

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.*

## Easter and Holy Week Services

### Holy Week Schedule

#### Palm Sunday Worship – April 1

Families are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors' Class participants.

#### Maundy Thursday – April 5, 7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary – In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion.

#### Good Friday – April 6, 12:15 p.m.

Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar with worship, readings, hymns and solos. A 15-minute organ prelude begins at noon with worship following at 12:15 p.m.

### Easter Sunday – April 8

Celebrate the miracle of Easter at Country Club Christian Church! *Yes!*, John 20: 1-8, Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching.

#### Special Service Times

**8:00 a.m.** – Worship in the Sanctuary, led by our clergy, plus the youth choir.

**9:30 and 11:00 a.m.** – Worship in the Sanctuary, led by our clergy, the Chancel Choir and the Kansas City Brass.

No Sunday school for children and youth. Child care available for all services.

**Complimentary Easter Breakfast – 7:30-9:30 a.m.** Begin Easter with a complimentary breakfast in the Social Hall.

## Special Easter Offering to Empower Women

“Empowering Women” is the theme for the 2012 Easter offering. The Outreach Council has selected two projects to share in the offering.

The first is a project called “Por un Futuro Mejor” (for a better future) sponsored by El Centro to give female survivors of domestic violence instruction in financial literacy and economic stability, and to provide microenterprise loans as a springboard to starting small businesses. The women that El Centro helps are predominantly low-income immigrant women residing in Wyandotte County who are victims of domestic violence.

The second project selected is a women’s micro-credit and savings project with The Communi-

ty of Disciples of Christ in Congo Democratic Republic of Congo. The project helps in two ways



– offering small loans with reasonable interest for women to start a business or invest in another small business and allowing women to participate in the loan process by buying shares to provide additional funds to loan and they in turn earn interest on those shares.

These two projects will each receive half of this year’s Easter Offering.



# Imagine Christian Community Camp

Imagine going on vacation but never having to find a restaurant for dinner. Imagine hiking all day and then sitting down to a hot home-cooked meal that someone prepared for you! Imagine getting to fish all day while your spouse gets to do what he or she wants to do all day. Imagine the laughter and joy of your friends as they gather on the deck that overlooks an afternoon rainbow gracing the snow capped mountains. You don't have to keep imagining. You can experience all of this. Just sign up for Christian Community Camp in Estes Park, CO.

The dates: July 28-August 4, 2012.

**Accommodations:** We stay in two private lodges at the YMCA of the Rockies. Each family enjoys a private room with a private bath. In addition, a bunk room is available for single adults.

**Cost:** \$1,400 for a private room or \$225 for a bunk. Each participant also pays \$75 for food/activities for the week.

**Activities:** Enjoy your own schedule each day. Choose: a group hike, horseback riding, golf, fishing, craft shop, raft trip, boating, biking, scenic drive to the Continental divide; swimming, min-

ature golf, tennis, archery, reading on the porch overlooking the mountain and much more. In the evening you may join the group for a hayride, square dance or go-cart rides.



**For more information:** Call or email Jane Fletcher or Carla Aday at the church at 816-333-4917 or carlaa@cccckc.org or janef@cccckc.org. A complete brochure is available on the church website at www.cccckc.org.

## What others are saying:

Christian Community Camp is like coming home for me--a place of warmth, joy and fellowship. There is even peace to be found within the whirlwind of children and adults! After 30 years, I still look forward to the experience and the making of new memories.

*Randy Irey*

I love camp because my kids love camp. For one week we live at Lake Woebegone. The kids play kickball, look out for each other and can run in the huge backyard known as Rocky Mountain National Park.

*Steve Bough*

We first went to Christian Community Camp in 1982. All of our family fell in love with this trip. The whole community is one and looks out for everyone. To me this is the essence of church. Come join us, all ages eat, play, and worship together in the fresh cool, dry air.

