



DISCIPLES
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COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

On Being Faithful
By Glen Miles
~ ~ ~
page 3

Family
by Laine Riley
~ ~ ~
page 5

Getting to Know You
by David Diebold
~ ~ ~
page 7

*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.*

New Ministry Model Launched for Children, Youth and Families

A new ministry model for children, youth and families at Country Club Christian Church is in place, as of July 1, 2009. The new model includes three part-time directors, overseen by Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, Minister to Children, Youth and Families: Karla Herrington, director of Children's Ministries; Justin Zeigler, director of Middle School Ministries; and Brandon Winstead, director of High School Ministries. Each of these directors will work a 20-hour per week schedule. Chris Trout brings a tremendous working knowledge and varied skillset to a supporting role as an administrative and program assistant to Rev. Stark-Corn and the three directors.

The new structure is designed to foster continuity for our younger congregants as they grow within our faith community, to enhance the focus placed on these ministries, and to enable programming to be tailored to the ages and developmental stages of our young people. "We have assembled an extraordinarily talented team," said Rev. Stark-Corn, "and I look forward to working with them to expand and improve our programs for children, youth and families."

Karla is the mother of four children, ages 5 months to 8 years, and brings 16 years of elementary school teaching experience to her position. She has been assisting Rev. Stark-Corn with Lil' Disciples (2-3 year olds), Worship and Wonder (3½ years-kindergarten age children) and the Fountains of Faith Rotation Model (1st-



New Children, Youth and Families Ministry staff (from left) Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, Brandon Winstead, Karla Herrington and Justin Zeigler

5th grades) since September 2008. This summer she has taken the lead with Vacation Bible School. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to work more with the children and families here at Country Club Christian," Karla said. "It's exciting to help facilitate and nurture the spiritual growth of our children through the outstanding programs that Rev. Stark-Corn already has in place."

Prior to taking on the role of Director of Middle School Ministries, Justin had been Youth Ministry Intern here since May 2008. Justin is currently attending St. Paul's School of Theology working toward a masters of divinity. "I am thrilled to continue my work here at Country Club Christian Church. My calling in ministry is to help create time and space where communities—in this case youth—can experience the transformative love and beauty of the divine. In this

continued on page 2

JULY 13, 2009



Festival Sunday Coming August 23

Donate a Plant for a Centerpiece and then Our Garden

Save the date – Aug. 23 – for Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth programs for children, youth and adults. Dr. Glen Miles will preach on “Love So Amazing” and we will gather for brunch after each service.

Potted Sprouts Needed

The Festival Committee is looking for table decorations from your garden. Cuttings, sprouts and plants should be potted in six-inch pots. The donated plants will be then placed in the church garden or will be given to homebound members for their enjoyment.

Don't have a garden? Many plant nurseries have discounted plants or now have fall plants in stock, so purchased plants are certainly welcomed.

If you would like to donate plants, sign up in the parlor when you register for the Festival Sunday breakfast. All donated plants should be brought to the Social Hall between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Sat., Aug. 22.

Read the Christian online or pick one up Sunday Morning

Beginning with this issue, the *Country Club Christian* newsletter became available electronically by email or on our website, or to pick up in the church on Sunday mornings. The newsletter is no longer be available by mail, except for members who are homebound or who have already paid the subscription donation.

The newsletter will continue to be sent via e-mail every other week and will be posted on the church's web site at cccckc.org/stay-informed. The electronic version even features color photos! If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please forward your address to Jane Fletcher at janef@cccckc.org.

New Members Welcomed on June 28



Amy Brown with husband, Brian Campbell
New Member Host: Sharman Wilson



Jim and Lindsay Sullivan
New Member Hosts: Teri and Jason Trent



Angela and Chaz Laughlin with children Alexander, Benjamin, Gabrielle and Victoria
New Member Hosts: Jess and Cheryl Commerford



Amanda and Risé Deutsch
New Member Host: Debbie Shaw

Ministry Model, *continued from page 1*

roduce new life in a world that so desperately needs it.”

