



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

VOLUME 82 · NUMBER 18

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.*

A Trip Down Memory Lane with Dr. Gordon

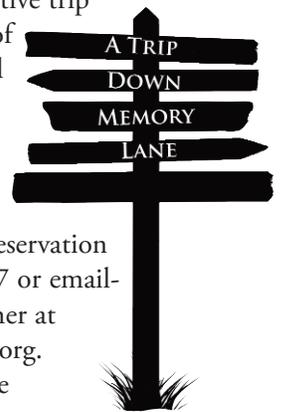
Plan to join us on Sun., Oct. 19, for a special celebration of Dr. George Gordon's dedicated ministry to the people of Country Club Christian Church and the Kansas City community. Dr. Gordon is retiring after 33 years with us.



The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the church with a progressive buffet of dinner at stations set up around the building featuring

moments from George's ministry. The dinner will be followed by a festive trip through the highlights of George's tenure. We will conclude around 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 per person. Please make your reservation by calling 816-333-4917 or emailing Mary Margaret Archer at marymargareta@cccckc.org. Reservations may also be



Visioning and Strategic Planning Work

By Mary Lynn O'Connor

Throughout the summer—amid vacations, busy work schedules and family commitments—the Visioning and Strategic Planning team has continued to meet several times each month in its quest to get to the heart of the questions of “Who are we as a church?”, “What does God call us to do?” and “Who do we serve?”

It's been a journey. The team has read books and articles, including: *Holy Conversations* by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann; *Good to Great and the Social Sectors-Why Business Thinking is Not the Answer* from renowned author, Jim Collins; *About the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*; a report from the Pew Forum, Religion and Public Life, *U.S. Religious Landscape and Survey*, 2008;

and even our church's Ministries and Events Guide. Members of the team have shared articles, reviewed additional research from the publisher of *Holy Conversations* and studied other online resources for congregational planning. The team even analyzed other churches' mission statements and scoured church newspaper ads and websites.

But it was after meeting with Dr. Robert K. Martin, who was quoted in an article about changes in religion—and who, luckily, is located here in Kansas City—that the team realized that it needed help. Our approach to-date has been too corporate-like. We were missing the depth of spiritual discernment and true holy conversa-

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Bible Workbench Coming This Fall

Bible Workbench will be offered again this fall to tie in with the sermon series *Sacred Tools for Holy Living 2.0*. This is an eight-week experience during which small groups will hold weekly Bible studies to discuss the scripture on which Dr. Glen Miles will preach the following Sunday. The study will include solid scholarly wisdom, modern literature and personal reflection questions, to help participants see how the ancient stories of the Bible unfold anew in the shared journey of life today. The course is ideal for anyone interested in short-term Bible study. The groups will meet in October and November. Watch for details.

Yoga Resumes

Two weekly yoga classes resume this fall with a mixed level class, from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Mondays in the solarium, allowing students of all levels of ability to enjoy the same class, yet work at their own level. Directions will be given so that Level 1 students (beginners) can do a pose one way, and Level 2 and Level 3 students will be shown more advanced ways of doing the pose.

In Gentle Yoga, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Mondays, students will begin by using chairs for the opening meditation and for added balance when doing standing and balancing poses. Cost is \$35 per month or \$10 per single class.

Disciple Bible Study Begins Sept. 16

Disciple Bible Study, offering an in-depth study of the Bible, will begin Tues., Sept. 16 and continue weekly through May 5. The discussion will be led by Lesley Holt and Tepríng Crocker from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The book costs \$40. Childcare will be available by reservation. If you wish to participate, please reply to Chris Trout at christ@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917. Pick up your book and prepare for the first session.

Visioning, continued from page 1

to guide us through this next phase of our journey. With his knowledge of the *Holy Conversations* book, experience in congregational planning, and as a professor in congregational leadership, he is in a position to help us get outside of ourselves.

Dr. Martin will help orient the vision/mission process theologically, especially in terms of our sacramental and congregational heritage. As he put it, "The overall purpose of our collaboration would be to discern what God is doing and where God is leading and to help Country Club Christian Church participate more fully in it." The team looks forward to his teaching, facilitating, and advising. More to come on this.

Your Visioning and Strategic Planning Team, Marcia Berry, Lynn Cockle, Barbara George, Chris Howard, Carolyn Hughes, Randy Irey, Glen Miles, Mary Lynn

Seven Spiritual Mini-Retreats for Women

How do we find the quiet center in the midst of all of life's busyness and clutter? How can we follow the Spirit's leading until we become aware of the Spirit's presence in our own lives? Beginning in September and continuing throughout the coming year, a series of short mini-retreats for women will focus on exploring and deepening our spiritual journeys through prayer, meditation, and guided reflections. Cost \$85 for all seven retreats, including two lunches and all leadership.

