

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.



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OF CHRIST

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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*

A Spiritual Journey through Lent

Lenten Sermon Series

This series ties into the Bible Workbench study underway during Lent.

Feb. 21 – The Land of God, Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Feb. 28 – Listen!, Luke 13:31-35

Mar. 7 – When Bad Things Happen, Luke 13: 1-9

Mar. 14 – Men and Women of Doubtful Reputation, Luke 15: 1-3; 11-32

Mar. 21 – Love Wastefully, John 12: 1-8

Mar. 28 – At A Distance, Luke 23: 1-49

Daily Lenten Email Devotionals

You can receive inspiration throughout the Lenten Journey from daily emails written by our ministers and staff. To be included, email janef@cccckc.org. The devotionals also are available on our website at www.cccckc.org under the Stay Informed tab.

Deadline to Purchase 90th Anniversary Tickets is February 28

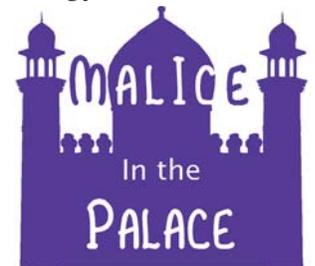
Time is running out to purchase your tickets for the 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Auction on Sat., Mar. 6! You only have a few days left to purchase your tickets to this festive night of fellowship, live music, a buffet dinner and carriage rides at the beautiful Mildale Farm in Edgerton, KS. Tickets are \$125 each and can be purchased in the Parlor Sunday with cash, check or credit card. Ninety dollars from each ticket purchased can be written off as a donation to the church. Auction items include a week stay in an oceanfront home, tickets to the George Lopez Show, and much more! View a list of auction items and benefactors at www.cccckc.org.

Children's Choirs to Present *Malice in the Palace*

If I rise on the wings of the dawn or fly beyond the sea, I will find you there waiting for me.

You may have heard these lyrics drifting throughout the halls on Sunday mornings, as the children have been rehearsing for this year's musical. *Malice in the Palace* is based on the story of Esther. This show is filled with drama, beautiful music, fun choreography, numerous belly laughs, and a villain that you'll just love to hate!

Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Following the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Mar. 7, we will be serving a light lunch (cost is \$6.00 per person), followed by the 30-minute show. Reservations can be made by contacting Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917, or in the Parlor on Sunday. *Malice in the Palace* is fun entertainment for all ages, whether or not you know a child who is participating. The children look forward to the musical every year, and love to sing for a packed house!



Celebrating 90 Years of Ministry

Deadline to Buy Celebration Tickets Is Feb. 28!

You only have a few days left to purchase your tickets for the 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Auction! Enjoy this festive night of fellowship, live music, a buffet dinner and carriage rides at the Mildale Farm in Edgerton, KS.

The event begins at 6:00 p.m. on Sat., Mar. 6, and continues until 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$125 each. Ninety dollars from each ticket purchased can be written off as a donation to the church. Tickets can be purchased in the Parlor on Sunday with cash, check or credit card or you can also call the church office at 816-333-4917 and purchase your ticket over the phone with a credit card.

Benefactors

We are grateful to the 90th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Auction benefactors, who are playing an important role in the success of this evening: Marcia and Andy Berry, Karen and Greg Bates, Andrea and Steve Bough, Kris and Lee Brumitt, Lynn and John Cockle, Laura and Dick Cray, Tepríng and Glenn Crocker, Marilyn and Chuck Dreas, Courtney Earnest, David Forsee and Deanne Stedem, Betsy and Jim Gamble, Barbara and Alex George, Sarah and Scott Glasrud, Evalyn and Milburn Hobson, Anne and Stuart Hoffman, Lesley and Peter Holt, Marie and David Hunter, Beth Ingram, Cindy and Randy Irej, Shellie and Dan Jensen, Suzi and Howard Kilbride, Judi and Elvin Knight, Nancy and Greg Lear, Judy and Gary Lockwood, Kimberly Peters-Lundine and Christopher Lundine, Pat and Jim Martin, Brian McCallister, Gloria



McLerran, Julie and Glen Miles, Kay and Bob Moffat, Dawn and Charles Murphy, Kristin and Evan Patterson, Stephanie Pilkington, Stacey and Jason Roske, Michelle and Rod Schlatter, Lisa and Doug Schmidt, Susanne Shutz, Mary and Pete Thorsell, Sharon and Tom Van Dyke, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller, anonymous.

