



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

VOLUME 83 · NUMBER 9

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.*

Grace at Work 2009 Was Huge Success

More than 140 people dispersed throughout Country Club Christian Church and into the community on Sat., Apr. 18 as part of the second annual Grace at Work project.

Although rain kept our gardeners indoors, their hands were kept busy polishing pews in the sanctuary. Another group built clothing racks for the rummage sale and others sorted through the church attics for the History Committee.



Helping at Grace United Ministries were Gérard Algie and John Woods.

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Stewardship 2009-2010: Goals and Achievements

Currently 490 families or individuals make pledges to the church. This year's goal is to obtain more than 700 pledges from our members.

The 2008-2009 operating budget was \$1,895,000. Of that amount, \$1,386,000 comes from annual pledges from our membership, \$185,000 from gifts and donations from members but

not part of their pledge, \$80,000

from gifts received as part of special Outreach offerings, and \$25,000 from weekly offering plate receipts that are not part of pledges.

Contrary to popular belief, there are no super-pledges or large donations from a single source which support the budget. The average annual pledge made by individuals or families is \$2,900.

During our annual Stewardship campaign, we ask you to reflect and vision on how the Country Club Christian Church has made a difference in your life ... the treasures you have already gotten from being part of this community of Christ. Consider how much richer your life is because of the church. Then, vision how your own gift could impact others in a greater way.

In the coming weeks, you'll hear more about how your pledge can make a difference in the life of Country Club Christian Church. Watch for your 2009-2010 Giving Intentions Statement to come in the mail, then please fill it out and return it by Sunday, May 17.



Celebration of Service Sunday, June 7

Mark your calendars for our annual celebration of the work of our volunteers on Sunday, June 7, from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.



Upcoming Mission Trips

Several mission trip opportunities for youth and adults are planned for the coming months, including:

Cedar Rapids, IA, June 11-13— A team will help rebuild this flood-ravaged community. For more information, contact Jackie Cunningham at jackiekcunningham@gmail.com.

Family Mission Trip, June 17-23—Families with elementary-aged children will travel to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in Eagle Butte, SD, to build relationships with the Lakota community. For more information contact Catherine Stark-Corn at catherinesc@cccckc.org.

CYF youth, Eagle Butte, SD, June 14-20—Youth in grades 9-12, including graduating 8th graders will live for a week among Native Americans, working in one of the poorest counties in the country with the Cheyenne River Youth Project in Eagle Butte. To sign up, contact Chris Trout at christ@cccckc.org.

6th/7th graders, St. Louis, July 19-23—For more information on this mission and service-based trip for 6th and 7th graders, contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

New Orleans, Nov. 8-14—A team makes its fifth trip to Metarie, LA, to continue with rebuilding projects in hurricane-decimated areas. The trip will be led by Dr. Chuck Rolen and Kelley Quinn. Contact Kelley at elmokitty@everestkc.net for more information.

Nicaragua, Feb. 20-28, 2010—Return with us to Nicaragua to work among the poorest of the poor in a rural village. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org for more information.

Grace at Work, *continued from page 1*

Another group worked at Cross-Lines Community Outreach, helping with the 3rd Annual Community Spring Fling. They helped set up, prepare and serve food for a community BBQ.

Many hands made light work.

Summer of Service on May 17

The Metro Mission Council and the Grace At Work Committee invite you to a celebration of this year's Grace At Work efforts, "Grace Continues... Start Your Summer of Service" on Sun., May 17 from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall. You will have the opportunity to hear from each of the Grace At Work teams as well as meet representatives from the various agencies we partnered with during this year's event. Learn how you can share the gift of your time with one of the agencies over the summer.



Susan Garner polished doors in the sanctuary.



Mary Buehler and Joann Montgomery sort clothes for Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church.



Church and community volunteers worked together at Harvesters to prepare after school packets.



Through the Cross

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Gulley and Mulholland, in their book, *If Grace is True*, write, “God has loved us from the very beginning...God did not wait to see if we were lovable. God did not require us to earn God’s love. God did not reserve his love for some and deny it to others. God has loved all of us from the very beginning.”