*Cindy Irey*

## Pathways to Learning – City of God Series – May 6, 13, 20



The Bible mentions “the city” more than 850 times. This three-part series will look at poverty as a key challenge faced in our city today and how we can faithfully address poverty to build up greater Kansas City. The series includes local experts on poverty as well as key metro leaders whose comprehensive approaches offer opportunity

for all to get involved.

### May 6: The Face of Poverty

- Laura Bauer, KC Star reporter for the series on childhood hunger
- Sister Berta Sailer, Co-Founder Operation Breakthrough

- Dave Sailor, a Brookside father whose family consciously set out on a social exercise to survive on a poverty-level budget for a year

### May 13: Our Community Response to Poverty

E. Frank Ellis, Chairperson and CEO, Swope Community Enterprises and Board Chair, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce will cover the comprehensive approaches he is leading to address poverty in our metropolitan area.

### May 20: Kansas City – A Metro Approach to Poverty

Mayor Sly James will speak on initiatives in Kansas City and across the metro to build up greater Kansas City and stem poverty.

Sundays 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall



# We Take The Bible Seriously, Not Literally

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The Bible is an amazing collection of writings. They were gathered over hundreds of years. Reading the Bible thoughtfully reveals that there is a wide variety of styles and forms within this sacred treasury. One can find history, poetry, hymns, letters, sermons, legal documents, and more. Within the books themselves there are many literary classifications to be found. The gospels feature parables, teachings on prayer, personal reflections and family trees. Understanding all of these is not an overwhelming task but it is one that requires that we take the Bible

seriously.

For example, Jesus has a conversation with a wealthy man about eternal life. Jesus tells him that if he wishes to be complete the man must sell all that he has and give to the poor. This is a beautiful and powerful story, one that tells us much about ourselves and our attachment to things that don't matter much in the long run.

However, if we interpret it literally we will have to conclude that eternal life, entry into heaven is predicated on whether or not we will sell all that we have and give it away to the poor. I have heard stories of wealthy people doing this in order to serve the least of these. However, their motivation was not a desire to gain eternal life but to love and care for humanity at a deep and intimate level. In other words, they understood Jesus' instruction, not literally, but seriously and spiritually.

If we are going to understand biblical teachings, the serious approach is the one we must take. If we don't, literalism will lead us to strange and sometimes dangerous conclusions. If we take the Bible literally I will be able to argue in favor of polygamy, slavery and the death penalty for Boy Scouts who make fun of bald preachers. Honestly. I'm not making this up.

Instead, if we bring open minds, open hearts and open spirits to the Bible, learn to study it in context, pay attention to the various genres and genuinely seek to understand what this word is saying today, we will be amazed at the beauty and power that we find. As your pastor, there is nothing I do that is more serious or more inspiring than this singular task.

Grace and peace to you,

## Say Cheese! Time to Update our Church Directory

Lifetouch Studios will be here on Fri., Apr. 27, and Sat., Apr. 28, to take your photo for a directory supplement. If your photo is not included in the current directory or you'd like to have your photo retaken, you are encouraged to sign up for a photo session. Complimentary supplements including photos and contact information will be available for anyone who has a current directory. Anyone who has their photo taken for the directory supplement will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo.

Sign up for an appointment on the church website at <http://cccckc.org/stay-informed.html>. Don't miss this opportunity to learn new faces in the church and give others an opportunity to learn yours!

## Worship with us!

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

**April 1 – Palm Sunday**

*It Was Late  
Mark 11: 1-11*

**April 8 – Easter Sunday**

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

*Yes!  
John 20: 1-8*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Invitation to the Old Testament

Follow Invitation to the New Testament with this eight-week study of the Hebrew scriptures. The study invites us to hear the various voices of the biblical text so that we may better understand God's relationship with the ancient people and with us. The group will meet Tuesdays, Apr. 10-May 29, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Facilitator is Phil Love. Contact Mary Margaret House to register, [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org).

