



DISCIPLES
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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.*

Kick Off the New Church Year with Festival Sunday on August 23

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.



Stop by the Parlor on Sun., Aug. 9 or Aug. 16 to sign up for the brunch. You can also volunteer to bake a quick bread (we need about 40 loaves).

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 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 children in the CASA foster care program.

Race to Grace 2009 is August 28-29

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

Join us Aug. 28-29 for Race to Grace: Experiencing the Gift of God. We will race around the city discovering God's grace at every turn. The fee is \$50 for each participant. The deadline for registration is Fri., Aug. 21. Return forms and payment to Chris Trout at christ@cccckc.org.

If you are an adult who loves to work with



Race to Grace 2008

youth, think about volunteering as a van driver, coach, event marshal or any other gift that you may have. Contact Justin at justinz@cccckc.org or Brandon at brandonw@cccckc.org.

AUGUST 7, 2009



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!

Stephen Ministry Training September 20

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!



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

Training begins Sept. 20 and will continue on Thursday nights through April 2010. Information and applications are available outside the congregational care office. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Chuck Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care at 816-333-4917 or chuckr@cccckc.org.

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.

New Small Groups for CYF/ Chi Rho Youth Begin August 20

Small groups for Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and CYF (grades 9-12) students to gather to read scripture, discuss and have fun will begin Thur., Aug. 20. These groups involve a commitment to meet every week from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. CYF will meet in the Youth Center (Rm. 205) and Chi Rho will meet in their Sunday School room (Rm. 202). For more information, contact Justin at justinz@cccckc.org or Brandon at brandonw@cccckc.org.



Nature and Grace

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



I am writing this column from Barclay Lodge, YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. My family and I are here for our church's annual Community Camp. From the front porch of our lodge the majestic mountains seem to stretch to infinity. I imagine that even an atheist, standing in the beauty of this heavenly locale, might think, "Hmm, maybe there is a God."

However, standing here I am also overwhelmed by the simple fact that our world is undergoing change. The evidence of damage is not hard to see. I am a pastor, though, and not a scientist. The ideas of what to do about the damage, some of which we can see, like the unusually high number of trees that are dead and dying here in Rocky Mountain National Park, are also overwhelming.

To make things worse, this issue too quickly becomes politicized and overwhelmed by loud voices on each side of the aisle in Washington, DC. I end up feeling like we are stuck with no viable alternatives or options available.

It is sad. It is frustrating.

Maybe what we need is a new angle of vision. Perhaps there is a way for the church to speak out in the middle of all of this. Our Green Team is doing a great job of reducing our energy use and cost. But what else can we do?

Joseph Sittler, a Lutheran theologian has an idea. He writes, "God creates his creation in grace. The creation itself is a realm of grace." He wrote this over 20 years ago but his ideas are right on target. He goes on, "Moralistic little essays here and there telling us to recycle the newspapers and smash the cans (and we should do both) are not sufficient efforts to care for our environment. There must be some primary theological reflection on this point."

Now he REALLY has my attention. He gets right to his point: "The grace of God is not simply a holy hypodermic needle whereby my sins are forgiven. It is the whole giftedness of life, the wonder of life, which causes me to ask questions that transcend the moment."

In September we'll tackle this topic in my sermon series, "The Green Letter Version." We'll listen to the ancient voices of the Bible as we seek to discover the link between nature and grace.

Grace and peace to you,

New Church Directory

It's not too late to be included in the new church directory. LifeTouch photographers will be here the weeks of Aug. 10 and 17 to take photographs, and an additional week has been made available, Sept. 15-19. Sign up online by going to the church website and clicking on the Portrait Sign-Up icon.



Directories and purchased photos will be here in time for the holidays.

Return Your Pledge Card

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. To implement our church budget, we need to know our income. All of our ministries are funded and staffed because of the generosity of our members and friends who make annual pledges and gifts. Drop your card in the mail or bring it to the office.

Worship with us!

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

Aug. 16

Watch Your Step, Use Your Head

Ephesians 5: 15-20

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

Aug. 23

Festival Sunday

Love So Amazing

1 Corinthians 13: 8a

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Pathways to Learning



Sept. 13 – Living as Good Stewards of Our Land. Ken Warren from the Land Institute will talk about how to live without biting the land that feeds us.