The first session will be Sept. 24 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Sacred Space in Combs Chapel. Subsequent retreats will be Oct. 22, Dec. 3, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25 and April 22.

Contact Rev. Carla Aday at 816-333-4917 or carlaa@cccckc.org.

Infant Dedication



Makaylee Ann, with parents Mike and Stacy Terril and brother Jackson, was welcomed into the life of Country Club Christian Church on Aug. 24.



A Gracious Political Season

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



As we move further into the political season that is before us, I hope people of faith, especially Christians, will be able to treat those who disagree with them with graciousness and kindness. Christian folks like us cannot control the action of the two parties as we move closer to election day in November but we can follow the teaching of Jesus to love our neighbor, even if they are voting for a candidate other than the one we are!

One of the things we can do as we practice the love of Jesus is listen. Too often political discussion devolves into ranting and raving and very little thoughtful debating. To listen to the other is to treat him or her like a human being.

Perhaps a voice from outside of the Christian faith can help us. Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist, writes,

In true dialogue, both sides are willing to change. We have to appreciate that truth can be received from outside of – not only within – our own group. If we do not believe that, entering into dialogue would be a waste of time. If we think we monopolize the truth and we still organize a dialogue, it is not authentic. We have to believe that by engaging in dialogue with other persons, we have the possibility of making a change within ourselves, that we can become deeper.

The willingness to listen, to change, and to venture into authentic dialogue are not always the traits found on the political floor. The church, by choosing the path outlined above, can become a gracious and kind presence in the midst of the bombastic commentary that comes from both sides.

Grace and peace to you,

September Sermon Series

The Politics of Jesus:

What Would Jesus Have Us Do in the USA Today?

Who would Jesus vote for is a dangerous question. Why? Because Jesus transcends our political differences. When we look to the politics of Jesus, we'll find one who calls for justice and peace while demanding that love is foundational to all that we do. Join us each Sunday in September as Dr. R. Glen Miles presents this timely sermon series.

Worship with us!

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

Sept. Sermon Series The Politics of Jesus

Sept. 14
A Politically Offensive Gospel
Luke 4: 16-30

Sept. 21
Conservatives and Liberals
Need Each Other
Luke 12: 41-48

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

YaWhose

Young Adults [age 22-35] Welcoming Hearts Open to Spiritual Exploration

This group has begun a new Sunday morning schedule and format meeting weekly from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m., Rm. 304. Stop by for a presentation and discussion of faith issues in our everyday lives. On the first Sunday of the month, Crossroads and YaWhose meet together for a lesson in the Pine Room (Rm. 10).

Sept. 14 – Going Green. Church member Fritz Zschiezschmann will discuss how his international business embraced the needs of the environment, and the steps our church is taking to respect and nurture the environment.

Sept. 21 – Visioning. Members of the church's visioning team will update us on the direction of our church and seek our input on where we go next.

Bring Your Antiques to S.P.I.C.E.

Wed., Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m.

In September, S.P.I.C.E. (Society for the Preservation of Interesting and Creative Eldership) presents its own version of the popular PBS program, "The Antiques Road Show." Jason Roske, owner of KC Auction Company, and several of his associates and other antique experts from the congregation will be on hand to answer questions about the history and possible value of the antiques that we bring.

The experts will be on hand at 10:00 a.m. to look over your unique possessions and the formal program will begin at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will follow at noon. Blood pressure checks will be available at 10:00 a.m. Invite friends and make your reservation with Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareta@cccckc.org by noon on Mon., Sept. 15.

Second Sunday: Where Parents of Children 10 and Under Nourish Mind, Body and Soul

Parents gather for a light supper at 5:00 p.m. followed by a program at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Children enjoy dinner and activities in the childcare wing. RSVP by calling 816-333-4917 or e-mail Mary Margaret Archer at marymargareta@cccckc.org.

Sept. 14 – Positive Parenting Strategy

Oct. 12 – I Pledge Allegiance ...

Pathways to Learning



It's the Economy: Four Perspectives – Money or "mammon" is the most talked about subject in the Bible. And today, people still worry about their pocketbooks as well as the complex issues of a global economy. Take a fresh look at the issues from the vantage point of an individual, a U.S. citizen, a global person and a Christian. Each Sunday in September from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall, we will present a different perspective.

Sept. 14 – Chris Lester, Assistant Managing Editor, Business, at *The Kansas City Star* will help us look at the current economic climate. With energy, taxes and health care concerns on the rise, what are the real issues?