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## Haiti Mission Trip

If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Haiti Nov. 1-7, contact Julia Walker, [juya213@yahoo.com](mailto:juya213@yahoo.com), for more information.

## Virginia Reed Food Drive on April 15

On Sun., Apr. 15, 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."

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## Mission Team to Joplin in Late April

A mission team from Country Club Christian Church will travel to Joplin, MO, Apr. 22-28 to help with rebuilding following last year's devastating tornado. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkcc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkcc@yahoo.com).

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# Update from Our Mission Partners in Mozambique

Jon and Dawn Barnes, Country Club Christian Church's mission partners through Global Ministries, have recently moved from their previous mission home in South Africa, where three mission teams from our church worked with them to help build an HIV/AIDS clinic, to Mozambique. They recently submitted this update about their new home and new experiences (excerpted from Spring 2012 publication from Global Ministries).

*We arrived to a new adventure indeed! Mozambique is very much different than our lives and experiences in South Africa. So we have spent the last year now learning Portuguese, meeting new colleagues and friends, exploring a new culture with a war-torn history, settling into a new home with a new school for the kids, learning new skills. We are still busy as development workers. Jon's focus is on agriculture and most of that work is north of Maputo, in Inhambane. Already, a pottery and brick making project*

*has been started and there are dreams of much more for these 20+ churches that are in this area. Jon is also planning to begin teaching church history at the Ricatla Seminary this year as well.*

*Dawn's focus is still on HIV and AIDS. A HIV and AIDS training is planned for the Maputo churches this year. However, we have both been involved in unexpected things like chicken houses, English lessons, the CARAN project, The Mozambique Council of Churches, and so much more. You never know where the adventure might lead!*

*We are privileged to be here in Mozambique and to serve churches that know the adventure of reality. Pray for us as we seek to "live and build God's kingdom with the stuff that all around us." And we pray that we would all step out of our "religious comforts" and find each of our own "adventures in Reality."*



Jon and Dawn Barnes and their children, Khaya and Aly

Jon and Dawn serve with the Mozambique Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, based in Maputo, Mozambique. Dawn serves as an HIV and AIDS Coordinator and Jon serves as project and development officer.



## Ashtray Plans

by Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator



What is in your car's ashtray? Mine has a mint and some change. A car's ashtray is not a place we typically put our treasures. We either don't realize it's there or throw meaningless items in it...a few pennies, some dimes and maybe a quarter take refuge in the ashtray. In fact, today, if a car even has an ashtray, it's used for just about anything other than its original purpose. An ashtray is not a place of intention or great plans.

Like many of you, I have made financial contributions to the church for many years. I started as a child, grabbing change from my piggy bank. As I got older, sometimes my giving was reliable and intentional, as was my trust in God. But other times I went back to my ashtray searching for some change to put in the offering tray. It was easy to grab those stray quarters and go, just to have something to drop in the plate, even on the days when I'd spilled a soda in the ashtray and the coins stuck to the bottom. On those days, I found myself totally distracted by small items before realizing my focus had changed, and I would need to take a look at my life, and come back to God.

During the last decade I realized that if I wanted to have a closer, more intimate life with God, I could not give from my ashtray. I had to start giving from my paycheck. I enrolled in automatic giving so that I was giving my financial gifts to the church as I received them, and our family started to give more of ourselves. The loose change was not enough. God became more important than our other bills. We still paid them, we just did our financial planning based on what we had after our gifts. I am not telling you this in order to ask you to change your life (I am almost positive that I am not that influential). I just encourage you to take a look at what plans or hopes might be in your figurative ashtray.

Rob

## Helzberg Organ Recital

Hear the new Helzberg Organ in Helzberg Hall at the Kaufman Center for the Performing Arts on

Tues., Apr. 24, at 7:00 p.m. Our own David Diebold, Minister of Music, will be performing along with Charles Miller, Minister for Music at the National City Christian Church in Washington, DC.

