



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

VOLUME 83 · NUMBER 15

COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Finding Faith
on Facebook
By Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

Paying Attention
As Needed
by Karla
Herrington
≈≈≈
page 5

Some Things Are
Beyond Words
by Chuck Rolan
≈≈≈
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.*

Festival Sunday Coming August 23

Kick Off the New Church Year

Save the date for Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth and adults. Dr. R. Glen Miles will preach on “Love So Amazing,” we will gather for brunch after each service, and children and youth will advance to the next Sunday School grade level.



Small Potted Plants Needed

The Festival Sunday Committee is looking for table decorations from your garden. Cuttings, sprouts and plants should be potted in six-inch pots. All donated plants should be brought to the Social Hall between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Sat., Aug. 22. The donated plants then will be 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.

Donations from the Children Requested

Children are encouraged to bring a gently used toy or book to donate to the “Forgotten Children” campaign for little ones in the CASA foster care program. Watch for more information!

New Bible Study Opportunities Coming this Fall

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 or if you want to meet weekly or less frequently, there is a class for you.

Disciple Bible Study – The Disciple Bible Study (DBS) series offers an in-depth study, during which participants are strengthened in their faith and guided into service. 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.

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 every Wednesday.

Sign ups begin soon!

JULY 27, 2009



2009-2010 Budget Update

On July 15, an email went out to the congregation, followed by a letter to those who don't have email, detailing the church's projected budget shortfalls for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. If you haven't had an opportunity to read the email, you can find it in its entirety on the front page of the church's web site at www.cccckc.org. In summary, pledging and contributions to the church are down, resulting in a potential budget deficit of \$150,000 to \$200,000. This news has necessitated several difficult decisions, including the elimination of two staff positions, a 5 percent decrease in compensation for the entire staff, reduction of program budgets, the cancellation of the 8:00 a.m. Chapel worship service, and a number of energy abatement strategies.

However, there is positive news to share. Already, members of our congregation have taken the situation to heart and have responded in kind. As of Wed., July 22, \$16,800 has been received in increased pledges and contributions. This amount, combined with the results of our cost-cutting measures, has reduced our projected deficit to \$54,000 to \$104,000. This is very good news, however we still have work to do.

There are many ways you can help. Some possibilities:

- If you haven't done so, please turn in a pledge immediately. Your pledge is important, no matter the size. Every gift helps.

- Consider increasing your pledge. A 10 percent increase in all pledges would be a huge boost to the budget. Several members of the staff have increased their pledges, even in the light of reduced salaries. If you would like to increase your pledge, simply send an email to Sandy Eisenman at sandy@cccckc.org, or call her at 816-333-4917.
- Consider making a one-time over and above gift to the church.
- If you have not yet completed last year's pledge, please do so as soon as possible.
- Put a dollar in the plate every Sunday. Even if you mail a check or have your gifts electronically transferred, the act of putting a dollar in the offering plate is a physical reminder of the joy of giving and this small gift from each member could result in a large amount over 52 Sundays.
- Volunteer. Watch for information coming about an all-church Grace At Work event coming this fall to focus on projects here on our campus that we would ordinarily pay to complete.

God's presence is among us and at work in our congregation even during these difficult economic times. I have confidence that despite these challenges, we will be able to move forward in ways we have never imagined. Thank you for your continued commitment to this church.

- Glen

Stephen Ministry Training begins September 20

Stephen Ministers provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to individuals

STEPHEN MINISTRY



in our congregation and community who are experiencing

difficulties in their lives. Stephen Ministry can be described several ways, including "Christ caring for people through people," and "God's love in action." Country Club Christian Church's Stephen Ministry program was established in 1983 and is one of the oldest, continuous programs in the country. This fall and winter, we will offer a training program for new Stephen Ministers. The commitment is substantial, but more than rewarding.

Training is 50 hours and equips Stephen Ministers with the resources and support that makes competent, supervised, confidential care based in the love of God a reality. After training, Stephen Ministers make a minimum two-year commitment to bimonthly meetings, group meetings and in-services.