Sept. 20 – Rick Gasaway, author of *An Inconvenient Purpose – Linking Godly*

Stewardship and Alternative Energy, offers information and useful suggestions for Christians who care about leading the way to a better, cleaner world for everyone.

Sept. 27 – How the Bible Came to Be – Old Testament, by Professor Harold Washington of St. Paul's School of Theology.

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.



Shopping at The Well

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Have you visited The Well Gift and Book store recently? If not, you're missing out on lots of unique gift items and books. Purchases at The Well directly benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to individuals around the world. Use The Well's page on the church's web site, www.cccckc.org under the Stay Informed tab, to do your shopping at amazon.com and a percentage of the purchase price is directed to our Outreach projects. The Well is on the ground floor of the church and is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



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. 16 – Traditional Bible Story, Part 1

Aug. 23 – Festival Sunday Brunch in Social Hall, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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.

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. Join us in Rm. 302 every Sunday from 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Aug. 16 – Led by Jere Hanney

Aug. 23 and 30 – Lose Your Life, led by Keith Washburn and Phil Lile

Sat., Aug. 15 – Single Doubt, 8:00 p.m. at Spivey's (87th & Quivera, behind Zarda BBQ). Put on your dancin' shoes and come rock out to the sounds of our own Jere Hanney and Single Doubt!

Fri., Aug. 21 – Royals Game, 7:10 p.m. Royals vs. Twins. Tickets will be about \$15 (with special Jackson County discount). Let Betsy Wilson know at 913-220-1059 or betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com by Aug. 10 if you're interested in going as tickets will be purchased then.

Branson Christmas Trip Meeting

Join us at 12:15 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 16, in Rm. 201 for an informational meeting about a possible Christmas time trip to Branson, MO. Wilda Zollars will present information about the cost and options. Based on discussion, we will determine whether a trip will be scheduled in December. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.



A “Godbearer”

by Brandon Winstead, Director of High School Ministries



Over the past few years, I have had to “bear” numerous responsibilities as a Ph.D. student, a part-time mental health professional, a husband, a church youth volunteer, a board member for a non-profit agency, and a proud butler of two energetic beagles. Fulfilling all these roles and tasks has been difficult—especially when trying to write papers when the dogs needed to be walked or the dishes needed to be washed.

However, when my wife and I decided to pull up our stakes and move back to Kansas City, there seemed to be a lightness in the air that carried with it the possibility that these tasks would become lighter in the days to come and that I would soon be bearing a different set of responsibilities that would rejuvenate my soul. Shortly after we arrived, that possibility became a reality when I accepted the position of Director of High School Ministries of Country Club Christian Church.

Since then, I have realized that fulfilling my charge at Country Club is not another task that I must “bear” alongside other responsibilities. Instead, I believe that I have been called to be a “Godbearer” to the lives of teenagers and their families. This term, which was coined by Princeton scholar Kenda Creasy Dean and pastor Ron Foster in the 1990s, is meant to describe those who take seriously their call to tend to the souls and spiritual hunger of students in their ministries.

Over the next few weeks, I will explore what being a “Godbearer” looks like in this congregation and how it might shape the youth ministry at Country Club Christian Church in the months and years to come. I look forward to fulfilling my calling as a “Godbearer” and hearing your ideas and thoughts as I journey together with you and your families on this fun and exciting road called Country Club youth ministry—even if I have to stop and wash a few dishes along the way. Amen!

Brandon

Collection Connection

Cross-Lines Community Outreach

In August, we are collecting items for Cross-Lines Community Outreach for its shower facilities. Guests who are day laborers, homeless, or are new in town and looking for jobs, often shower and change into appropriate clean clothing there for interview opportunities. Items needed include disposable razors, full-size roll-on deodorant, conditioner and shampoo, and combs. Please bring your donations to the Parlor. Cash donations are also accepted.

2009 Tall Oaks Gala Auction

Sign Up to Donate

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 on Oct. 9.

Sign up at the table in the Parlor on Sun., Sept. 6 or 13. 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 Church gala ambassadors, at 816-822-7194.

The gala will be at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Country Club Plaza. Proceeds help benefit camps and conferences in which our congregation participates. Tall Oaks is a camp, retreat center and conference center on 350 woodland acres just east of Linwood, KS.

