



# 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.*

## 10th Anniversary of September 11

### Commemorative Worship Services Planned; Miroslav Volf to Speak

#### Special Worship Times

The 10th anniversary of 9/11 will be recognized during two worship services on Sun., Sept. 11, at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Clergy representatives from different faith traditions will join Dr. Glen Miles in leading services focused on unity and hope for the future. There will be no 10:00 a.m. chapel service that day.

Participating in the 11:00 a.m. service will be



Imam Ahmed El-Sherif

Ahmed El-Sherif, founder of the American Muslim Council of Greater Kansas City, and Rabbi Arthur P.

Nemitoff, Senior Rabbi of The



Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff

Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah.

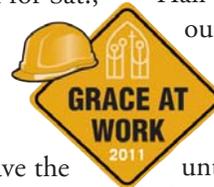
#### Miroslav Volf to Speak

Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God? Acclaimed author Miroslav Volf, who addresses this question in his recent book *Allah: A Christian Response*, will speak as part of the Pathways to Learning series on Sun., Sept. 11, at 9:55 a.m. in the Social Hall. Dr. Volf's presentation is entitled *A Christian Response to 9/11*. He is the founder and director of Yale Center for Faith and Culture and is a professor of Theology at Yale University Divinity School. He will speak on the campus of Central Baptist Theological Seminary Saturday evening, Sept. 10.



### Sign Up for Grace at Work on September 24

Your chance to participate in the next Grace At Work day is right around the corner. The 7th Grace At Work day is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 24. Whether you're handy with a hammer, enjoy baking or have a gift for organization and cleaning, there is a project for you. Beginning Sun., Sept. 4, you will have the opportunity to sign up for one of 15 projects in the Last Supper Sculpture room. Or, if you prefer, you can register from the comfort of



your living room by registering on-line via [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org). We will gather in the Social Hall at 8:30 a.m. on the 24th and then head out to our various work sites, wrapping up our work around noon. We hope you can be a part of this fun, transformative event! Collectively, our few hours of volunteer work will have a huge impact on our church and our community. Please contact Lauren Weinhold at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org) with questions.



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## Capital Campaign Update

Thank you to all those who have supported the capital campaign and begun to send in funds. We have already collected over \$350,000 in cash. In July Stuart Hoffman, Board Chair Person, signed a contract acquiring Thos. Rewerts & Co., LLC as our structural engineer for the building outside restoration. Thos. Rewerts & Co. is currently making AutoCAD drawings of all the various elevations and areas of the exterior facade that will serve as a basis for the contract plans and specifications. The engineers are also researching and contacting various material suppliers for the replacement materials including both cast stone and cut natural stone.

## Faithbook

Explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey as we listen to a brief Bible presentation and then share reflections in guided small groups. For women ages 25-65. Tuesdays beginning Sept. 27, 7:00-8:00 p.m. OR Wednesdays beginning Sept. 28, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Pick the time frame that works best for your schedule. Rev. Carla Aday will lead the discussion. Sign up with Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@cccc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Partnership with Kansas City Missouri School District Volunteer Training on Sept. 15

This school year, you can volunteer at Hartman Elementary as a tutor, a classroom aide or as member of the BackSnack team. There are also episodic opportunities available if you'd like to help but can't make a weekly commitment. A training and orientation is scheduled for Thur., Sept. 15 from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Country Club Christian Church. Contact Lauren Weinhold to RSVP.

## Pathways to Learning: A Christian Response to 9/11



Beginning Sept. 11, a three-part series will focus on the aftermath of 9/11. The programs will be presented from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Pathways is ideal for those who aren't involved in a Sunday School class. Entire Sunday School classes are also invited to participate as a group. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

**Sept. 11** — Miroslav Volf, author of the book *Allah: A Christian Response to 9/11*

**Sept. 18** — An Interfaith Panel Reflects on 9/11 – Bill Tammeus, Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn and Mahnaz Shabbir.

**Sept. 25** — Sunday School classes are invited to continue the discussion begun in the presentations on Sept. 11 and 18 with a study guide that will be provided. The study guide is not yet available.

Pathways is a periodic series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology.

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## Upcoming Mission Trips

### New Orleans Mission Trip

For the seventh time, Country Club Christian Church will send a mission team to New Orleans to help with the reconstruction following Hurricane Katrina. The trip will be Sun., Oct. 30 through Sat., Nov. 5. We will once again work in partnership with the United Church of Christ to obtain our work projects. Betsy Wilson will be the trip leader. Contact Betsy at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com).

### Nicaragua

Help conduct medical clinics and construction projects in a small, rural village. Those with medical and dental training, a command of the Spanish language or construction skills especially needed, but no special skills required. Feb. 11-19, 2012. Contact Rev. Carla Aday, [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org).

