



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.

Volunteers Bring Hope to Joplin

Mission Team Joins More Than 120,000 Who Have Helped Rebuild

A team of 13 members from Country Club Christian Church traveled to Joplin April 22-27 to help with rebuilding efforts after the devastating tornado which ravaged the city in May 2011.

The team cleaned bricks from the high school (to be sold to benefit the schools), moved huge piles of dirt for landscaping, worked in food and clothing pantries, painted, tiled, fenced, put in concrete steps, hung shutters and doors, built wood trim, attached cabinetry hardware, cleaned glass and debris in yards and listened to dozens of storm stories.



The team cleaning and stacking bricks from the destroyed high school.

In the year since the tornado struck, much work has been done, but, according to Ruth Bradshaw, “It was wrenching to see the massive devastation a year later. Heartbreak is still everywhere.”

“There is a big gaping hole in the center of the city where 7500 homes were destroyed,” said Rev. Carla Aday. “The land is unbelievably flat because all the trees are gone. So you can see for miles – all the way across town to where the hospital was destroyed.”

It was clear to the team that many of the residents of Joplin are worn down from the loss they suffered and all the rebuilding they have engaged in for nearly a year. But it was also clear that the community is strong and so very grateful to those who have volunteered – over 120,000 so far. “Hope abides amidst the tragedy,” said Bradshaw.

Family Mission Trip to Joplin in June

Families with children in elementary school or older are invited to participate in the Family Mission Trip to help in Joplin Thur., June 7–Sun., June 10. We will be working and staying in the Joplin area to help continue the recovery and rebuild. Our families will work under the direction of Ameri-

Corps to plant trees and gardens; help paint and do simple clean up jobs and more. We will be housed in a local church. If you are interested, contact Catherine Stark-Corn at catherinesc@cccckc.org.



New Members Welcomed on April 29



Jane Ann Baltis with husband, Rusty
New Member Host: TJ Snyder



Jenny Davenport with husband, Justin, and daughter, Mary
New Member Host: Amy Rose



Kevin Beres and Megan Carr
New Member Hosts: Amy Hughes and James Guthrey



Melvin Sarmiento and Susan Holman
New Member Host: Adam Markt



Daniel Shouse and Natalie Shoup
New Member Hosts: Nicole Churchwell and Eddie Ellermeier



Linda and Denney Rives
New Member Hosts: Greg and Nancy Lear



Erin Howard
New Member Host: Lesley Holt

Pathways to Learning – City of God



This series focusing on poverty in the city and how we can faithfully address poverty to build up greater Kansas City continues Sun., May 13, from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

The series concludes on Sun., May 27 with **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. Note the date has been changed.



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.





When God Moves In

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Elizabeth Weil observes what is happening in the world of young people. In order to get ready for these new days she writes, “Prepare to feel obsolete. It’s the first step to moving ahead.”

The first time I read that I put a question mark in the margin. The next time I read it I put an exclamation point in the margin. I found the quote again last week and I wrote “amen” next to it.

What does that mean for us? It means that we will stand on the shoulders of the giants of our past while dreaming of tomorrow. We will remember that our founding pastor, George Hamilton Combs, was a visionary. He came out of retirement, out to what was then the edge of town, looked into the future and had a dream of what would become the leading congregation of Kansas City, one that was theologically adept and open. Our church’s history began with a willingness to move in whatever direction the Spirit of God called us.

In John chapter 1 we read that “the word became flesh and lived among us.” If we were Greek readers we would see in the words “lived among us,” an implication of pitching a tent. Literally it might read, “God became one of us and pitched a tent right in the middle of our lives.” Eugene Peterson’s translation, *The Message*, gets it right: “The word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.”

This idea was not a new one with Jesus or with John. This is basically what God wanted God’s people to know for centuries, since the beginning of time really. In Jesus, we have seen the full revelation of God AND in Jesus we have seen a human being fully alive.

In other words, the life and teaching of Jesus is a blueprint for the future of the church. And by implication John’s word proclaims that God’s spirit, God’s self even, has pitched a tent with us. God is here.

God has a pitched a tent with us, but note what that means. A tent is designed to be taken down and moved. It means that God is ready to move forward with us. It implies that the future is something that God already owns.

As we put our strategic plan in place and begin the work to refurbish our building, we can trust that God is present in all that we do. God has moved in to the neighborhood and its time to go with God!

Grace and peace to you,

Please Return Your Commitment Card

Join us on Sunday, May 13 as we celebrate the *Simple Gift of Love*. If you have not already turned in your 2012-2013 commitment card, please bring it with you and join us in pledging your financial support to the church in the coming year. We also invite you to write a “simple gift” for which you’re grateful on the card inside your bulletin this Sunday and then bringing it forward with your pledge card, if you haven’t already turned it in, to place in the basket at the front of the church. Cards will be collected during communion at the 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. services, and during offertory at 11:00 a.m.

Worship with us!