Brandon holds a master of arts in Theological Studies from Nazarene Theological Seminary, has completed his course work for a doctorate of Philosophy in Historical Studies, and is working on completing his dissertation. His experience in youth ministry includes work as a mental health professional, a youth pastor and volunteer youth worker. “Brandon has a deep passion for youth,” Rev. Stark-Corn said, “and is described by one of his professors as ‘a very reflective practitioner with a grounded theological approach to his teachings of others.’ He has an ecumenical understanding of God, seeing us all as a part of the larger body of Christ with grace being central to God’s presence in all our lives.” Brandon jumped right into his role by serving on the CYF Mission Trip to Eagle Butte, SD, June 14-20, before he was even “officially” on duty!



On Being Faithful

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



In C.S. Lewis' book *Prince Caspian*, one of the children finally sees Aslan, the Lion, who is also a sort of Christ figure in the Narnia books. He has been away for a long time. The child says, "You're bigger."

"That is because you are older little one," the great Lion says.

"Not because you are?"

"I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

That is the way our relationship with God works. The more we grow, the more we focus on the way of Jesus and allow ourselves as individuals and as a congregation to focus on Jesus. The larger our faith, the larger our faith community.

In Acts 10 there is a story about Peter and a Roman centurion named Cornelius. Peter seems to have forgotten something. He seems to be confused. He is not so sure about eating the food of the Gentiles. Cornelius sends messengers to Peter asking him to come see Cornelius because Cornelius wants to learn from Peter but Peter makes them wait outside while he "thinks" about this.

The story is tediously told. We want to run up to Peter and say, "What is the big deal?! Don't you remember when Jesus healed the centurion's slave? Don't you remember how Jesus said that his faith was greater than any in Israel? What is going on? Go see Cornelius!"

When Peter forgot about the wideness, the openness, the inclusivity of Jesus' love and grace and mercy, he found himself stuck in indecision. When he remembered the wide open arms of God the issue faded away.

This story is a clear warning to the church both then and now that we are in danger of becoming faithless. We become faithless when we refuse to welcome the outsider. We become faithless when we refuse to see faith at the edge, at the margin. We become faithless when we close our minds to the leading of God's spirit.

Being faithful means, quite simply, being open; open to God, to each other, to the stranger and to the future God is placing before us.

Grace and peace to you,

New Church Directory

Don't miss your chance to be included in the next church directory! On-line and Sunday sign-ups will begin Sun., July 19. LifeTouch photographers will be here the weeks of Aug. 10 and 17 to take photographs. Directories and purchased photos will be here in plenty of time for the holidays. Sign up on Sundays in the Parlor or visit www.cccckc.org.

Worship with us!

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

**Summer Sermon Series:
God's Long Range Plan**

July 19

Part 2: Tearing Down the Walls
Ephesians 2: 1-11

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching at
9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn
preaching at 8:00 a.m.

July 26

Part 3: Secret No More
Ephesians 3: 14-21

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching at
8:00, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Pathways to Learning



Coming in August

On Aug. 9, John Mark Eberhart, the former book review editor of *The Kansas City Star* and an author, will speak on the spirituality of C.S. Lewis. Clive Staples Lewis (1898–1963) was considered one of the

intellectual giants of the 20th century and one of the most influential Christian writers of his day. His fascination with fairy tales, myths, and ancient legends led him to write *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, one of the best-loved books of all time. Six further books followed to become the immensely popular *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The final title in the series, *The Last Battle*, won the Carnegie Medal, one of the highest marks of excellence in children's literature. Join us from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall on Aug. 9.

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.

Sunday School – Join us in Room 302 every Sunday from 9:55-10:55 a.m. Contact Betsy Wilson, One-ders chair, at betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com or 913-220-1059.

