



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.*

Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Launched

Survey Deadline is Feb. 23

By now you should have received information about the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study recently launched by the church. This study was initiated after the Town Hall meeting on Jan. 16, at which members gave input into potential capital campaign projects. Those present expressed support for exterior improvements to the building, interior renovations to enhance worship and community building, outreach projects and technological upgrades. As a result, the church is launching this study to assist us in determining if a capital campaign to address these areas is realistic at this time. Financial resources in the church's operating budget are insufficient to address the scope of these needs, therefore the campaign we are considering would raise the extra funds.

We are asking all members to provide input into how the church should proceed with any proposed plans. We have contracted with Church Development to conduct this study.

Children's Musical Is Sunday, March 6

Join us on Sun., Mar. 6 for the 5th Annual Children's Musical, *A Barbecue for Ben*. Our Cherubim and Children's choirs are moving into the New Testament this year, as they make the parable of the prodigal son come alive through music, action and dance (complete with trash can percussion)! We will have a light snack lunch in the social hall after the 11:00 a.m. worship service, and the show will immediately follow. This is a spectacular event for all ages!

There are four components to the study:

1. The case statement outlines what is included in the plan and why church leadership thinks it is important now to execute the plan.
2. All members are encouraged to participate in an online or written survey.
3. A cross-section of members are being interviewed.
4. A final report will be presented to church leadership and a summary provided to all households.

Based on the results of the study, we will determine if a capital campaign is feasible at this time. Please complete the survey, either online or by filling out a hard copy, by Feb. 23. If you have not received an email with the link to the survey, visit www.cccckc.org. If you would prefer a hard copy, please pick one up at the church or contact Jane Fletcher at 816-333-4917.



New Members Welcomed February 6



Amy Hughes and James Guthrey
New Member Hosts: Jen and Jayson Parker



Megan Cook and Kyle Nordstrom
New Member Hosts: Craig and Jenny Doty



Jonathan Wasson and Jillian Woodford
New Member Hosts: Justin Beebe and Kate Pickert



Mallory Martin
New Member Host: Ingrid Larson



Dustin Barnes and Jennifer O'Neill
New Member Hosts: Christa Jessup and Josh Kropf



Ruth and Phil Woodford
New Member Hosts: Greg and Nancy Lear



David White
New Member Host: Kevin Melia



Pat and Ed Scott and their son, Ed, Jr.
New Member Hosts: Dave Forsee and Deanne Stedem



Mark and Jennifer Landes with son Callahan and daughter Parker
New Member Hosts: Brook and Chris Howard

Information Open House on March 13

If you are new to Country Club Christian Church, you're invited to an Information Open House on Sun., Mar. 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Stop by the Last Supper Sculpture room off the parlor to learn about the ministries, classes and services that interest you. Visit, ask questions, learn about the church and enjoy dessert.



Spiritual Attention Deficit Disorder

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



John Ortberg says that the church suffers from spiritual attention deficit disorder. Too many Christians are paying attention to the wrong things. This is not a new problem. A story in the Bible tells of Jesus walking down the road with his disciples. They come upon a man blind from birth. An argument begins about the man's sin. The Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day, are too busy arguing religious things to see this blind man. The disciples of Christ are too busy preparing themselves for a theological discussion about the origin of sin and they don't really see

the man either. Later in the story the man's parents don't want anything to do with him. They are brought in as witnesses to help settle the theological argument that everyone but Jesus is having. However, they back away saying, "Umm, we're not sure. Can we go now?" His own parents don't see him.

No one really sees this man, except Jesus. If you want to know why people during Jesus' time on earth began to call him the Son of Man, if you want to know why they began to call him the Son of God, if you want to know why some think he was the Messiah, you need look no further than this story. You don't need to skip ahead to the resurrection. You don't need to name the miracles. You don't even need to worry about the miracle in this story.

People saw God when they saw Jesus because when Jesus saw the lost, the least, the last, and the little, he saw children of God. When Jesus sees you and me he does not see our cars or our bank accounts or our homes or our positions. He sees children of God. He knows that our deepest desires are to be loved for who we are.

If you want to know why Jesus is named the holy and sacred one, if you want to discover what Biblical scholars call the messianic secret, if you want to find out why people in the little backwater country of Israel see Jesus as the full revelation of God, then look no further than this story. When everyone else is ready to get into a big argument on original sin, Jesus sees a human being in need of the touch of God. Jesus sees a human who needs to be made whole.