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

**Stewardship Sermon Series
Simple Gifts**

May 13

The Gift of Love

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

May 20

When Love Sends Fear Home

1 John 4:17-21

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Service of Remembrance on May 22

Please join us for us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer as we remember beloved friends and family members at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., May 22 in the Combs Chapel. We will remember by lighting candles and sharing stories. Join us in a worship service of grace and hope that may help carry us in our grief journey.

Community Camp KC

Wednesday evenings in June

We are making plans for our third annual summer family fellowship gatherings on Wednesday evenings in June (6, 13, 20, 27). Join us for dinner and lots of fun activities. Each Wednesday night will feature a different fun activity including Magic Bob, inflatables, water games and a petting zoo. Join us from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This time of intergenerational fellowship is inspired by the annual Community Camp in Estes Park, but closer to home!



Virginia Reed Food Drive on May 20

On Sun., May 20, 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."

Christian Community Camp in Colorado

Spend a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO, July 28-Aug. 4, 2012. Cost is \$1,400 for a private room; \$225 for the bunk room. Each private room sleeps a maximum of six people. A bunkroom contains all bunks and sleeps eight. Food and activity fee of \$75 per person. For more information call Jane Fletcher or Carla Aday at the church at 816-333-4917 or email carlaa@cccckc.org or jane@cccckc.org. A brochure is available on the website at www.cccckc.org.

The Well Book Corner

Do you need books for your children or grandchildren? Do you need a Bible to use in your Bible study? Would you like to read a book mentioned in a sermon or a minister's column in *The Christian*? Then visit The Well, our book and gift store on the ground floor of the church.



The Well also features gifts for everyone, including wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world. Shoppers will find jewelry, scarves, CDs and handmade items from Nicaragua. The proceeds go to Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world.

Or you can shop at home through Amazon to benefit Week of Compassion. If you use the Amazon search function on The Well's web page, a percentage of the purchase price is directed to Week of Compassion. Go to www.cccckc.org and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.



The Well is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



New Multimedia Features Coming

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



I received a call recently from a woman in Illinois. She was on a team overhauling her church's website, and she had some questions about our website, www.cccckc.org.

"So many sites are busy and overwhelming," she said. "We like the cleanness of your site, how it's organized and how easy it is to find things."

I was deeply grateful for her comments, and I asked her how she came across our site. Turns out she and her husband have visited our church on a number of occasions. She told me that they regularly

listen to Glen's sermons online.

"The thing I like the most about your website," she told me, "is the way it really reflects the feel of your congregation. I think your website is a great representation of the people in your congregation, who you are, and what you do."

Hearing such positive comments is certainly affirming, but you probably won't be surprised to know that on occasion, I also hear constructive criticism about cccckc.org. For every person who thinks something is easy to find, there is another who finds it hard to locate the information they're seeking. I understand the challenges some people encounter. Our website is quite large, supports many ministry areas, and has hundreds of moving pieces and parts.

But I appreciate any kind of feedback, because it helps us change and improve. I spend a great deal of time researching other church's websites and social media offerings, seeking new features that might be useful to keeping you informed and providing you with thought provoking information.

In fact, we are about to introduce two new features through the church's Facebook profile, which will also be linked to cccckc.org. One is a weekly devotion, similar to the devotions the clergy and staff write during Lent and Advent. The weekly devotion will be based on that week's sermon scripture, and will hopefully lead you into that week's worship thoughtfully. The other feature is a Question of the Week, where we'll throw out a question and ask for your feedback. I'm hopeful these questions will create a thought-provoking dialogue.

So look for these new features coming soon, and in the meantime, if you have examples of websites you think are great or organizations using social media effectively you'd share with me, please send them my way via email at laras@cccckc.org.

Lara

Celebration of Service Week Culminates in Ice Cream Social Sun., June 24, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

This year the church will observe "Celebration of Service Week" from June 18-24. During this week, we will thank the servants and leaders of the church's various council or ministry areas. At the conclusion of the week, on Sun., June 24, the church will join together in celebrating our church members' service to God and neighbor during the annual Ice Cream Social from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. This event will feature complimentary hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, Foos' custard and toppings, and the ever-popular balloon artist. As we celebrate together the great ministry that we share, we will pause to honor our outgoing chairpersons of the Elders and Congregational Board and welcome our incoming Chair of the Congregational Board and Chair of Elders.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sun., May 13 – No Youth Group.

Happy Mother's Day!

Service and Community Opportunities

Thurs., May 24, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

We will go to ReStart, a ministry in downtown Kansas City, to help serve meals. RSVP to Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org by Tues., May 22.

CYF Mission Trip

Join your fellow youth Sun., July 15 - Sat., July 21 in Chicago, IL, as we "Walk, Love, Do" in the windy city. We will continue to work with organizations that have helped us serve the

hungry. Cost is \$350. RSVP to Justin at justinz@cccckc.org ASAP.

