bob & Alyce King
Randy & Cindy Irely
Jill Reynolds

DORIS WHITAKER BETTS
Marjorie Scott

THELMA B. FIELDS
Bill & Ruby Jane Scott
Bill & Patty Gates
Robert Ramseyer
Fred & Pat Brown
Max & Carol Clark

Jet Rawlings
Truman & Norma Perry
Dorothy Bayless
John & Jill Hartman
Rose McBratney

BARBARA GARRISON
Helen Allison
Karen Allison & Gary
Gallimore

MARY L. MAY
Maebelle Hodges
RICHARD STRAFER
Virginia Strafer

Permanent Missionary Fund
ELIZABETH JENKINS
Elena Wentz

George Gordon
Congregational Care Fund
MILDRED B. TAYLOR

Perry & Jeanne Taylor
Cockayne

THELMA B. FIELDS
John & Martha Jane Stewart

KC Food & Shelter Fund
THELMA B. FIELDS
Harvey & Dorothy Ray

Micah Ministry
ELIZABETH S. JENKINS
Jan & LaMonte Roach Jr.
THELMA B. FIELDS
Jan & LaMonte Roach Jr.
MARY ALICE & LAMONTE
ROACH
Jan & LaMonte Roach Jr.