If you feel led to care and desire the tools, support, and encouragement to engage people in a loving, caring way ... Stephen Ministry may be for you! For more information and an application, please contact Dr. Chuck Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care at 816-333-4917 or chuckr@cccckc.org.



Finding Faith on Facebook

by Dr. R. Glen Miles




Do you have a Facebook page? Facebook is one of the fastest growing social networks on the internet. Well over a year ago Glenn Crocker, a member of our Congregational Board, suggested I catch up with the 21st century and create a Facebook page.

At first it seemed mostly like a great way to catch up with old friends from high school and college and the occasional church member who also had a page. In other words, something fun to check in on but nothing too exciting.

During the last few months, though, I have been using my Facebook page as a way to share sermon ideas, quotes and other thoughts with my “friends.” I am really enjoying the posts people make in response to some of my almost daily theological and pastoral musings. The insights I gain from a wide variety of people has been fascinating. The comments and questions really help to shape the sermon or the column I am working on that week.

Recently I posted a quote from, *Saving Jesus From the Church*, a book I am reading as part of my preparation for a sermon series in 2010. I was very curious how some of the folks who see my page would respond to the author’s rather challenging words. He writes, “It is no wonder so many mainline churches are dying. They have so long existed in maintenance mode that they have lost their prophetic nerve. They have put so much into survival that they have forsaken their responsibility to be places of free and fearless inquiry and radical hospitality as well as spiritual sustenance.”

A few of my preacher buddies responded by saying, more or less, “Ouch that stings but it rings of truth also.” A church member wrote, “Are you going to preach on this? I think you should! My sense is that people need to be challenged beyond their comfort zone (maintenance mode).” I am inspired by these comments and I agree that people are ready for a challenge.

As we move forward toward the challenges that are before us, I invite you to follow the church on Facebook by clicking the  logo on the top right of the front page of our website. You will have to create a free Facebook account. You can help promote our church by sending your friends to our page, too. I also want you to be my Facebook friend. You can do so by creating an account and searching for me by name.

I won’t always have the time to respond to every post but I will read everything that appears there. I look forward to the opportunity to learn from a wide and growing list of f

Glen

2009 General Assembly

The 2009 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is Wed., July 29, through Sun., Aug. 2, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, IN. If you plan to attend the General Assembly and would like to represent Country Club Christian Church as a voting delegate, please contact Dr. R. Glen Miles as soon as possible at 816-333-4917 or janef@cccckc.org.



Worship with us!

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

Aug. 2

Dr. Charles Rolen preaching at
9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Aug. 9

Spiritual Starvation
John 6: 35, 41-51
Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching at
9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

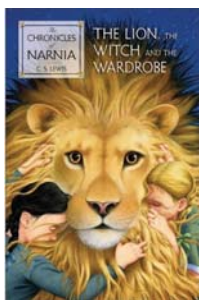
Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Pathways to Learning



Spirituality of C.S. Lewis

On Sun., 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 from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall. 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*.



Union Station currently is presenting a special exhibition – The Chronicles of Narnia: The Exhibition – until Aug. 23, based on the film series and Lewis' books. The 10,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art entertainment and educational experience offers visitors the opportunity to tour scenes from the famed literary fantasy world of Narnia.

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.



Visitor Information Seminar on August 29

Whether you're ready to join the church or simply want to learn more about Country Club Christian Church, we invite you to attend the next **Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Aug. 29, 8:45 a.m.-12:00 noon**. Learn about the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Meet the ministers, visit with some of the church's lay leaders and enjoy a light breakfast and lunch. Please contact Lauren Weinhold at laurenw@cccckc.org.

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.

Aug. 2 – Meeting with Crossroads in Rm. 309

Aug. 9 – Sustainability: Local and Church Efforts, Cherie Asante and Jenny Doty

Aug. 16 – Traditional Bible Story, Part 1

S.P.I.C.E. (Society for the Preservation of Interesting and Creative Eldership)

SPICE will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Wed., Aug. 19 for a presentation by Rosemary Kidd on her journeys in Southeast Asia. A meal will follow. The cost for the meal is \$8. RSVP by 4:00 p.m. on Fri., Aug. 14, to Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917. All members and friends of Country Club Christian Church are invited.