July 18 – Cross-Lines Community Outreach, 7:00-10:00 a.m. Help prepare and serve breakfast to those in need. Located at 736 Shawnee in Kansas City, KS (corner of 7th Street and Shawnee Dr.). Contact Carol Crouch if able to attend (913-341-8848).

Monday Night Bible Study – Will resume in the fall.

Nicaragua Mission Trip Information

A brief sign-up and orientation meeting is planned on Sun., Aug. 30 at 12:15 p.m. in Rm. 201 for anyone interested in joining the mission team that will return to Nicaragua Feb. 20-28, 2010. The team will work among the poorest of the poor in a rural village. For more information, contact Stephanie Pilkington at spilkington@awginc.com.



YaWhose Young Adults in their 20s and 30s

The group, which includes couples and singles, hosts four quarterly special events and four quarterly Sunday lunches, in addition to meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

July 19 – Economy & Faith, Dr. Chuck Rolan

July 26 – Potluck Brunch and Social

Aug. 2 – Meeting with Crossroads

Summer Orffestra Workshop

Saturday, July 18

Come learn about Orff instruments and get hands-on experience with this unique style of music making and performing from 10 a.m. to noon on Sat., July 18. We will learn about the instrument families, how to improvise short and easy compositions of our own, and prepare an easy anthem to perform in the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services the following day, July 19. This Orff mini-workshop will be a great chance to discover just how fun and approachable playing in the Orffestra can be. Prior musical experience not required. A willingness to bang on things with sticks and have fun definitely required. Folks in the 9th grade through age 99 welcome.

New Orleans Mission Trip Information Meeting on July 19

If you are interested in participating in the fifth trip to Metarie, LA, to help with the rebuilding in hurricane-decimated areas, plan to attend an informational meeting on Sun., July 19, at 12:15 p.m. in Rm. 201. The trip scheduled for Nov. 8-14 will be led by Dr. Chuck Rolan and Kelley Quinn. For more information, contact Kelley at elmokitty@everestkc.net.

2009 Tall Oaks Gala Is October 9

Mark your calendars for Oct. 9 for "Going Wild for Tall Oaks," the 2009 annual benefit dinner for the Tall Oaks Conference Center. Proceeds help benefit camps and conferences in which our congregation participates. The 12th annual gala fundraising event will be at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Country Club Plaza. For more information, contact Susan or Alan Garner, gala ambassadors, at 816-822-7194.



Family

by Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music



I grew up in a large family. I'm the youngest of six children, so once you figure in spouses, children and, in a couple of cases, even grandchildren, the numbers become exponential. Family gatherings have been a crowded, rowdy and wonderful mess for as long as I can remember. To say that we are a family of extremes would be putting it lightly. We represent extreme liberals, extreme conservatives, hunters, animal activists, vegans, low carb carnivores, wealthy, poor, all manners of family groupings and so many diverse faith traditions that it's difficult to keep track. It is amazing to me that we grew up in the same household.

This past weekend we had a family reunion at my house. We called the weekend "The Canterbury Connection." In addition to my siblings, we had various aunts, uncles and cousins on my mother's side joining our already large group. As I anticipated the weekend, I started to become anxious about whether the various opinions of those gathering would erupt into less than pleasant conversation and just how all of us would get along. I had hoped that the "Mary Louise Memorial Moo Moo Contest" in honor of my grandmother would keep things from becoming too serious.

Everyone arrived with tons of really good food. One thing we do extremely well together is eat! As we shared the meal, I was struck with how quickly our radical divisions melted away. Once again we were simply family. Everyone was welcomed with open arms. We ate, hugged, laughed, swam, played, cared for each other's children, told family stories, and played with some pretty precious babies. It doesn't get much better than that.

When we gather at church, we come from all walks of life. Sometimes it is more comfortable to let our differences divide us. But I feel that as we share a meal together every Sunday, we have the opportunity to embrace everyone as simply family, welcomed with open arms.