### Young Adults to Nicaragua

College students and recent college graduates of all skill backgrounds are invited to continue our work with our partners at CEPAD in Nicaragua on June 5-13, 2012. This trip is a chance for young adults to experience a week of cooperation and service, and have their eyes opened to global realities Nicaraguan brothers and sisters face. The trip will be precluded by three sessions of study and discussion (date and time to be decided by the mission trip members). Space is limited, so please sign up soon. Contact Rev. Steve Mason, [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org).

### Joplin

Country Club Christian Church has volunteered to send a mission team to help with the rebuilding efforts after the May 22 tornado and is awaiting assignment. Date to be announced. Contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com) or call the church office to put your name on the interest list.



## Preaching Grace and Forgiveness

by Dr. R. Glen Miles

Preaching grace is easy. Living grace is hard. The alternative to grace, judgment, is just as easy to preach but it is easier to live. Every one of us has an inner Pharisee, an aspect of our personality that can easily fall into the pattern of judging and looking down our noses at others. Falling into a pattern of judgmentalism is not difficult. In fact, it is so easy it feels down right natural to exclude others by determining that they don't measure up to whatever standards we have incorporated.

There is only one problem with this for people of Christian faith: Jesus. Jesus threatens his world and ours with inclusion. Jesus was "a friend of sinners" and with good reason. The people he is surrounded by are not the ones our inner Pharisee would want us to invite for dinner or even a cup of coffee.

Jesus can be a problem for us!

Brian McLaren, in his book, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, writes:

*Jesus debated the Pharisees not so that his super-orthodoxy of the exclusively right could finally prevail over theirs, but so that his generous orthodoxy of God's saving love for all could open wide the doors to God's house, with a special welcome for the poor, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, the sick and yes, even the mistaken."*

A generous orthodoxy of God's saving love for all. That is just about the best summary of the Christian message that you will ever encounter. It is also just about the most difficult summary you will ever encounter either. Difficult because it clearly implies that God's desire is to love all.

Do you remember the hymn *Just As I Am*? There are some serious theological issues with that little song but the four word title JUST AS I AM is accurate. God wants to come just as we are, humbled by the fact that we all need grace, recognizing our need for forgiveness. When we learn to accept that we are forgiven we begin the hard work of discovering how to forgive others.

Grace and peace to you,

### September Sermon Series

#### Forgive and Remember

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

#### September 11

Freedom from Fear

Psalm 103

*Matthew 18: 21-35*

#### September 18

Forgiving Ourselves

*Luke 6: 37-42*

#### September 25

Finding Hope in Forgiveness

*Jeremiah 31: 31-34*

### Worship with us!

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

#### September 4

The Holy Space Between Us

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

*Matthew 18: 15-20*

#### September 11

Services at 9:00 and 11:00

No 10:00 a.m. service

Freedom from Fear

*Psalm 103*

*Matthew 18: 21-35*

#### September 18

Forgiving Ourselves

*Luke 6: 37-42*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Adult Bible Studies

### Short-term and Long-term Options Available

Opportunities for Bible study and faith formation groups are beginning this month. Options are available for both short-term groups and longer term study.

**Allah: A Christian Response** – Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God? This 4-week discussion of a new and timely book by a cutting edge theologian named Miroslav Volf will encourage participants to ponder one of the most sensitive and critical questions of the 21st century. You may still join this class that meets Tuesdays through Sept. 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Phil Love is the facilitator.

**Disciples Bible Study I (DBS)** – This overview of the entire Bible invites you to know the whole story and to let it shape your life in new ways. Participants engage in daily/weekly homework reading of the Bible and the Disciple Bible Study workbook. The course benefits from the most modern scholarship available and challenges students to become Disciples. **Thursday Afternoons** – Led by Rev. Steve Mason, this class meets every week from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Sept. 1-May 17. The book will be available in the church office for \$35.

**Jesus in the Gospels** (pre-requisite: Disciple Bible Study I) – Compare and contrast the four gospels in this 30-week study which explores the images of Jesus found in scripture and how we might faithfully follow in his path. Homework is required. **Wednesday Evenings** – Led by Rev. Chuck Murphy, this class meets the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning Sept. 7, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** – This group for seniors will study the book of Hebrews. It meets Wednesday morning beginning Sept. 7 through May from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205), led by Rev. Chuck Murphy.

**Embracing an Adult Faith** – Who is God? What does salvation mean? This 5-week group invites us to revisit Christianity's fundamental questions and explore authentic answers as our faith matures. Book: \$12.95 in church office. Tuesdays, Oct. 11-Nov. 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Facilitator is Lauren Weinhold.

## Green Team Class

### Compost: Breakfast of Champion

**Gardens:** Thur., Oct. 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Don't pay to have someone take away your fall leaves and yard waste! Learn simple composting methods to recycle yard waste into organic matter that will turn your soil into champion soil. Instructor: Kathy Hoggard, Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City. We will meet in the Youth Center (Rm. 205).