Proceeds will benefit the National City Christian Church Foundation to help repair earthquake damage to the structure and organ. Both Mr. Miller and Rev. Diebold have planned an "audience friendly" program of music to showcase the new Casavant Organ in Helzberg Hall. This will be the second public performance on the new instrument. Tickets are \$21.00 through the Kauffman Center ticket office or for just \$15.00 if you purchase them in the Parlor on Sun., Apr. 15 and 22.



# 2012 Pastors' Class Prepares for Baptism

Twelve youth at Country Club Christian Church have taken part in the 2012 Pastors' Class, led by Mr. Justin Zeigler, Minister to Youth. With Mr. Zeigler and Faith Mentors acting as guides, each of these individuals has attended classes centering around the Bible, history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the history and heritage of the Christian faith. On Palm Sunday, Apr. 1, these individuals will make formal statements of their faith and will be baptized during the 11:00 a.m. service.



**Laura Adams**  
Parent: Tracy Adams & Mike Jackson, and Chris and Jen Adams  
Mentor: Julia Walker



**Samuel Berry**  
Parents: Andy and Marcia Berry  
Mentor: Andrea Bough



**Taylor Corn**  
Parents: Brian Corn and Catherine Stark-Corn  
Mentor: Jere Hanney



**Xander Hulsey**  
Parents: Jon and Debbie Hulsey  
Mentor: Jared Rose



**Lita Lockhart**  
Parents: Charles and Ruth Lockhart  
Mentor: Ingrid VanBiber



**Margo Hunter**  
Parents: David and Marie Hunter  
Mentor: Betsy Wilson



**Ethan Niewald**  
Parents: Michael Niewald  
Mentor: Greg Bates



**Grayce-Anne Peters**  
Parents: Ryan Peters and Kimberly and C.R. Lundine  
Mentor: Jeff Zimmerman



**Sophie Nearmyer**  
Parents: Darin and Amy Nearmyer  
Mentor: Lesley Holt



**Chloe Kowalski**  
Parents: Gus Kowalski and Lori Kowalski  
Mentor: Mary Margaret House

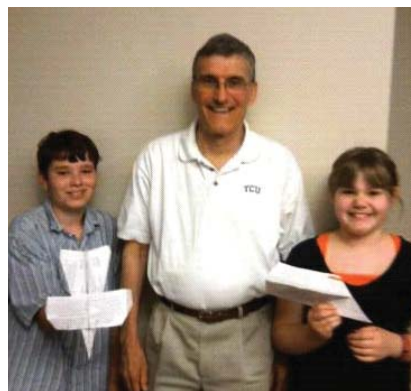


**Grace Reiman**  
Parent: Lisa Reiman and Robert Reiman  
Mentor: Susan Garner



**Garrett Moffat**  
Parents: Kelly and Melanie Moffat  
Mentor: Randy Irey

## Airplane Lessons



Dr. George Gordon shared scripture and paper airplane folding Sun., Mar. 18 during an evening session of Club Kids. He is pictured with paper airplane champions, Ben Crocker and Lauren Reddin, whose planes flew the farthest from the balcony!



## A Call to Justice

by Chuck Murphy, Minister of Congregational Care



The season of Lent calls us to a new way of thinking. Often, it challenges something that is held deeply within. I remember one of my first calls as a chaplain at a local hospital; a young gay man was admitted to the ICU with major heart problems. As his family gathered, I discovered they were not accepting and were convinced that God would use this crisis to convict him and restore him to what they considered more appropriate behavior. They banned his partner and friends. They gathered around the bedside, prayed

their prayers. His condition worsened.

His nurse and I were saddened to watch this young man's deep suffering. Pondering what we could do to help, we were relieved when his family left. The nurse called his partner. With the family gone, his partner and friends gathered together at his bedside. Together, we prayed for his healing.