Living in God's love requires new eyes. If we say follow Jesus, if we take the name of Christian, then we must learn to see the world through the eyes of grace.

Glen

Nicaragua Mission Trip Blog

A mission team is leaving Feb. 19 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.

Ash Wednesday

Wed., Mar. 9, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The first service of Lent invites us into this season with a traditional imposition of ashes to symbolize the fragile nature of our lives.

Worship with us!

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

Feb. 20

The Spirit in You
1 Corinthians 3: 10-23

Feb. 27

Hope Now; Hope Always
Psalm 131

Mar. 6

God Loves Justice
Psalm 99

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Crossroads Sunday School Class Sunday Brunch

Are you married? Single? Have kids? Don't have kids? Are you between the ages of 35 and 55? If you answered yes to any of these questions then answer this one: Have you ever heard of the Crossroads Sunday School Class?

Whether you answered yes or no to that last question you owe it to yourself to join us on Sun., Mar. 6 during the Sunday School hour (9:55-10:55 a.m.) in the Last Supper sculpture room off the Parlor for a very informal brunch. Since the Children's Musical is at noon that day, this will offer you some extra nourishment before the excitement of *A Barbecue For Ben*.

You will have the chance to meet members of the class and ask questions about what we do, what our vision for the group is and how you can fit in. We want to meet you and hear your ideas! We hope you'll join us. Even if you can't stay the entire hour just drop in, grab something to eat and find out why we have so much fun together! Contact Michelle Schlatter at michelle1@me.com for more information or to ask questions.

Sign Up for a Bible Workbench Group During Lent

Consider participating in a Bible Workbench group during Lent. This creative and interactive approach brings a refreshing look at how real life and ancient scriptures intersect in surprising ways. Designed to enhance the spiritual journey through Lent, participants will reflect on the scripture that Dr. Miles will preach about that week during worship. Classes are listed below. All groups will meet at the church beginning in March. Sign up in the parlor on Sunday.

The book costs \$25. Library copies will be available for use in the library only.

Childcare will be available by reservation. Contact Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Sunday Night Group

Leader: Julie Miles
Sundays, Mar. 6-Apr. 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Rm. 201

Mom's Group

Mom's of children (infant through elementary age).

Reception for Marilyn Wimer

12:00 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 27



Join us in the parlor on Sun., Feb. 27 following the 11:00 a.m. service as we recognize Marilyn Wimer, our Director of Administrative Services, for her long-time service. Marilyn is leaving the staff as a result of the restructuring of the staff. Her last day will be Feb. 28.

Marilyn has been on the staff for nearly 15 years, first as wedding coordinator and since 1998 as Director of Administrative Services. We will all miss her smiling, helpful and friendly presence as a part of the staff.

Please plan on bringing a card or note that day and joining everyone in recognizing Marilyn at the reception.



Leader: Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn.
Saturdays, Mar. 12-Apr. 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Solarium

Men's Group

Leader: Jeff Zimmerman.
Wednesdays, Mar. 9-Apr. 13, 7:00-8:30 a.m.
Parlor

Monday Evening Group

Leader: Rev. Chuck Murphy
Mondays, Mar. 7- Apr. 11, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Youth Center

Thursday Morning Group

Leader: Rev. Carla Aday
Thursdays, Mar. 10-Apr. 14, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Rm. 201

The following Sunday School classes will participate in Bible Workbench during their Sunday School Classes on Mar. 13-Apr. 17: New 20s class, Yawhose, Crossroads, Outlook, Koinonia.



Barbecuing Ben?

by Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music



One of the great joys of my job here at Country Club Christian Church is directing the annual children's musical.

For the past 17 years, I've been introducing musicals in the same manner. First, we all learn a bit of the biggest, most fun show-stopping number, complete with choreography. I have found that over the years, this generates a good amount of excitement and interest. After we have a good time with our showstopper, we talk about the story on which the musical is based. Sometimes

the kids figure out the story from the lyrics. This year, our showstopper contains some of these lyrics:

*Squeeze him a lemonade, show him a chair
Bring a robe and pick a flower for his hair
Rings for his fingers, shoes for his feet
Colored lights a blinkin' up and down the street
Hang out the banners and then...
We'll have a barbecue for Ben.*

After our initial rehearsal on this fun, Broadway-style number, Elizabeth Crocker raised her hand. She had a very serious, skeptical look on her face and asked me, "So...are we REALLY going to barbecue my brother, Ben?"