Auction Items

Come prepared to bid on auction items such as a Wine Pairing Dinner for six people at the home of Glen and Julie Miles, Backyard BBQ dinner for 30-50 people, Breckenridge house for one week between April 20 and November 20, 2010, weekend at a home on Lake Viking, two tickets to the George Lopez Show in Los Angeles, Lake Quivira pontoon party for six, a parking spot behind the church, Vera Bradley Super Tote, tickets to MU-Nebraska game OR KU-Nebraska game, music for a wedding from David Diebold, gift certificates, gift baskets, tickets, services and more. Visit www.cccckc.org/stayinformed for a list of auction items and more information.

Leadership Nominations Sought

It is time to nominate persons to fill elected positions within our church for the 2010-2011 church year. This is a time of opportunity, and we ask you to look around and identify youth and adults who are eager to work in a church environment!

The Nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions:

- ◆ Congregational Board
 - Chairperson-Elect
 - Treasurer
 - Board Members
- ◆ Personnel Committee
- ◆ Endowment Trustees
- ◆ Elders (including chairperson-elect)
- ◆ Deacons
- ◆ Youth Elders
- ◆ Youth Deacons

Nomination forms and qualifications are available in the parlor and on our website under the Stay Informed tab. Please nominate persons (including yourself) who you feel would serve our church well. Deadline for nominations is Sun., Mar. 14.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact Jane Fletcher at 816-333-4917 or janef@cccckc.org. Thank you for your participation in this important process!

Nominating Committee: *Mary Lehoczky (Chair), Jeff Algie, Greg Bates, John Cockle, Mindee Forman, Jere Hanney, Brook Howard, Shelle Jensen, Marjorie Jump, Pat Martin, Rod Schlatter, and John Trewolla.*



We Do Not Lose Heart

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: “We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.”

Paul is writing about mastering the inner game, about recognizing that outward appearances are not as important as inner peace. This is a tough lesson for many of us to learn.

Have you ever read the *Inner Game of Tennis*? It focuses on the fact that mastering the forehand and the backhand and learning to return serve are only half of the game. They are skills that you need of course but there is also the inner game. The inner game learns to compete and shut down the negative voices of nervousness, doubt and condemnation.

Paul was a master at the inner game. He sees his life from Heaven’s perspective. That doesn’t mean he has a death wish. It means that even though his outward form, his earthly tent as he calls it, is wasting away, he is still able to see that inwardly he is growing. Inside his soul is getting stronger and greater each day.

That perspective is not an easy one to gain. Maybe too many of us, and I am including myself in this list, focus too much on the outside and image and looks and houses and bank accounts, foolishly believing that those things will help us find our way to contentment and satisfaction.

Let’s be clear: this life is hard. The stress, the difficulty, all of it adds up in ways that we cannot even begin to imagine for each other. In a recent wedding workshop, we talked about the taboo that often exists among married couples of never talking seriously about their pain, of the pressure that sometimes society or friends or our own torn up insides put on us.

I reminded them as I remind you often: Every one of us is carrying something heavy, facing something painful, dealing with doubt or worry or frustration. If we did nothing in this place but hold each other in our pain we would be preparing ourselves to allow God to rebuild and strengthen our inner nature.

As we begin the journey toward the ugliness of the crucifixion and the joy of Easter may we find the courage to face the inner game, inviting God’s Spirit to lead and guide us through this one life we share.