Many people have a difficult time with grace. Why is this so?

Eugene Peterson, a pastor and a scholar, who is responsible for that marvelous paraphrase of the Bible called *The Message*, had a wonderful childhood. He remembers going to family church camp every summer during his adolescence. At these conferences they used phrases like the “deeper life” and “second blessing.” Yet he noticed little continuity between camp and everyday life in town. He said, “The friends of our mothers who were mean and pushy were still mean and pushy after. Mr. Billington, held in high honor at the summer family camps, was still the most mean-spirited of all the teachers in the high school.”

Why was this so? They had a difficult time relating to grace. They were afraid that being gracious would look like they were too soft.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”

This is most likely a quote from an ancient hymn. Paul inserts this section in his letter because he knows that the people in Colossae are familiar with it. It’s a favorite in their church. He uses it to remind them of something rather important. These folks have sort of pushed Jesus off to the sideline. They’ve forgotten about the teachings of Jesus, they’ve failed to remember the story of his life. If you forget Jesus, it’s real easy to forget about grace. When grace is out of the picture the church gets mean, nasty. Look at verses 19-20 in Colossians:

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”

Did you hear it? Through the cross, God was pleased to reconcile all things. That reconciliation includes you. It includes me. It includes every soul we will encounter.

That might be why I like to say that grace is amazing. Grace and peace to you,

New Member Sunday May 17

We are thrilled to welcome new members to the church family during our New Member Sunday celebration on May 17. If you are a visitor and would like to call Country Club Christian Church your church home, we would love to include you in the celebration that will take place during the 11:00 a.m. service. Simply contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at laurenw@cccckc.org with questions or to express your desire to join the church.

Worship with us!

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

Sermon Series

Faith, Hope, Money and Love:
Finding Our Way through the
Maze of Life

May 10

Part 3: Money
Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

May 17

Part 2: Love
Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church



One-ders

A diverse group of singles ages 35-60-ish, where everyone is always welcome. Focusing on developing spirituality, service to others, and providing opportunities for growth through fellowship.

ality, service to others, and providing opportunities for growth through fellowship.

Monday Night Bible Study – Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Rm. 302. Rick Cook is leading a study of Genesis.

Sunday School through May 31 – A six-week series on favorite Bible verses, led by Beth Bernier. 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in Rm. 302.

Cross-Lines Breakfast – Help prepare and serve breakfast to those in need on Sat., May 16, 7:00-11:00 a.m.

Located at 736 Shawnee in Kansas City, KS (corner of 7th Street and Shawnee Dr.). Contact Carol Crouch at 913-341-8848 if you plan to attend.

Movie Night – Join us for a current movie followed by dinner on Sat., May 23. Stay tuned to email for further information or call Suzy Spencer, 913-262-0088.

Food Drive on May 24

On Sun., May 24, 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. Food items needed include peanut butter, cereal, rice, pasta, and canned fruits, vegetables and soups. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation “Food Drive.”

You can also help the Virginia Reed Food Drive by saving labels, including the bar code, from Best Choice items. Bring them in an envelope marked “food drive” and drop them in the office. When we have 1,000 labels, the church receives \$30.