I shouldn't have been surprised. After all, in the past few years, we've plotted to kill Queen Esther, had Jonah spit from the belly of a whale, put Daniel in the lion's den and threw a few really nice kids into the fiery furnace. Musicals can be a gruesome business! I quickly assured Elizabeth that we would not, in fact, be roasting her brother (she looked only slightly disappointed).

The Children's and Cherubim Choirs are moving into the New Testament this year, as our musical story is based on the parable of the prodigal son. It is really exciting to be performing a show where the message is about God's love for everyone.

I hope you will make it a point to come to our show on Sun., Mar. 6, whether or not you have a child in the cast. I think it is really important for the children to know that they are supported by all of us here at Country Club Christian Church. It is a delightful, G-rated 30-minute show with a message for all ages.

So this year there'll be no fires, no whales, no lions, and no sinister plots. We'll just be having one BIG party! Won't you join us?

Laine

Leadership Nominations Sought

It is time to nominate persons to fill elected positions within our church for the 2011-2012 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 Mon., Mar. 21.

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

Save the Date! Celebration Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the second annual Celebration Dinner and Auction. Join us on Sat., June 18 at the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial (100 W. 26th Street, Kansas City, MO). Watch for more information.

Upcoming Events for Youth

Parents of Teenagers Gathering

Texting, emails, Facebook – there are so many electronic and immediate ways youth connect today. Come and join other parents of teenagers (and almost teens) for a discussion focused on Teens and Technology and all the challenges this brings to life. Parents of Chi Rho and CYF youth are invited to this gathering on Sun., Feb. 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the home of Ross and Cheryl Commerford.

Refreshments will be served. RSVP to Heather Rotter at eatherr@cccckc.org.

Alternative Readings

This intergenerational group that brings middle school students and young adults together to study the same book from each of their particular life experiences is meeting every other week from January to April. The group focuses on Shane Claiborne's book, *Irresistible Revolution*. We will discuss two chapters each session. The group is meeting every other Thursday night through Apr. 7, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). The next session is Feb. 24.

Contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org or Steve Mason stevem@cccckc.org for more information.

Join Country Club Christian Church in Supporting Hartman School

Support the Kansas City, Missouri School District by getting involved with Hartman Elementary School. Please attend an orientation meeting on Sat., Feb. 19 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Karen Grover, Coordinator of Partners in Education for the Kansas City Missouri School District will lead the orientation.

Immediate volunteer opportunities:

- Harvesters Back Snack Program. Volunteers would help pack food into backpacks to be sent home with students on Fridays.
- Assist/Tutor Students with SuccessMaker Program. Work with younger students on SuccessMaker during regular school days. The younger students need a support system to encourage them to "stay with it" as they build their stamina. Weekly commitment, time is flexible.
- Adopt a Class – Get a group together to be matched with interested teacher to help with classroom events, parties, etc. Flexible dates and times.
- Other – as opportunities are identified with Hartman we will contact you to determine your interest.

Financial Report

Total Income as of 12/31/2010:	\$887,914	(Budgeted income: \$842,530)
Total Spending as of 12/31/2010:	<u>\$860,932</u>	(Budgeted spending: <u>\$847,681</u>)
Net Receipts as of 12/31/2010:	\$ 26,982	(Budgeted net receipts: \$ -5,151)

Budget Variance: \$ 32,133

The church is halfway through its fiscal year, and what a fabulous way to end the calendar year! When so many worthwhile causes in our community beg for support, we are sincerely grateful to all who honored Country Club Christian Church with generous contributions in December! One member paid off a pledge from years ago, several nonmembers made substantial gifts, and many members made gifts in excess of their pledges! We recognize that one tremendous month does not relieve our ongoing financial concerns, and the church must remain careful with each dollar spent. However, we celebrate each of your gifts and thank you sincerely for your faithful commitment to the work of our church!

Mary Lehoczky
Board Chair

Orientation meeting

Sat., Feb. 19 • 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

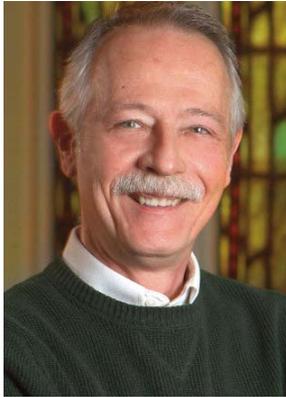
Social Hall

RSVP to Mary Margaret at
816-333-4917.