Sept. 21 and 28 – Israel Kamudzandu teaches New Testament at St. Paul School of Theology. He will help us look at economic issues from a Biblical and global perspective.

Crossroads

For adults ages 35-50. We each face many different crossroads in our lives. This class offers spiritual guidance, educational insights and the support of fellow travelers on the journey. Meets every Sunday in the Pine Room (Rm. 10) from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

Sept. 14 – The Crossroads of Christian History that Gave Birth to Our Denomination. Dr. Jim Brandt, St. Paul School of Theology.

Sept. 21 – Crossroads Along 33 Years at Country Club Christian Church. Dr. George Gordon, Minister of Congregational Care.

Prayer Retreat on Sept. 19-20

Join Dr. George Gordon and others from our congregation at Conception Abbey in Conception, MO, for a prayer retreat on Sept. 19-20. Dr. Gordon will lead a short session on Friday from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. and several sessions on Saturday with a 4:00 p.m. departure. We will discuss and experience approaches to prayer and meditation that can be included in our daily lives as interludes of spiritual peace and refreshment.

The registration deadline has been extended. Sign up by calling Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or emailing marymargareta@cccckc.org. Cost is \$50 per person.



If These Walls Could Talk

by Marilyn Wimer, Director of Administrative Services



When I was 12 years old, an elder taking an inspection tour of the First Presbyterian Church in Joplin, MO, fell to his knees when his foot went through the floor boards on the second floor. The report that followed sounded the death knell for the venerable old building: there was just too much damage to repair throughout the structure so the congregation voted to tear it down and build a new church on the same site.

Being a sentimental, third-generation member of the church, I wept to see the old one go, but admitted that the new colonial-style structure with its red and white interiors and soaring steeple was lovely. But what a change from the square graystone fortress that had filled the corner at Fifth and Pearl!

I see the structural changes here at Country Club Christian much differently. In fact, helping to keep the building's interior up-to-date for our changing needs is one of my favorite parts of my job. It is fascinating to catalog the changes that have occurred to the physical structure of our 85-year-old building.

For example, youth group kids used to play games on the flat roof that is now the third floor Solarium. The kitchen used to be located at the east end of the Social Hall and the church print shop was on the second floor. Until very recently, there was no receptionist area at the east entrance. In fact, that space used to be a small apartment that housed a resident custodian.

The back of the Sanctuary chancel was originally a solid wall. It was opened up in the late 1940s for installation of the beautiful Christ window. The stone wall behind the Last Supper Sculpture was the original back of the church; the offices and classrooms behind it came along as the fourth addition.

The ground floor Pine Room (Rm. 10) has received the most recent facelift (if you don't know where that is, take a hairpin turn to the right at the bottom of the main staircase and you'll find it at the end of the hall). In August, the Pine Room received a new coffee bar, reworked closets, new carpeting, paint, ceiling fans and furniture. Changes were made to accommodate the huge use that the room receives now. It is the space for a Parents' Day Out class, the Preschool's Movement Class and the new adult Crossroads Sunday School (which already has over 50 members). The Bell Choir practices there as do the Celebration Singers. We hope all the groups enjoy the Pine Room changes.

By the way, there is no truth to the odd rumor that comes up occasionally that the Pine Room was once an indoor swimming pool (!). However, it really was a small basketball court at one time in its history.

Lunch with Haitian Missionaries

Tues., Sept. 16, noon – 1:00 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to a luncheon on Tues., Sept. 16 to meet and get to know our two newest missionaries to Haiti and enjoy a 20-minute program.

In October 2007, the Country Club Christian Church Outreach Council approved a commitment to fund \$30,000 over three years in support of Patrick and Kim Bentrott, who are working with the National Spiritual Council of Churches in Haiti (CONASPEH).

To reserve a seat at the luncheon, contact Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareta@cccckc.org, or sign up in the Parlor on Sunday morning, by Sept. 10. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities New Orleans – Oct. 19-25

From Oct. 19 to 25, a mission team will make a fourth trip to the New Orleans area to assist in the ongoing rebuilding efforts. Anyone 16 years of age or older may participate. Contact Kelley Quinn, lay leader, at elmokitty@everestkc.net or 816-333-1859.

Nicaragua – Jan. 24-Feb. 1, 2009

If you missed the recent trip to Nicaragua, you will have another opportunity early in 2009. Plan to attend the information session at 12:15 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 14 in Rm. 201 to learn about the upcoming trip. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at 816-333-4917 or carlaa@cccckc.org.