Grace and peace to you,

Nicaragua Mission Trip Blog

A mission team is leaving Feb. 20 to conduct medical clinics and work on construction projects among the poorest of the poor in rural Nicaragua. You can



keep up with the team’s journey by checking out the mission trip blog at www.cccckc.org/stay-informed.

Worship with us!

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

**Bible Workbench
Sermon Series**

Dr. Glen Miles preaching

Feb. 28

Listen!

Luke 13:31-35

Mar. 7

When Bad Things Happen

Luke 13: 1-9

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Tues., Mar. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Mar. 2 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity for church members and friends of our church to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on Feb. 21

On Sun., Feb. 21, 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."

World Day of Prayer is March 5

Women's Ministries is joining with women throughout the world for World Day of Prayer on Fri., Mar. 5. In Kansas City, women will gather at 10:00 a.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 5931 Swope Parkway. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Throughout the entire day, women collectively pray all over the world, beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset. The prayers follow the sun's path around the globe. WDP's motto is "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action."



T.G.I.F. (This Group Is Fun)

Parents with children 6 and under are invited to gather for fellowship and fun the fourth Friday of each month. Our next gathering will be Fri., Feb. 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. Parents are asked to contribute \$5 per child for childcare (\$10 maximum per family). Childcare will be at the church beginning at 5:30 p.m. RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

First Steps to Faithfulness

Sun., Mar. 7

Parents with children under 3 years of age are invited to join other families on the first Sunday of each month from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Pine Room (Rm. 10). We will gather for informal fellowship with other families with infants and toddlers. We will sing and hear a short story on creation. Make plans to join us.

Shopping at The Well

Also Shop Amazon.com Via cccckc.org through The Well
Have you visited The Well Books and Gifts store recently? If not, you're missing out on lots of unique gift items and books. Purchases at The Well directly benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to individuals around the world. Use The Well's page on the church's web site,



www.cccckc.org under the Stay Informed tab, to do your shopping at amazon.com and a percentage of the purchase price is directed to our Outreach projects. The Well is on the ground floor of the church and is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.





Holy Moments from the Kick Line

by Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music



In the past 16 years of directing children's musicals, I can't think of one that didn't contain a kick line. Every musical has a moment that lends itself to this, and the kids love to work on it. "Step, kick, step, kick..." all the while making sure we get the more important music and lyrics across.

Music can be a very powerful teaching tool. Honestly, it's how I learned numerous things in school that required memorization, such as the 50 states, the ABCs, even the books of the Bible.

When you sing something, the music and lyrics become a part of you. That's why I love directing children's musicals so much. Not only is it a teaching tool to learn stories of our faith, but I believe the underlying messages of the stories are internalized on a much deeper level.

The other day, my 6-year-old daughter, Jordan, and I were in the car heading to church. She was singing along to "Wings of the Dawn" on the practice CD for the musical. It's a song that Esther and the chorus sing together. Here are some of the lyrics:

*If I climb to the heights of the mountain
Or search the depths below
I know your arms will hide me
Everywhere I go*

When Jordan finished singing the song she asked, "So, God's with me all the time?" "Yes, Honey," I answered. She excitedly asked again, "Everywhere? No matter what?" I answered, "That's right, everywhere, no matter what." Unknown to Jordan, I just happened to peak in the rear view mirror to catch a glimpse of pure joy on her face. She smiled, covering her mouth like she was holding in the best secret in the world. Then she held up her tiny hand, and waved out the window to God.

Jordan and I have talked about God's presence many, many times, but in that holy, musical moment, she truly felt it. Through song, the story has become a part of her, and hopefully to all of our children here at Country Club Christian Church. Those holy moments make every minute of, "step, kick, step, kick" worth it. Through *Malice in the Palace*, the story of Esther is one that our kids will remember for a long time, and the message of God's presence in their lives will be felt way beyond the kick line.

Laine

PS: See page 1 for details about the musical.