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## the waystation



The waystation, a new community of young adults coming together for monthly evenings of dinner, conversation and worship, started last month. Put together by a group of clergy from various Disciple of Christ congregations in the Greater Kansas City region for young adults of all backgrounds, this community is meant to engage, challenge and transform young people in their understanding of Christian community. The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month at First Christian Church of North Kansas City from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Between gatherings, tweets and blogs will act as a virtual community designed to give a spiritual connection for this group. Any group willing to show hospitality for this ministry by volunteering to provide a meal for future gatherings would be welcomed. Check out the facebook page by searching "the waystation" or check out our website <http://thewaystationkc.wordpress.com/> and follow us on Twitter at @thewaystationkc.

The next meeting is Tues., Sept. 20. Contact Steve Mason, [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org), with any inquiries.



## Being Good Stewards

by Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator



I love parks.

Did you know there are 58 national parks in the United States? Missouri and Kansas have a combined number of 74 state parks. Parks vary so much. Some are mostly water while others are desert. The largest is located in Alaska and is 13.2 million acres while the smallest is in Pennsylvania and is only 0.02 acres. Then I find myself wondering why we even have them?

Do we just feel some natural desire to preserve our land? Even those of us who aren't great recyclers or who aren't worried about the fuel efficiency of our car might have a carefully manicured yard. We set aside a portion of our yard to enjoy, preserve and give it support to grow. These are the same things that our country's and state's leaders did when they designed the park system. And to ensure our state and national parks, and even personal yards and gardens stay beautiful, we understand a concept that we hear but at many times shudder at the very thought of: stewardship. When the church uses the word stewardship, we shudder. We have warped the original English phrase steward, or one who manages the property of another, to be a phrase that usually gets used only when an organization wants money.

I have heard lots of spiritual leaders try to explain what stewardship is. However, my favorite definition is from Dictionary.com which defines stewardship as a noun: "the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving." I would add it is also a verb — stewardship is an enduring action. We are responsible, and, if we believe God is the creator, then what is not worth caring for and preserving? Parks are more like our church than most of us realize. Both serve many purposes and need our constant support. A vital church supports the tamest and wildest of us. It does not have an expiration date, and all who visit or are a part of the community are asked to support it.

God created us in God's image and then charged us as stewards of all creation. We are all stewards. We don't get a choice, we just have to choose to either be good or bad stewards.

Rob

## Welcome to our Visitors!

Are you a frequent visitor who has been considering becoming a member of our church but just haven't taken the next step? Are you new to the Country Club Christian Church community and want to find out what there is for you here? Whether you're ready to join or simply want to learn more about Country Club Christian Church, we invite you to attend the next **Information Open House on Sun., Sept. 25** from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Last Supper Sculpture room off the parlor. Stop by for dessert and learn more about the exciting events that will be taking place in the coming months.

You're also invited to the next **Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Nov. 5, from 8:45-11:45 a.m.** Learn more about our history as a denomination and a church and discover the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Our ministers will be on hand to talk about the church's ministries and how you can get involved. Ask questions, enjoy breakfast and meet the church's lay leaders. For more information or to reserve your spot at the seminar, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).

We invite you to become a member of the Country Club Christian Church family! New members will be welcomed on Sun., Nov. 20 at the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would like to be included in the celebration, simply let Lauren know. We look forward to sharing your faith journey with you!

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## Fall Youth Activities

### CYF Lock-in – Sept. 17

All CYF (9th-12th graders) are invited to a lock-in beginning at 8:00 p.m. Sat., Sept. 17 and continuing through 11:00 a.m. Sun., Sept. 18 in the Youth Room (Rm. 205).

### Grace at Work – Sept. 24

CYF and Chi Rho will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 24, to help out during the all-church Grace at Work.

### Chi Rho Service Night – Sept. 29

Chi Rho youth (6th-8th graders) will meet at church at 5:45 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 29, to head to Harvesters Community Food Network. Return to the church by 8:00 p.m. A snack will be provided.

### Youth Groups

CYF and Chi Rho youth gather most Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for a light meal, fellowship and time to explore and grow in Christian faith.

### CYF

Sept. 4- No youth group

Sept. 11 – Meet at Lucy Lehoczky's house from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sept. 18 – No youth group (due to lock-in).

Sept. 25 – Fall fun games at church

### Chi Rho

Sept. 4 – No youth group

Sept. 11 – Games and worship

Sept. 18 – Church service night

Sept. 25 – Fall fun games at church

## Third Graders Receive Bibles



Receiving Bibles on Aug. 21 during the 11:00 a.m. service were Spencer Corn, Anna Merz, Lauren Herrington, Hailey Martin, Rachel D'Attoma, Mark Lopatofsky. Not pictured are Cameron Casper, Reese Nix, Sam Steinlicht

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## Festival Sunday Celebration on August 21

Festival Sunday kicked off the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth and adults. The partnership with the Kansas City Missouri School District was honored with a covenant with representatives from the district (right).