South Africa – Mar. 7-21, 2009

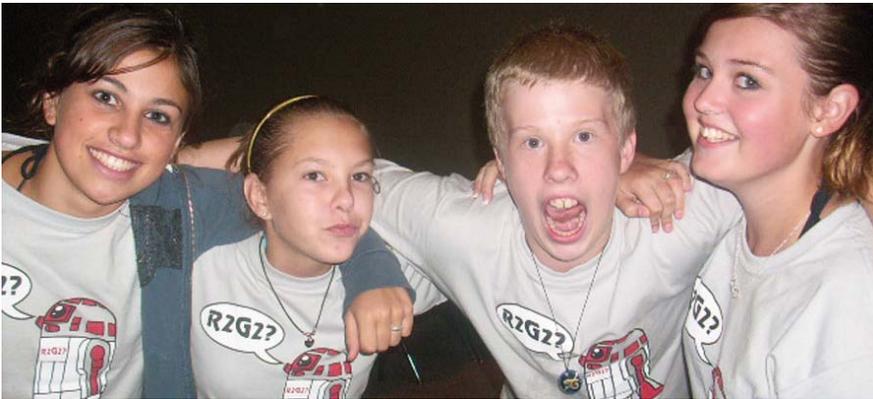
A team returns to the Kei region of South Africa in March 2009. Contact Nancy Lear at nlear@gilmorebell.com for more information about this opportunity.

Race to Grace 2 Fun for All



The second annual Race to Grace 2 (R2G2) youth event was held Aug. 22-24. Race to Grace, based on TV's *The Amazing Race*, featured teams of youth traveling the KC metro in a race to solve clues and compete in different mental and physical challenges. Nearly 100 youth members and adult coaches, drivers and volunteers participated in the 2008 event.

Above, Oshay Green, Maurice Jackson, Amy Wilson and Allyse Hackler worked together on an obstacle course. Below, Jasmin Naumburg, Kathryn Kubin, Steven Miles and Carly Trout comprised a team.



Bibles Presented to 3rd Graders



Dr. Glen Miles and Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn presented Bibles to 3rd graders on Aug. 17. Recipients were (front row) Sam Berry, Gabby Hendren, Sophie Nearnmeyer, Lita Lockhart, Gillin Newell, and Garrett Moffat; (back row) Dan Long, Taylor Corn, Chloë Kowalski, Margo Hunter, Nick Long, Xander Hulsey. Not pictured: Benjamin Bracker and Ethan Niewald.

Honoring Dale Ramsey

On Sun., Sept. 14, Dale Ramsey will retire as a church musician. His career has spanned many decades. We have been blessed with him on our staff for the past 9½ years. During his time with us he has been not only the associate organist, but also a gifted composer, having written a number of works specifically for us, a recitalist, and founding director of the Sticks & Phones Orffestra.



To honor his time among us and to celebrate his long career there will be a reception in the Parlor following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sept. 14. We hope you will all join us to offer your thanks and best wishes for his retirement.

Women's Ministries

Circle 3 will meet for the first session of the new year on Tues., Sept. 16 in the Youth Center at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch at the Outreach Council luncheon with the missionaries from Haiti. Call Linda Schooling-Kekina at 816-523-8921 for more information.

Circle 12 will meet on Tues., Sept. 23 for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Contact Janet Roberts at 913-661-9581 for more information.

Circle 17 will meet on Tues., Sept. 23 for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Contact Gloria McLerran at 816-942-1438 for more information.

Circle 18 will meet at the church on Fri., Sept. 26 for lunch at 12:30 p.m. Contact Lois Russell at 913-338-1064 for more information.

Keystone Network will meet on Tues., Sept. 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Sue Dyer for a salad supper and planning. Contact Sue Dyer for details.



Carla and David

by Dr. George Gordon, Minister of Congregational Care



For one of my final articles, I would like to acknowledge the ministries of two colleagues with whom I have walked for over 20 years. At the end of August, Carla Aday completed her first 20 years with our congregation. Most know Carla for her exceptional sermons. In these messages, through the use of vivid pictures, she invites us to accompany her on an enlightening walk through a theological idea. In joining her, we find that our heartstrings are touched and our thoughts stretched, and we leave with much worth pondering.

But only those who serve actively on boards and councils know of Carla's ability as an able administrative leader. After being in a thousand staff meetings with her, it appears that Carla always has her radar out to detect what is occurring in the both the secular and theological cultures while simultaneously questioning how any of it might be relevant to the ministries of our church. Then, usually in consultation with others, she crafts a proposal. But she is not simply a perpetual creator, she is also a tenacious implementer. She is conscious of every detail necessary for the perfect product, and she keeps the rest of us "on task" with gentle, but polite reminders. She pauses a moment to laugh at our jokes, but we know that the task never leaves her mind.