A Return to Isaiah

by David Diebold, Minister of Music



Remember those Isaiah passages that Dr. Miles used for his sermons during Advent? Yes, those beautiful poetic images of the wolf and the lamb, of the desert blooming, of a time when there will be peace in God's realm.

On Sun., Mar. 13, the first Sunday in Lent, the Chancel Choir will help you revisit the book of Isaiah. This time the texts are not quite the same as those for Advent. You probably recall that one of the readings for Ash Wednesday calls us to "repent and return to God." The choral work we

will be sharing on Mar. 13 gives all of us a reminder of what it means to "return to God."

In *The Peaceable Kingdom*, American composer Randall Thompson selected his texts from the entire book of Isaiah. Isaiah is comprised of a number of oracles against the various nations of the world, predicting doom and destruction at God's hand. Drawn from the various oracles, there are admonitions to certain behaviors: all of which go against the covenant with God and the created order of the world.

Beginning with simple statements about both the righteous and the wicked, Thompson takes us on an emotional roller coaster as the prophet shakes his finger at the unrighteous, while sometimes almost simultaneously reminding the righteous that God loves and protects them. Almost directly in the middle of this work, the mood changes and the voice heard reminds us that all of the fire and destruction in the previous movements is directed at those who turn their backs on God's covenant. In a stunning, eight-part movement, the righteous are told that all of the hills will clap their hands for joy as the righteous return to God. The final movement, perhaps the best known from this sequence, reminds us that we will all ascend the "holy mountain of the Lord" with singing.

The Peaceable Kingdom, while not frequently performed, is one that speaks to the human, not only with words of doom and destruction, but ultimately words of great hope and joy.

Join us on Ash Wednesday and again the following Sunday. Start your Lenten journey. Return to the mountain of God where the wolf and the lamb lie down together and the desert blooms like a rose.

David

Children and Families

First Steps

Parents with children three and under are invited to join other families on the first Sunday of the month as we explore how your infant and toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness. Make plans to come by for informal fellowship with other parents and bring your child(ren). We will meet on Mar. 6 from 10:00-10:50 a.m. in the Pine Room.

Club Kids

Feb. 20 – No meeting.

Feb. 27 – Regular session 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Mar. 6 – No meeting due to musical after church.

Tall Oaks in the Summer

As you are making plans for your children for summer, be sure to explore the camp offerings at Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center. From single day camps to overnight camps, there are many choices and opportunities. Check them out at www.talloaks.org.

Lenten Workshop Date Change

Sun., Mar. 13

The Family Lenten Workshop scheduled for Sun., Feb. 27 will move to Sun., Mar. 13 during the Sunday School hour. This opportunity for young children through 5th graders will focus on hands-on activities to help children understand the church season of Lent. Watch for more information in the weekly emails.

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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. Catherine Stark-Corn
Minister to Children,
Youth and Families

Rev. Chuck Murphy
Minister of Congregational
Care

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

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Director of Church Growth

Ms. Marilyn Wimer
Director of
Administrative Services

Mr. Brandon Winstead
Director of High School
Ministries

Mr. Justin Zeigler
Director of Middle School
Ministries

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816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538
email: office@cccckc.org website: www.ccccckc.org

February Collection Connection

Baby Yarn for Knitting Circle

The Collection Connection for February 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 and South Dakota. Please leave your yarn in the basket provided in the parlor.

Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Mon., Mar. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

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

More² Congregational Assembly

Tues., Feb. 22 at 6:00 p.m.

We invite you to attend More²'s Congregational Assembly on Tues., Feb. 22 at St. Stephen Baptist Church, 1414 E. Truman Road, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Lauren Weinhold, 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org. More², the Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity, is a coalition of 18 multi-denominational and multi-faith congregations working to resolve issues of social justice in the Kansas City region by building grassroots support among its partners to effect policy change. More² focuses its efforts on areas including access to employment, transportation and quality education.

Our Church Family Sympathy

FRED C. BLYTHE passed away Jan. 26. Survivors include his daughter, Bonnie Blythe Dee. Services were Jan. 31 in Springfield, IL.