Laine

Bible Study Coming this Fall

Customize Your Course of Study

Starting in September, a variety of new and existing Bible study opportunities will be available. Whether you're looking for a short- or long-term class; if you want to meet weekly or less frequently; or if you're seeking a variety of study and leadership opportunities, there is a class or series of classes which will appeal to you.

Disciple Bible Study – The Disciple Bible Study (DBS) series offers an in-depth study of scripture, during which participants are strengthened in their faith and guided into service and ministry. These studies require reading large portions of scripture in preparation for each class. Participation options include:

DBS I – For those who want to read the Bible from start to finish and can commit to a year-long course of study.

DBS III – For individuals who have already taken DBS I or II.

DBS Mini – Two groups will be offered for individuals who prefer a short-term Bible study.

Senior Minister's Bible Study – In October, Dr. R. Glen Miles leads a four-week Bible study entitled *Money, Sex and Power: Hot Topics in the Bible* on Monday evenings.

ABC – A Basic Christianity. In January, this introductory Bible study is designed for the questioning Christian and focuses on basic topics related to faith and spirituality. The series is led by the church's clergy.

Bible Workbench – During Lent, we will offer another series of Bible Workbench, a study experience in which small groups hold weekly discussions on the scripture on which Dr. Miles will preach the following Sunday.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – This is an ongoing group that meets Wednesday mornings through the year.

Sign Up Now for Crocodile Dock

Calling all kids 4 years old through fifth grade to join us this summer at Crocodile Dock from 9 a.m. to noon on July 27-31.



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

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 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 volunteer. Please contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at 816-333-4917 or catherinesc@cccckc.org.

July Collection Connection School Supplies for Don Bosco “Project Yes”

According to the National Retail Federation, the average family spends approximately \$95 on school supplies for every school-aged child. For a family already struggling financially, preparing children for the school year can be a large financial burden. This month we are collecting school supplies for the Don Bosco “Project Yes” program.

While all school supplies are needed, “Project Yes” typically runs low on the following items:

- kindergarten writing tablets
- beginner pencils
- facial tissue
- index notecards
- highlighters
- protractors
- binders
- loose-leaf paper
- graphing paper
- backpacks

Please place your donations in the tubs in the Parlor.

With your help, Don Bosco will ensure that the community’s youth are prepared for the upcoming school year.

Race to Grace 2009 is August 28-29

Get Race to Grace on your calendar! This annual event is for youth that are in 6th-12th grade for the 2009-2010 school year.

Join us Aug. 28-29 as we race around the city discovering God’s grace at every turn. The fee is \$50 for each participant.



Race to Grace 2008

If you are an adult who loves to work with youth, think about volunteering

as a van driver, coach, event marshal or any other gift that you may have.

Fun, Food and Balloons at the Annual Ice Cream Social on July 5

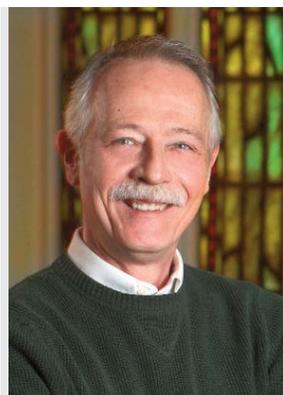
Fellowship and food was enjoyed on the front lawn of Country Club Christian Church on Sun., July 5 at the annual Ice Cream Social. Balloon creations were popular as was Foo’s frozen custard and lemonade and hot dogs.





Getting to Know You

by David Diebold, Minister of Music



Several weeks ago I was reading through the Gospel of Mark, much of which will be used as preaching scriptures in the coming weeks. That same day, the inspirational quote in my day planner was from Louis J. Halle. It read: “What is urgent takes priority over what is merely important, so that what is important will be attended to only when it becomes urgent, which may be too late.”

I know this may sound like a broken record coming from me, as I have written on this concept many times before. But, in this case, I was struck by the link between the stories of Jesus’ ministry in Mark’s Gospel and this particular quote.