David Diebold and I have been across the hall from one another for over 28 years. He is not only the Minister of Music—organist/choir master for the congregation—he is the pastor/educator for the choir. He is attentive to all of their personal joys and dilemmas. A very visible example of his dedication to the MS 150 in honor of many of our choir and congregation members who are directly affected by this disease. He also provides tremendous lessons not only regarding the musical performances of pieces, but also into their historical and spiritual significance.

David has inspired great performances from a devoted, all-volunteer choir for almost three decades. This is a tremendous accomplishment. It speaks of the choir members' loyalty to David and their willingness to challenge themselves for the greater ministry of all.

He is also a phenomenally talented performer known beyond our doors. I frequently meet people who upon learning where I work will say, "Isn't David Diebold there?" and then they offer high praise for his skill. It is probably because of this community acclaim that David is able to enrich our worship with the contributions of so many gifted artists from the area.

It has been a considerable blessing for me to have been able to share ministry and friendship with both Carla and David these good many years. I trust that this blessing will continue for the congregation for a lengthy time to come.

Children and Families

Mystery Trip Saturday

Sat., Sept. 20

1st and 2nd graders are invited to our fall Mystery Trip. We will gather at church at 9:00 a.m. and travel by church van to our mystery location. We will return to church by 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$7 per child. Bring a sack lunch and drink. Snacks provided. Space is limited. RSVP to Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareta@cccckc.org.

Club Kids Team Building

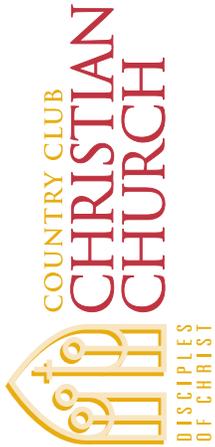
Sun., Sept. 21

All 3rd – 5th graders are invited to an afternoon on the low ropes challenge course at Tall Oaks Conference Center from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. After eating lunch at church, we will depart for the Tall Oaks session. We will return to church by 5:00 p.m. (we will have a south pick-up point). Cost is \$15 per child. Join us for this time of fellowship, fun and group building. RSVP to Chris at christ@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Growing in Faith – Moms Group

Join this group of Moms as we gather Tues., Sept. 23 from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. (second and fourth Tuesday of the month) for fellowship and faith-focused conversation. Currently, we are using the series *Living the Questions* to explore our faith and how it informs our parenting. Please RSVP for childcare to Chris at christ@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

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Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Associate Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

Dr. George Gordon III
Minister of
Congregational Care

Rev. Cynthia Heller
Minister of
Parish Visitation

Rev. Kelly Ingersoll
Minister to Youth and
Young Adults

Rev. Dale Ramsey
Associate Organist

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn
Minister to Children
and Families

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Visitor Information Seminar Sept. 13

Have you been thinking about joining Country Club Christian Church? If you've wondered what's involved in membership, we invite you to the half-day Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Sept. 13. Hosted in the Youth Center (Rm. 205) from 8:45 a.m. to noon, the Visitor Information Seminar is your opportunity to meet our ministers and hear about the church's ministries and how you can get involved. RSVP to Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

Old Fashioned Picnic

Mark you calendar to join your church friends for an old-fashioned fellowship opportunity on Sun. Sept. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Bring a salad or dessert to share and enjoy the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Main dish provided.

Our Church Family Congratulations

Congratulations to Claire Wimer and Brendan Orwig who were married July 5 in Eureka Springs, AR.

Congratulations to Muffie Keonin and Brett Scherer who were married Aug. 16 in Independence, MO.

Congratulations to Jennifer Robinson and Jayson Parker who were married Aug. 22 at Loose Mansion.

In the Hospital

As of Sept. 4, we are calling on the following individuals: Virginia Reed at Bishop Spencer Place; Brown Jenkins at Research Kansas City, and Theron Swank at Timberlake Nursing Center.

Memorials

CLEO M. LITTLE

John & Erma Hess

WENDELL C. HEMBREE

John & Erma Hess

PAULINE M. DUER

Kansas City Young Matrons

LIDA L. SCHWEGLER

John & Erma Hess

Music Memorial Fund

CLEO M. LITTLE

John & June Turley

WENDELL C. HEMBREE

John & June Turley

SPICE Program Fund

MAGDALENE D. MYERS

Charles & Sandra Whitmore

IN HONOR OF MILDRED

SCHOOLING'S 99TH

BIRTHDAY

John & Martha Jane Stewart