Culver-Stockton Choir Concert

We are pleased to invite you to a concert on Sun., Mar. 14 by the concert choir of Culver-Stockton College. The concert will be held in our Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Culver-Stockton is one of our Disciples of Christ colleges and is located in northeast Missouri. The choir, under the direction of Dr. Kevin Baker, will be on tour throughout the Midwest and we are excited that they have chosen Country Club Christian Church as one of their venues.

We have been asked to house the students on Sunday evening. Host families will be asked to take two or more students into their homes, provide breakfast on Monday and return them to the church Monday morning. We will need to find housing for approximately 30 students. If you are able to help with housing, please contact David Diebold at the church.

Upcoming Youth Events

Chi-Rho/CYF Parent Gathering

Sun., Feb. 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Parents of youth in 6th-12th grades are invited to come for fellowship with other parents. This informal gathering will be hosted at the home of Eileen and Ron Boster. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org

Sunday Night Youth Group

Feb. 28 – Regular session, snack supper at 6:00 p.m., youth group from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Mar. 7 – Service project MOSAIC tiles, snack supper at 6:00 p.m., service from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fourth Fridays

Feb. 26, 8:00-11:00 p.m.

The fourth Friday of each month we will invite people from the Kansas City Urban Youth Center to come and spend some time with us. We

will play games and hang out in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). For more information, contact Brandon Winstead, brandonw@cccckc.org.

Pastors' Class

Feb. 24 – Meet with faith mentors, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Feb. 26-27 – Lock-in begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday and continues until 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Chi Rho Mission Trip

All current 6th-8th graders are invited to participate in the Chi Rho mission trip to Indianapolis July 11-17. The trip will provide an opportunity to hang out with friends and serve others. For more information, contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

CYF Mission Trip

CYF (grades 9-12) will travel to Chicago this summer July 18-24. Contact Brandon Winstead at brandonw@cccckc.org.

February Collection Connection

Country Club Christian Church is collecting donations for the local non-profit, GiveWhatYouGot.org. In 2009, GWYG provided over 1,200 birthday and holiday gifts to children living in foster care in the metropolitan area. With our help, they will be able to brighten the lives of even more children in our community in 2010.

Suggestions for useful items, for children ages 1-20: **New:** journals/pens, CD players/MP3 players, art supplies (sketch-books, craft kits), frames and albums, disposable cameras, and stuffed animals. **New or gently used:** toys, books, baby dolls, games and puzzles, sport items (footballs, Frisbees, memorabilia).

There is currently an urgent need for toiletries/hygiene items (body wash, lotion, deodorant) for older youth in foster care, both male and female.



Chi-Rho and CYF youth enjoyed a retreat at Tall Oaks Conference Center on Feb. 12-14. Team building activities, games, Bible study and discussion kept this group engaged and having fun. Here youth and sponsors pause to take a photo after presenting skits. Back row: Perry Jackson, Brandon Winstead, Jackson Berry, Carson Trent, Michaela O'Conner, Jane Commerford, Parker Hoffman, Jeff Algie. Middle: Cathy McDandel, Jansen Hess, Gerard Algie. Front row: Catherine Stark-Corn, Morgan Larrison, Meghan Jackson, Ross Commerford, Connor Ehman, Zoë Ziegenhorn, Justin Zeigler.



Practice Saying “No”

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



Which of the commandments is the oldest? Even older than the list of commandments itself. It was practiced for generations before the tablets were delivered by Moses to the people. It’s the one about keeping the Sabbath holy. At the very beginning of creation, we are told, God rested on the 7th day. And so the people got to rest every seven days, too.

But many of us find it difficult to imitate God’s cycle of creativity and rest. We find ourselves working all the time. Whether we are doing the laundry or sending work emails from home, we remain locked in a cycle of productivity. We have much to accomplish. But no matter how important or noble our activity, God summons us to rest, to refresh, to renew.