2009 Tall Oaks Gala Is October 9

The 12th annual Tall Oaks Gala fundraising event for Tall Oaks Conference Center is fast approaching and donations are being sought for both the live and silent auctions in conjunction with the event. Auction donations received by Sept. 14 will be included in pre-event publicity and the program. Those received by Oct. 2 will be listed on the bid sheets at the Gala. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Susan or Alan Garner, Country Club Christian gala ambassadors, at 816-822-7194.

The gala is Oct. 9 at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Country Club Plaza. Watch for more information.



Paying Attention as Needed

by Karla Herrington, Director of Children's Ministries



When I opened the email last week informing me that I would be in the rotation for writing this column, I immediately jumped up, darted across the hall, and explained kindly to Catherine that I didn't recall this being part of my job description. Catherine gently reminded me that there was that one statement in my contract about the director "supporting *as needed*." We both exchanged that tongue in cheek chuckle and I went on my way. I knew my initial reaction was out of fear because I had been assigned a task that was unexpected, not in my plan.

Even in my day to day plans with the hustle and bustle of four kids, my husband, work, summer activities, the housework, etc., it's easy to become frustrated when things don't go "as I planned." I have learned that when I embrace each day watching for the unexpected and living "as needed" in each moment, it is really a lot easier. Getting an unexpected assignment is a good reminder for me that things will change "as needed" along this journey and I can trust that each time I embrace leaving my comfort zone or plan, the fears fade and make way for a joy I also didn't expect.

Speaking of comfort zone, that's where I'll be this week; down at the dock, "Crocodile Dock" that is, with Vacation Bible School leading a swamp of fun. We will be letting our fearless lights shine as we discover God's presence, power, love, and care. Our Bayou Crews will find that God's fingerprints are everywhere!

May we all remember to pay attention and watch for the unexpected, sometimes fearful moments given like gifts "as needed" from God to see how they are woven perfectly into our lives.

Karla

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.

Healing and Wholeness

Prayer Service on August 4

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Aug. 4, in the Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

Fellowship Singers Festival Sunday Rehearsals

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to sing with the Fellowship Singers on Festival Sunday, Aug. 23. We have a few very important rehearsals coming up. We will meet on Sundays, July 26, Aug. 9 and 16 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Our combined rehearsal with the Children's Choir is on Wed., Aug. 19 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Although there is a swim party from 7:00-9:00 p.m. that day for Chi Rho and CYE, it would be greatly appreciated if you head to the party a few minutes late, right after rehearsal.

Festival Sunday is coming up very soon, and every voice is important. Director Laine Riley will be emailing mp3s to participants to use for practice. Hope to see you there!

Race to Grace 2009

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. This annual event is for youth that are in 6th-12th grade for the 2009-2010 school year.

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. For more information, contact Justin at justinz@cccckc.org or Brandon at brandonw@cccckc.org.



Family Mission Trip Team

A group of 23 adults and children traveled to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in Eagle Butte, SD, in June to build relationships with the Lakota community.

1st row: Amelia Commerford, Lita Lockhart, Amalia Murguía, Kersti Nix, Jillian Schlatter, Reece Nix, Lauren Reddin, Margo Hunter

2nd row: Miguel Murguía, Jane Commerford, Addison Schlatter, Hailey Hunter, Ross Commerford, Wynne Reddin, Taylor Corn

3rd row: Marie Hunter, Ruth Lockhart, Cheryl Commerford, Michelle Schlatter, Tim Reddin, Ginger Cline-Nix, Sally Murguía, Catherine Stark-Corn



Church member Margo Hunter enjoyed getting to know LaTia and LaShae during the trip to Red Scaffold, SD.



Some Things Are Beyond Words

by Chuck Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



There's a popular story about an interview of a professional golfer who had just won a major tournament. The highlight of the hard-won victory was an astounding shot the golfer made from out of a bunker with the ball rolling into the hole. The interviewer asked the exuberant golfer, "How does it feel to be so lucky sinking a shot like that?" The golfer responded with penetrating candor, "'Luck?' That was not luck; I was aiming at that hole the whole time!"