Memorials

PAMELA N. BLACKMORE

Mary & Bill Grant

MELISSA ANN VAN OSDOL

Lynn & William Edmonds

RUTH A. WEBB

Maureen McGinty

SUE ELLEN YARBROUGH

Marilyn & Don Hail

LETHA B. BASH

David & Hannah Fenley

Marianne See

ROBERT W. SEE

David & Hannah Fenley

HARRIET WOODBURY HODGE

Thomas & Madalene

Woodbury

MARYLYN ATHA

Gloria Everhart

Esther & Don Giffin

Bill & Jan Daniels

Bob & June Johanson

Evelyn Phillips

Russell Atha Jr. family

Carl & Jane Bolte

Charles & Veda Hoffhaus

Marta Padula

THOMAS H. STEINLE

Peter Benson

JAMES W. HOPKINS

GINNY & DICK SMITH

Bobbie Vanice

Tom & Linda Lieurance

Clarence Roeder

John & Kathleen Malacarne

Shiela Richards

Kenneth & Demaris Davis

Jim & Pat Martin

Lee & Kitty Fowler

Bob & Alyce King

Max & Sue Deweese

Bob & Joan Kissick

Greg & Nancy Lear

EVELYN COCKAYNE

Greg & Nancy Lear

LOUISE MENSING

Greg & Nancy Lear

JOHN D. WHEAT

Greg & Nancy Lear

Congregational Care Fund

LORAIN LINDSEY

Paula Rinehart

Thursday Sewing Group Fund

RUTH MULCIK

Sewing Group

George Gordon Congregational Care Fund

PAMELA N. BLACKMORE

Pat Brower

Connie & Pete Brower

Boy Scout Scholarship Fund

ROBERT A. RAMSEYER

David & Hannah Fenley

Tim & Susan Neff

Betty Merrill

William & Debra

Messamore

Marianne See

Transportation Fund

ROBERT L. WOLF

Marianne See

Music Memorial Fund

JAMES W. HOPKINS

Marjorie Scott

KC Food & Shelter Fund

JAMES W. HOPKINS

Harvey & Dorothy Ray



Giving Care

by Rev. Cynthia Heller, Minister of Parish Vistation



Why do we give care? What makes the care that we give particularly Christian, or pastoral, care?

In January I started pursuing a doctor of ministry degree with a focus on pastoral care. This spring I've read several authors' thoughts on pastoral care; all have been enlightening. Dr. Peggy Way's collection of essays, *Created by God: Pastoral Care for All God's People* is, however, the book that really invites anyone of faith to discuss why and what we do in care.

Her essays are divided into three sections. Part one reflects on the facts of our human limitations, the finiteness in which we have been created. Part two discusses community, the vulnerability and relatedness that are a part of our being, both locally and globally. And part three looks at our ability to experience joy and the goodness of God in the midst of our finite, limited existence.

Dr. Way reminds her reader that caring is a part of our humanity. Humans must function as caregivers in order for our infants to survive. All humans have required care and, she would argue, to become human is to give care. Within the church most of the care given is ordinary care, not requiring special education or ordination, but the willingness to respond to another with kindness and concern. As she says, "In scripture, everybody counts." In caring, everybody counts.

I particularly appreciate her connecting care with joy and the goodness of God. Often we are so busy trying to fix the "problem," to control the situation, to—let's face it—play God that we miss the lovely and joyous moments along the way. Dr. Way relates the experiences of care-giving to those of Holy Week: celebration, suffering, daily persistence, and joy. These simple things can, over time, become transformative in our individual lives and in our world.

I'll close with a poem by Emily Dickinson, a little commentary on care.

*They might not need me – yet they might –
I'll let my Heart be just in sight –
A smile so small as mine might be
Precisely their necessity –*

Blessings,

Cynthia

Peter Rabbit Garden

Have you noticed our new edible landscaping at the south entrance to the church? Or the Peter Rabbit Garden planted by preschoolers at the east entrance?

These new additions to our church grounds will provide fresh produce for the hungry and teach children about the wonders of growing food. The efforts are led by the church's Green Team.

Later this spring, the Green Team will install a Rain Garden at the south end of the Chapel parking lot. Besides adding beauty to the landscape, the rain garden will reduce storm water runoff and eliminate flooding.

Gardeners will be volunteering weekly for 60-90 minutes on Friday mornings or after church on Sunday. If you're interested in learning more, contact Mary McClure at 816-561-2213 or Jenny Doty at 913-789-9374.



Spring Fling

Sat., May 16 – 4:00- 7:00 pm

Join other families for a spring cookout and fun at the home of Rob and Tracey Ridle in Kearney, MO. Petting zoo, moonwalk, crafts, games and lots of wide open space for the kids. Dinner will be served, with lemonade and water available, or bring your own drinks. Remember your lawn chairs and blankets. Cost is \$20 per family. RSVP to Mary Margaret, marymargareth@cccckc.org by Wed., May 12. Make plans to join us for this great family event!!