Chi Rho Mission Trip

Join your fellow youth Sun., June 24 - Thurs., June 28 in St. Louis, MO. Be part of "Walk, Love, Do" as we work with organizations that help end hunger and violence in people's homes. Cost is \$250. RSVP to Justin at justinz@cccckc.org ASAP.

Summer Camps

Summer camp at Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center is fun. Visit www.talloaks.org for more information or to register. Summer camp opportunities include day camps for K-2nd graders, overnight camps for 2nd-high

school and grandparents camps. Early Bird discounts due Apr. 30. You can register online. Fees are paid to Country Club Christian Church and will be sent by our church to the camp. Questions contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at catherinesc@cccckc.org.

Justin's Blog

Justin is blogging about a new faith practice every month. A "faith practice" is incorporating something into daily life that helps us see God in the world. Every month Justin will notify youth and families of what his new faith practice will be and asks that others follow his blog and help keep him accountable in his journey. Find Justin's blog on the church website (www.cccckc.org).

Dr. Miles Elected to Foundation Board

Dr. Glen Miles has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Christian Church Foundation. His term will start in 2013.



"Glen is a devoted servant of the church and brings with him a deep and broad understanding of what congregations need to carry out their witness," said Foundation President Gary W. Kidwell. "His expertise and deep personal faith are a tremendous gift to the Foundation and the whole church. I look forward to serving with an outstanding Christian leader."

Before his ministry at Country Club Christian Church, Dr. Miles served congregations in Georgia, California and Tennessee.

The Christian Church Foundation, based in Indianapolis, is a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) devoted to helping Disciples undergird the witness of the church through planned gifts, permanent funds and prudent institutional investing. As the start of 2012, the Foundation was responsible for \$434.2 million of the church's money, including more than \$117 million in permanent fund and donor-advised accounts.



Taking Flight

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



“What does this mean Mom,” called out my youngest son from behind a book he was reading. I asked what part he was talking about and he showed me these lines....

I have redeemed myself by giving belief to the wings of the young.

Blessed are those who believe for indeed they shall fly.

These words were spoken by the character Grimble following his heroic act that saved two younger owls in the book *Guardians of Gahoole*. My son and I talked about the phrase “giving belief to the wings of the young.” We talked about what it meant in terms of the story, how Grimble as the older owl encouraged, taught, supported the younger owls in their quest to be free. We spent a little more time on the details of that portion of the story – then it became evident he was finished with this conversation. But these words stayed with me.

There are many times in my daily life when I wrestle with how to be a good parent; a positive adult in the lives of children and youth; a caretaker of the children in this world. It can be a complicated role to be in any kind of relationship where you have influence over another. Particularly with my children, I tend to see all that could be better, ways we could step it up a notch (a phrase I find myself saying too often). I will admit I do not only save these improvement-focused judgments for my children – others in my life (including me) may find them dropped in their lap. This phrase – *giving belief to the wings of the young* – calls me to examine just what kind of presence I want to be in the lives of others, in the world in general.

God gives belief to the wings of all! God believes in each of us and gathers us in to embrace us with unwavering love and grace. Such a hard thing to truly believe, to accept, to know. I want to believe we all find moments where we know to our core the depth of love and acceptance the Holy One showers on us. It is in those moments that we are taking flight as children of God and can believe in others with a love that could redeem the world.

Catherine

Children and Families

Thanks to Shepherds & Teachers

Sunday, May 20, 10:30-11:00 a.m.

It takes many volunteers to lead the Fountains of Faith Rotation for our 1st-5th graders. We are grateful for the gift of our members’ time and talents in shepherding and teaching our children. On Sun., May 20 the children are preparing a special thank you for our volunteers in the Zappia Sculpture Room off the Parlor. All who have taught or shepherded this year are invited to stop by from 10:30-11:00 a.m. for a special thank you.

Club Kids (3rd-5th graders)

Sun., May 20 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Family Cookout

For the final Club Kids of this school year we invite family members to join us for fun, food and fellowship. We will provide the burgers (will have a vegetarian option), hot dogs, drinks and desserts. We are asking families to bring a side dish to share with the group. Please RSVP to Karla at karlah@cccckc.org so we know how much food to purchase. It has been a great year – come and enjoy with us!

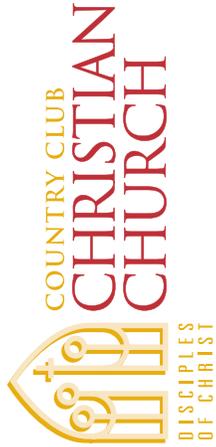
Vacation Bible School

July 23-27, 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Make plans to attend our annual summer VBS. This year the theme is *SonSurf Beach Bash*. We will learn about various parts of Jesus’ life and how we can seek to live in God’s way. For ages 4 years old-5th grade (completed in May 2012). Registration forms for participants and volunteers are online at www.cccckc.org or on the second floor in the Children’s Wing.



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