In some of the Gospel narratives, Jesus is questioned by the authorities about which is more appropriate, adherence to the (religious) law, or the behavior that is exhibited by Jesus or his followers. If we cut through all of the words and reduce Jesus’ teaching to a simple quote, it probably would be “Love God, love others.” To put it another way, I think the authorities see their way as the “urgent” while Jesus sees his as the truly “important” in life.

Recently, I attended a party simply called “Please speak well of me when I’m gone.” The genesis of this evening grew out of informal conversations after a family funeral at which people were surprised that they learned a lot about the deceased that they had not previously known. The whole purpose of this recent party was to visit with the assembled guests to learn more about them; to learn their stories. In short, we were to listen to each other’s stories so that we might truly know them well.

Even in these long, slow days of summer, I think we each get so caught up with what must be done that we lose track of Jesus’ example to love each other, to not let our “law” get in the way of that.

Our “law” can be many things: our committee involvements; planning for that meeting; organizing a family get together, whatever. The point is, these “mini-laws” become the urgent in our lives and we don’t feel we have the time to find the truly important in our lives.

The next time you feel frazzled by the urgent parts of your life, stop and take a deep breath. You might want to give that friend or family member a call, just to chat.

David

Children and Families

Third Grade Bibles

New NRSV Children’s Bibles will be presented to incoming third graders on Festival Sunday, Aug. 23. Letters have been sent to the families of those receiving Bibles. If you know of a third grader who has been missed, please contact Chris at christ@cccckc.org or call 816-333-4917 as soon as possible.

Infant Dedications

We joyfully welcome new babies and young children into our congregation through special recognition during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The next opportunity will be Sun., Aug. 30. If you would like to be included in this service, contact Chris at christ@cccckc.org or call 816-333-4917.

July Sunday School

Service and Outreach

During the month of July, 1st-5th graders will have the opportunity to complete simple service projects to support the ways the church seeks to be God’s presence in the world – decorating cookies for Micah Ministry; making Welcome Books for kids visiting Sunday School; making prayer cards for our homebound members, and more. We will gather for our opening in Room 212. Join us from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. each Sunday morning. Worship & Wonder will have its own class in Room 210.

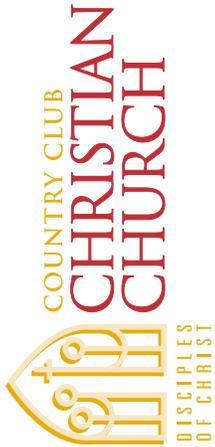
Stephen Ministry



The monthly meeting of Stephen Ministers will be on Sun.,

July 26, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. in the Solarium, Rm. 309. All Stephen Ministers are requested to attend.

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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

Food Drive on July 19

On Sun., July 19, 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."

Our Church Family

Congratulations

Congratulations to HEATHER SIMMONS and JASON ANDERSON who were married June 6 in the Sanctuary.

Sympathy

MARIE LOCKTON passed away June 24. She is survived by a son, David M. Lockton. Services were June 29 in the Sanctuary, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

Memorials

MAEBELLE P. HODGES
Vivian Curtis
WILDA JORDAN
Nancy Ralston
Vera Golly

MARIE W. LOCKTON
Vivian Curtis
Leonard & Beverly Rose
Dean & Patricia Davison
Robert & Renee Letterman
Sue & Bob Esrey
Plaza Belmont Mgmt.

Group
Leona Kibler
Suzanne L. Adams
Dorothy S. Smith
Lee & Bethany Derrough
Kirk Carpenter
Ryan & Jaime Williams
Bob & Cheryl Eils
Harold & Catherine Dunlap
Ken & Elaine Kalen
Nancy & Frank Kirk
Block & Company Inc.

**Congregational Care
Emergency Fund**
MAEBELLE P. HODGES
Carl & Jane Bolte
**Boy Scout Camp Scholarship
Fund**
ROBERT A. RAMSEYER
Stephen & Nancy Keel
Building Endowment Fund
ROBERT W. SEE
The See Family

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