Barbara Brown Taylor, in her recent book *An Altar in The World*, re-frames the ancient command. Instead of “keeping the Sabbath,” she calls this practice, “saying no.”

If we could somehow become more proficient at “saying no” to the myriad demands on our time, then we would find it easier to say “yes” to investing ourselves into hanging out with God and each other. To doing the stuff that makes our souls sing.

Our congregation is attempting to “say no” to business meetings during the season of Lent so that we can “say yes” to spiritual reflection through worship, prayer, Bible study, and Sacred Conversations. Many of us have wondered out loud if we can really suspend our important committee meetings for six weeks and still faithfully serve God here at church. It is hard for us to remember that God wants our hearts, not just our hard work.

Letting go of the business of church frees us up to receive God’s active movement towards us rather than focus all our attention on our work on God’s behalf. God can likely keep the world spinning, the church thriving and our lives raised to new heights without our committees meeting.

Practice saying “No.” “No, I don’t need any more clothes today.” “No, I have enough work on my desk right now.” “No, we are staying home tonight.” And find out if the ancient wisdom is true. That when we say no to that which begs our attention, we return our hearts into God’s eternal presence. Or as the famous Meister Eckhart put it: “God is not found in the soul by adding anything but by subtracting.”

Carla

Children and Families

Lenten Devotional Booklets

Families are invited to make Lent more meaningful by using one of two Lent devotional booklets available in the second floor. *O Lord, I’m Listening* is most suitable for preschool through younger elementary and *Shaped by Love* for upper elementary. Come by Sunday to pick up a booklet for your family.

Family Mission Trip Open House

Sun., Feb. 28, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Families with elementary aged children are invited to come by the Last Supper sculpture room off the Parlor on Sun., Feb. 28, to learn more about the Family Mission Trip coming in June 2010. This fifth annual trip returns to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. We hope you will consider making this a part of your family’s summer – come by for detailed information.

Club Kids

Feb. 21 – Snowtubing

Feb. 28 – Regular session

Mar. 7 – No Club Kids

Save the date for our annual overnight in Omaha, Sat., Apr. 24 – Sun., Apr. 25.



Club Kids (3rd-5th graders) volunteered at Harvesters as part of Souper-Bowl Sunday, Feb 7. They became experts at sorting frozen meat!

Moms’ Group

We will NOT have Moms’ Group coffee or service through March to accommodate the group of moms meeting for Sacred Conversations on Monday mornings.

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Our Church Family

Sympathy

JODI LYNN BROWN passed away Feb. 4. She is the daughter of Linda Brown and sister of Lisa Vansaghi. The memorial service was Feb. 6.

PAMELA STOWERS passed away Feb. 1. She is survived by her parents, Jim and Virginia Stowers, brother Jim III and sisters Kathleen Stowers-Potter and Linda Johnson. A memorial service was Feb. 6 in San Diego.

DOROTHY PEASE passed away Feb. 4. The memorial service was Feb. 12 in the Chapel, Dr. Charles Rolan officiating.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Stephen and Shannon Nixon on the birth of Alexander Cole Nixon on Feb. 11. Paternal grandparents are Linda and Dick Nixon.

Memorials

Jodi Brown

John and Erma Hess

Barbara Nottberg

Linda Priboth

Nancy and Jim Carnes

Julie and Greg Hessenflow
and family

Melissa and Jim Carnes and
family

Beth Ingram

Mrs. Neil Ball

Sam and Joan Stockdale

Janet Sharp

Vera Golly

Paula Lane

Phil Loevenguth

Judy and Scott Morrison

Doris Uhlig

Ann Hyde

John and Erma Hess

Tom and Linda Lieurance

Dean and Sue Dyer

Ann Comfort

Perry and Jeanne Cockayne

Hank and Joan Riffe

Robert Anderson

Shiela Richards

Hank and Joan Riffe

Honorarium

Virginia Reed

Virginia Reed Food Drive

Paula Lane