I don't think I have ever experienced such heartfelt prayers as I did that night. His partner and friends were his support. They understood him and stood by him when his family didn't or couldn't, and were the ones that stayed by his bed 24/7. And, to no one's surprise, he got better. Within a few days, he was out of critical care. Surgical options became a possibility and he could live his life with people who accepted him and loved him for who he was.

I have never forgotten him, his community or the lesson that I learned that night. As a minister, compassion for all God's people, no matter the circumstances, is the best way that I know to follow Jesus' command to love neighbor as ourselves. And, another unexpected justice came to my heart. As I allowed this kind of love to grow within me, I found how I experienced others was changing. Some of my pain began to dissipate. Yes, compassion translates to justice for all persons; healing begins, maybe even the pain of our own hearts.

*Chuck*

## Children and Families

### Palm Sunday Parade

**Sun., Apr. 1**

Join us for a combined Sunday School session in the Social Hall on Apr. 1 from 9:55-10:50 a.m. Worship & Wonder will gather in the back of the Social Hall for the Palm Sunday story and 1st-5th graders will experience the story the *Face of Easter* and participate in several activities. We will also prepare for our Palm Parade that will lead us into the 11:00 a.m. worship service and help the congregation celebrate Palm Sunday.

### Club Kids (3rd-5th graders)

**Sun., Apr. 1**

Regular Session, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Sun., Apr. 8**

No Club Kids - Happy Easter!

**Sun., Apr. 15**

Regular Session, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

### Spring Overnight at the Omaha Zoo

Our annual overnight is Sat., Apr. 21-22. We will sleep in the aquarium! Cost is \$80, which includes transportation, zoo overnight fees/activities, and meals. Scholarships are available. Watch the weekly email for registration forms or contact Heather at [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org).

### Fountains of Faith Sunday School

**Apr. 15-May 13**

1st through 5th graders will begin a new rotation, Into the World, the Sunday after Easter. Through Scripture and other readings the children will explore prophets of our day and how we are called by God. We look forward to seeing you from 9:55-10:55 a.m.

### Volunteer Opportunity

Join us at the KC Hospice House (12000 Wornall Road) on Wed., Apr. 4 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. We will bake cookies and assemble activity bags for families visiting or staying there. This service opportunity is best for children 6 years through 5th grade. Please RSVP to Karla at [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

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Return Service Requested

## PROGRAM STAFF

|                                                                          |                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. R. Glen Miles<br>Senior Minister                                     | Ms. Karla Herrington<br>Director of Children's<br>Ministries |
| Rev. Carla Aday<br>Senior Associate Minister                             | Rev. Steve Mason<br>Pastoral Resident                        |
| Rev. David Diebold<br>Minister of Music                                  | Mr. Brian Mathias<br>Associate Organist                      |
| Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn<br>Minister to Children,<br>Youth and Families | Ms. Lisa McCleish<br>Director of Early<br>Childhood Programs |
| Rev. Chuck Murphy<br>Minister of Congregational<br>Care                  | Ms. Laine Riley<br>Associate Director of Music               |
| Mr. Justin Zeigler<br>Minister to Youth                                  | Ms. Lara Schopp<br>Director of Communications                |
| Mr. Rob Gilkerson<br>Business Administrator                              | Ms. Lauren Weinhold<br>Director of Church Growth             |

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## Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on April 3

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Apr. 3, in the Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings. Come join a worship of grace and acceptance, a sacred place for prayer that will create moments where hope may carry you in the journey ahead.

## Our Church Family Sympathy

VIRGINIA STRAFER (JILL) MORRISON passed away Mar. 9. Jill is survived by her sister, Judy Horn, and mother, Louise Strafer. A private memorial service will be at the Country Club Christian Church columbarium.

## Memorials

**Lynn Chinn**  
Stuart & Anne Hoffman  
**Harry Hilfinger**  
Marilynn Nairn  
**John Tilton**  
Marilynn Nairn  
**Jane Cutting**  
Cindy & Randy Irey  
**Organ Fund**  
**Ernest Witt**  
Judy Schaefer