Easter Games Hosted by Youth



Chi Rho and CYF youth hosted Easter games and fun for Club Kids (3rd-5th grade) on Palm Sunday evening. Front row: MaKenna Lockhart, Betsy Dee, Steven Miles. Back row: Parker Hoffman, David Gauwitz, Allyse Hackler, Lucy Lehoczky, Riley Hoffman, Kendra Martiny, Kellin Martiny, Ben McBride and Miguel Murguía.

Club Kids Enjoy Overnight at Omaha Zoo



The last weekend of April found 25 3rd-5th graders and five adult sponsors on an overnight at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, NE. A night hike, animal games and free time were followed by a night in the aquarium sleeping in the shark tunnel. After an early morning wake up call, we toured the zoo with our campout leader, then split into groups to explore the zoo further. Tired but having had great fun we returned Sunday afternoon. Many thanks to the adults who gave of their time to make the trip possible – Rod Schlatter, Wesley Newell, Marie Hunter and Brian Corn provided leadership with Catherine Stark-Corn.

VBS to Feature Crocodile Dock on July 27-31

Calling all kids four years old through fifth grade to join us this summer at Crocodile Dock from 9 a.m. to noon on July 27-31.



At Crocodile Dock, kids will keep an eye out for “God in action” in their everyday lives—and they’ll discover how they can be a God Sighting by showing Christ’s love. Our children will develop a sense of God’s loving presence. And they’ll know God is alive...and active...and with them! Storytelling, cooking, and more!

The cost is \$7 per child per day with a maximum cost per family of \$65. Sign up now as group sizes are limited. Registration forms are available online at www.cccckc.org or in the education wing on the second floor. Submit your registration form with payment to Chris Trout in the church office.

We also need adult and youth volunteers to make our Crocodile Dock event a success. Please contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at catherinesc@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Club Kids Season Finale

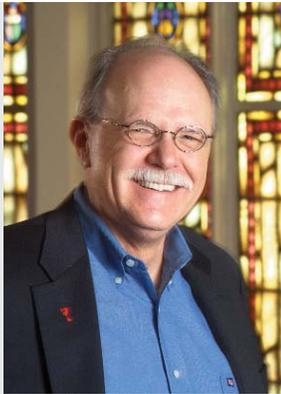
May 17 – Family BBQ

3rd-5th graders and their families are invited to join us for dinner and family fellowship on Sun., May 17 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed by games chosen by the Club Kids for their families to play and enjoy. Siblings welcome. Families are asked to bring a side dish to share, main course, drinks and dessert provided. RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org.



Serving Instead of Helping

by Dr. Charles Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



With a last name that begins with “R,” I am not used to being the first name called out of a group. It recently happened while attending a Stephen Ministry training conference in St. Louis. My name was called because Country Club Christian Church has a Stephen Ministry program that is over 20 years old. I was honored to be your representative to other congregations of how God has, is, and will continue to be present and working through the many ministries of our church, including Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers are trained, supervised caregivers who provide one-on-one support and care to people in our congregation and community. If you are interested in the types of care available or desire more information about becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact me or keep an eye out as our Stephen Ministers can often be seen wearing pins displaying the Stephen Ministry logo. We also have brochures available outside the Congregational Care office and there will be more information forthcoming, especially about the training we’ll be offering this fall.

Of the volumes of valuable information I was exposed to at the training conference, one “nugget” I found illuminating and helpful is the saying: *Stephen Ministers care; God cures*. Rachel Naomi Remen is someone I often consult in my spiritual journey. As a physician, Remen has observed through her own physical challenges and in the lives of her colleagues that there is a distinct difference between “helping” and “serving.” Remen suggests that “helping” is based on inequality, incurs debt, and attempts to “fix.” On the other hand, “serving” draws not from strength, but from affirming connection, and a sense of wholeness or “holiness” that is always present in the other – regardless of the complications or challenges of the moment. Remen cites the message of Mother Theresa: “We serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy.”