Chi Rho Mission Trip to St. Louis Involves Work and Play



Doing their best fashion model poses above are Makenna Lockhart, Kellin Martiny, Michaela O'Connor, Connor Ehman, Zoë Ziegenhorn, Jansen Hess and Parker Hoffman. In the other photos, our youth are pictured working with youth of other faiths and groups.

The 6th and 7th graders of Country Club Christian Church traveled to St. Louis for their 2009 mission trip. The youth worked with the organization Faith Beyond Walls and learned about poverty while working in an interfaith environment with youth from Muslim, Hindu, Mormon, and Jewish faith traditions. Interfaith relationships and working for justice in St. Louis were major themes of the trip. It wasn't all work, though! The youth visited the Arch, the St. Louis Zoo, Ted Drewes, and the City Museum. The relationships formed within the group and with those they worked with and the work accomplished made this year's trip one to be remembered.



VBS Kids Travel to Crocodile Dock

Nearly 100 children, youth and adults worked together during Vacation Bible School July 27-31. The Racoon Crew – Lauren Herrington, Reese Nix, Ben and Zack Corbin – show off their turtles with pockets full of cards highlighting scriptures used during the week. At the opening and closing each day, participants practiced songs they would perform at the finale.





Seeing with Fresh Eyes

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



This is my first trip to Community Camp in Colorado with our church. I have been intent on staying focused on the glory of God in nature, the goodness of God's creation. I think it is essential for all of us at times to step away from the daily demands, to gather our families or a few friends and get to a place where we can pause and begin to see this vast and amazing world which we inhabit. Most of us in our daily lives do not have or take the time to commune with the creation God crafted – we find ourselves rushing from one to-do list to another, eager to end the day ahead of

where we started it. Maybe we glance at a beautiful flower bed, or take a run through a wooded area, but I would guess that each of these encounters with God's glorious good earth are merely a by-product of another purpose altogether.

Whether you can travel to Community Camp or just make time to take a hike locally, we need to really see for the first time or see with *fresh eyes* the creation, made by the glorious majesty of the creator. Frederick Buechner in *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC* writes

“Using the same old materials of earth, air, fire, and water, every twenty four hours God creates something new out of them. If you think you're seeing the same show all over again seven times a week – you are crazy. Every morning you wake up to something that in all eternity never was before and never will be again.”

We need to teach ourselves to see God's creation anew. We must let our hearts guide our view of all that surrounds us and never take for granted what God has done. We are called to see God's glorious good earth anew. We are partners with God in the greatest work in the universe. We are stewards of a marvelous blue island in an ever expanding awesome universe. We are rooted and grounded in the Creator's love. Let us honor that love in our lives and find times to pause from daily life to commune in the goodness of creation.

Catherine

Children and Families

VBS Thank You

A crocodile size thank you goes out to all the parents, grandparents, and church members who helped make our Vacation Bible School a success last week. A special thanks to Deb Stone for painting our daily story displays and sewing the character sheets for our bayou crews. Also, thank you to our church sewing ladies for helping with the turtle pillows and to the CYF kids for doing a terrific job leading our crews. We couldn't have done it without your help!

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.

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 in the Pine Room (Rm. 10).

Festival Sunday Choir Practice

Festival Sunday is coming up quickly!!! For all children in the Children's Choir (completed grades 1-5) we have two more 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. Laine Riley, director, 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.

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Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Associate Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

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Minister to Children,
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Interim Minister of
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Ms. Sandy Eisenman
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Ministries

Ms. Lisa McCleish
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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."

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

Congratulations

LUKE MICHAEL CANNON was born on July 15 to Julie and Michael Cannon. Maternal grandparents are Shirley Mills and Ken Roberts.

Congratulations to MARISA CAHALAN and BRETT TAVEAU who were married July 11 in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to JILL KOCH and BRIAN HODGE who were married July 18 in the Sanctuary.

Memorials

MAEBELLE P. HODGES
John & Erma Hess
Julia May

MARIE W. LOCKTON
John & Erma Hess
Charles & Kendi McDaniel

LOUISE MENSING
John & Erma Hess
WILDA JORDAN

Ingegerd Skoglund
JAMES W. HOPKINS
Bonnie Veskerna
ROBERT W. SEE

Joyce Minor
GEORGE V. NICHOLS
Joyce Minor

Transportation Fund
ROBERT W. SEE
Norma Lewis

**IN HONOR OF MILDRED
SCHOOLING'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY**

Gary & Kathryn McElwain
Jennie & Coby Lamb