Much like patient, determined golfers, Country Club Christian Church has been journeying the paths of opportunity for ministry. From mission trips, to events and educational opportunities for all ages; from worship services that span the depths of Good Friday to the wonder of a candle-lit Christmas Eve, to incorporating more efficient technology into the service of the good news, the gospel of God's love ... we are not embracing and realizing these events by "luck." The truth is: We've been planning!

Planning, preparing, and implementing requires hours of unglamorous, sometimes painstaking work. For example, I've personally celebrated how the idea of a "Green Team" took root and how their projects have blessed our grounds with a beautiful "rain garden." Another area of preparation and work includes our Stephen Ministry program. We are going through the challenges and effort of reformatting our schedules for in-services, group supervision meetings, and planning a training session that will begin this September. Just like the countless hours of practice logged by golf pros, there are many elements and activities that go into acts of ministry, mission, worship, and church life.

Jesus once told his disciples: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now, but ... God's Spirit will guide you into all truth" (John 16:12ff). Maybe Jesus was referring to something we know, that is, some things are beyond words ... you just have to be engaged at Country Club Christian Church to sense and experience them! What a great God and a great place to love, grow into, and serve Christ!

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.

VBS Finale

Sunday, August 2

All children are invited to join in the fun during Sunday School on Aug. 2 from 9:55 -10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall for a Vacation Bible School wrap-up of Crocodile Dock. Come and see what the children did during VBS week including singing, storytelling and activities. If you attended VBS be sure to wear your t-shirt!

First Steps

This Sunday morning gathering for families with infants to 3 year olds will begin meeting again in September. We look forward to seeing everyone at 9:55-10:55 a.m on Sept. 6.

Festival Sunday Choir Practice

Festival Sunday is coming up really soon!!! For all children in the Children's Choir (completed grades 1-5) we will be having a few very important rehearsals coming up. Please mark your calendars for Sundays, Aug. 9 and Aug. 16 from 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Children's Choir Room. I will pick up those that are already in Sunday School. Also, there will be a combined rehearsal on Wed., Aug. 19 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary to put all of our festival music together. I'll be emailing you a couple of mp3s to use for practice. Thank you and I'm looking forward to singing with you again soon! ~ Laine

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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. Catherine Stark-Corn
Minister to Children,
Youth and Families

Dr. Charles Rolan
Interim Minister of
Congregational Care

Dr. Brian Campbell
Associate Organist

Ms. Sandy Eisenman
Director of
Financial Services

Ms. Karla Herrington
Director of Children's
Ministries

Ms. Lisa McCleish
Director of Early
Childhood Programs

Ms. Laine Riley
Associate Director of Music

Ms. Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

Ms. Lauren Weinhold
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

Sign Up for Your Church Directory Photo

Don't miss your chance to be included in the next church directory! You may sign up online by visiting www.cccckc.org or on Sunday morning in the Parlor. 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.

Food Drive on August 23

On Sun., Aug. 23, 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 Jim and Lindsay Sullivan on the birth of a daughter, Delia Rose Sullivan, on July 15.

Memorials

MAEBELLE P. HODGES

Nancy M. Barnes

Betty Foster

Mary Susan Smith

Sallie Ellen Smith

MARIE W. LOCKTON

Joanne Lane

Betty Foster

Lynne & Peter Brown

John & Maraline Hayob

James & Marg Pateidl

Don & Dorothy Osborne

Barbara Nottberg

Steven & Katherine Eginoire

Harold & Ruth Tivol

Nancy M. Barnes

William & Laura Frick

UMB Financial Corp.

Terrence & Peggy Dunn

Betty Walstrom

Richard & Barbara Atlas

JM Fahey Construction Co

R. Glenn & Marjorie Elliott

Beth Ingram

Bill & Jill Coughlin

Tom & Sharon Van Dyke

Chris Koenemann

Cokie Strafer

HARRIET JANE HODGE

Monica Webb

ROBERT W. SEE

Southwest HS Class of 1948

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.ccccckc.org