Stephen Ministers are equipped to enter into the lives of others not with an “I know what you need attitude.” Instead, Stephen Ministers go with faith and walk alongside, listen, and trust that God is always present and redeeming life unto wholeness and love. *Stephen Ministers care; God cures*. I was and remain honored to be part of the life of God in Christ at Country Club Christian Church!

Chuck

P.S. if you would like to read more on this subject, see “What Is Service” at the top of the page.

What Is Service?

Service rests on the basic premise that the nature of life is sacred, that life is a holy mystery which has an unknown purpose. When we serve, we know that we belong to life and to that purpose. Fundamentally helping, fixing and service are ways of seeing life. When you help, you see life as weak; when you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole. From the perspective of service, we are all connected: all suffering is like my suffering and all joy is like my joy. The impulse to serve emerges naturally and inevitably from this way of seeing. (“In the Service of Life,” Rachel Naomi Remen, *Noetic Sciences Review* #37, p. 24, Spring 1996.)

Collection Connection

Supplies for Family Mission Trip

In May, we are collecting items to take on the Family Mission Trip to South Dakota in June.

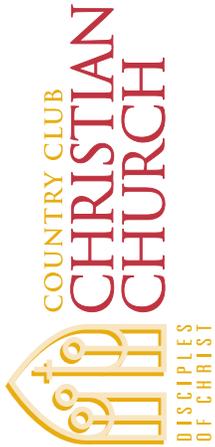
Bring any of the following items and drop them in the box in the parlor.

Craft Supplies

- fleece (two-yard sections)
- construction paper
- watercolors
- markers
- scissors
- glue
- pipe cleaners
- stickers
- pom-poms
- beads
- ribbon

Cash donations to purchase supplies are also appreciated.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113
Return Service Requested

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

Ms. Marilyn Wimer
Director of
Administrative Services

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

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

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service

Tues., May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., May 19 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings. There will be no service in June.

Honor Your Loved Ones with Radio Broadcast Sponsorship

Each Sunday you can hear a broadcast of the previous week's sermon at 8:30 a.m. on KXTR, 1660 AM. Now, you can honor a loved one by dedicating sponsorship of this broadcast to him or her. The sponsorship minimum is \$180. Simply contact Sandy Eisenman at 816-333-4917 or sandy@cccckc.org for more information.

Our Church Family Sympathy

HELEN RUTH WILLIAMS passed away Apr. 25. She is survived by two sons, Morgan Williams and Hank Williams, and a daughter, Joylyn Cox. Services were May 4 in the Chapel, Dr. Charles Rolan officiating.

GEORGE NICHOLS passed away Apr. 27. He is survived by his wife, Carol Nichols, and children Jeffrey Nichols and Susan Keene. Services were May 1, Dr. Glen Miles and Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

TOM STEINLE passed away Apr. 17. He is survived by his wife, Glenda. Services were Apr. 29 in Dallas.

JAMES W. HOPKINS passed away Apr. 17. He is survived by a son, Bill Hopkins, and a daughter, Henrietta Gale. Services were Apr. 22 in the chapel, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

LOUISE MENSING, daughter of Mary Thorsell, passed away Apr. 12. She is also survived by grandchildren Mike Dudley and Melissa Dudley Seacreas. Services were Apr. 15 in Greenfield, IA.

JOHN WHEAT, father of Mary Lehoczy, passed away Apr. 12. Services were Apr. 17 in Manhattan, KS.

SUE ELLEN YARBROUGH, mother of Karla Herrington, passed away Apr. 6. Services were Apr. 25 in Higginsville, MO.

RONALD HOFFMAN, father of Stuart Hoffman, passed away Apr. 28. Services were Apr. 30, Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn officiating.

JACK W. R. HEADLEY, father of Nancy Watson, passed away Apr. 23. Services were Apr. 30.