A picnic on the front lawn provided an opportunity for fun and fellowship.

Below left, Shirley Hansell and Anna Toler helped serve. The 5 Star Jazz Band (below right) provided entertainment.





## Holy Places

by Rev. Steve Mason, Pastoral Resident



We were instructed by the highlighted biblical text from Exodus 3 to take off our shoes before entering into the pentagonal-shaped candle-lit room. The soft glow of flickering light reinforced the welcoming and intimate ambiance given off by the fuzzy carpet. A table in the center of the room was covered with crosses, a loaf and cup. There was sound quietly playing over the hidden speakers—noises that seemed like music layered by ambient street noise, passing cars, blowing wind, crunching leaves.

With no directions other than the cards at various worship stations, participants went at their own pace engaging common elements of worship—prayer, music, offering, water and light—in a new way. With the worship stations, each person was able to choose the order and direction of their worship. Some read hymnals, and then considered the holy purposes of water. Others started by re-imagining the Lord’s Prayer word-by-word before moving on to think about what they wanted to offer to God that night. When music dimmed and people congregated around the table in the center of the room, we were invited to share and pass a cup and loaf of communion, taking time to share in conversation with each person with whom we’d broken bread. This was worship at the first waystation gathering.

The waystation is a community meant to engage, challenge and transform young people in their understanding of Christian community. It brings about moments like the one I witnessed just weeks ago where I saw sisters hugging and holding each other. I heard people break barriers during communion when learning about their neighbor to whom they were serving communion. But most touching for me was noticing a young man write on an iPad. The man had a disability that caused his body to shake involuntarily and make noises—something that disturbed his worship and peacefulness. But as I looked across the room at him leaning over onto his sister’s lap, I saw him write on the iPad touch screen the words “HOLY PLACE” before smiling and resting his head on her shoulder.

We all need a holy place and a community that is willing to share the journey of discipleship. All young adults are welcomed to be a part of the waystation. The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month at First Christian Church of North Kansas City from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Steve

## Children and Families

### Club Kids

#### September 11 – Kick-off Family Picnic

All 3rd-5th graders and their families are invited for fellowship, fun and food from 5:00-7:00 p.m. hosted by the Lopatofsky family. Burgers, hot dogs and drinks provided; families are asked to bring a side dish to share. Watch for further details in the weekly email. We will be back to meeting at church on Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 18.

#### Save the Date – Sunday, October 2

Team building at Tall Oaks Conference Center, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

### First Steps

#### Sunday, September 4

Parents with children under 3 are invited to join other families on the FIRST Sunday of the month from 10:00-10:50 a.m. We will explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness. Join us for informal fellowship in our new space in the Play Zone (Rm. 215) on the second floor in the Children’s Wing.

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

#### August 28 – September 18

The first rotation of the year will have a focus by grade level to help children gain some basic tools to enhance their growing faithfulness.

1st grade = Worship Basics

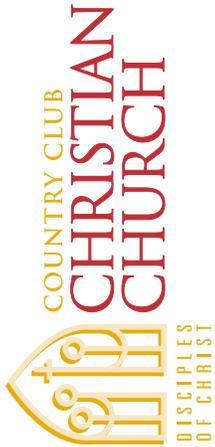
2nd grade = Faith Practices

3rd grade = Know Your Bible

4th grade = The Church Year

5th grade = Into the World

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## 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

**Rev. Chuck Murphy**  
Minister of Congregational  
Care

**Mr. Justin Zeigler**  
Minister to Youth

**Mr. Rob Gilkerson**  
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**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

## Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on September 6

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 6, in the Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings. Come join a worship of grace and acceptance, a sacred place for prayer that will create moments where hope may carry you in the journey ahead.

## Food Drive on September 18

On Sun., Sept. 18, please bring your nonperishable food items for the Virginia Reed Food Drive, our collection for local food pantries that serve the homeless and hungry. Vans will be in the parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the barrels located at the east and north doors. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

## Our Church Family Sympathy

K. PRESTON DEAN passed away Aug. 27. He is survived by his wife, Cathy. Services were Aug. 31 in the Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

## Memorials

**Elizabeth Lehozcky**  
Jarene Stanford

**Kay Prather Rodriguez**  
Marjorie Lisbona

**Eleanor Hardy**  
Marilyn Foster Borel  
Marilyn & Chuck Dreas  
Karen & Harry Gallagher  
Cindy & Randy Irey  
Kay & Bob Moffat  
Clay & Shannon Johnson  
Kelly & Melanie Moffat

**Art Bowen**  
Marilyn Foster Borel

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