



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.*

Sign Up Still Open for Dr. Gordon's Retirement Celebration

Sunday, Oct. 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

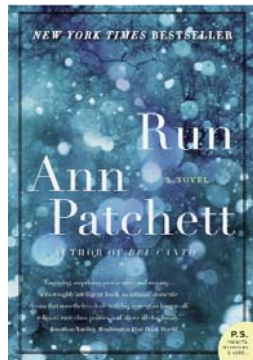


Make your reservation by Sun., Oct. 12 to join in the special celebration of Dr. George Gordon's dedicated ministry to the people of Country Club Christian Church and the Kansas City community. Tickets are \$18 per person or \$5 per child 12 and under. Make your reservation by calling 816-333-4917 or emailing Mary Margaret Archer at marymargareta@cccckc.org by Oct. 12.

Dr. Gordon will preach on Sun., Oct. 26 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a reception in the Social Hall.

Building Community Book by Book

Nov. 8 Fun Run Kicks Off All-Church Book Event this Winter



Join us this winter in reading the newest selection in the *Building Community Book by Book* series, *Run* by Ann Patchett.

In honor of this year's book selection, *Run*, a **Fun Run** will be held on **Sat., Nov. 8 at 8:30**

a.m. at Loose Park. Registration is \$15 per person and includes a t-shirt. Children and youth 18 years and under are free and they can purchase a t-shirt for \$10. Register by calling the church office at 816-333-4917.

Building Community Book by Book is an opportunity for the congregation to read and discuss the same book selection, followed by a chance to meet the author.

Ann Patchett is the award-winning author of *Bel Canto* and *Truth & Beauty*. She has written for publications including the *New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, and *Vogue*.

Run is the story of brothers raised by their loving but ambitious father after their mother's death. When an argument in a snowstorm inadvertently causes an accident involving a stranger and her child, all the father cares about is his ability to keep his children safe. *Run* shows us how worlds of privilege and poverty can coexist only blocks apart from one another, and how family can include people you've never even met. In *Run*, Patchett illustrates the humanity that connects disparate lives, weaving several stories into one moving narrative.

Watch for more information coming this fall about how to purchase the book and get involved in this great all-church literary event!



Bible Workbench: Sacred Tools for Holy Living 2.0 is Under Way

The all-church Bible study **Bible Workbench: Sacred Tools for Holy Living 2.0** began last week but there is still time to join one of the small groups. The eight-week Bible study began with Dr. R. Glen Miles' sermon on Oct. 5 and will continue into November.

Small groups meet during Sunday school classes or during the week to discuss the scripture which is the basis for the next Sunday's sermon. The weekly small-group discussions continue through November, culminating in the final sermon in Dr. Miles' series on Nov. 16.

Each week's sermons are as follows:

Oct. 12	Spiritual Narcissism
Oct. 19	We Belong to God
Nov. 2	Rev. Carla Aday preaching
Nov. 9	It is Bad News Before It is Good News
Nov. 16	When History Repeats Itself

Note: Dr. George Gordon will preach at the 11:00 a.m. service on Oct. 26.

New Members Welcomed September 21

New Member Sundays Upcoming

We joyfully welcomed eight new members in to our church family on Sun., Sept. 21. When you see these new faces around the church, please stop to welcome them and introduce yourself.

Mark your calendars now for Oct. 19 and Nov. 23! If you are a visitor and are interested in becoming a part of the Country Club Christian Church family, we would love to celebrate with you on one of these upcoming New Member Sundays. Contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, for more information.



Sheila Holkins with husband, John Holkins

New Member Host:
Sally Murguia



Amy and Jared Rose with son, Carter

New Member Hosts:
Steve and Andrea Bough



Joan Newby

New Member Host:
Susie Diebold



Cara and Keith Hayden

New Member Hosts:
Chris and Brook Howard

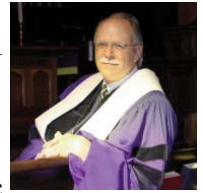


Lori and Larry Huff with son, Hudson

New Member Hosts:
Mark and Rhonda Meuret

Welcome Dr. Charles Rolen

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Rolen began work Oct. 1 at Country Club Christian Church as Interim Minister for Congregational Care. He



will serve a two-year term, filling the vacancy created by Dr. George Gordon's retirement. Dr. Rolen is "shadowing" George for a month before George retires at the end of October.

Chuck has had specific training in the intentional interim ministry. With the experience and training he brings, Chuck will be invaluable to the congregation as we transition from the legacy of George's ministry to a new, permanent Minister for Congregational Care in 2010.



An Open Door Policy

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



One of my pet phrases to say to visitors who express a desire to return is, “The doors will be open!” I want anyone who walks through our doors to know that they are open for everyone. When we keep the doors of the sanctuary open for all we are proclaiming to the world that in this place there is no concern over income, status or respectability. In this congregation, everyone who walks through the doors is given a place to sit.

Joan Puls writes, “The amazing truth of the kingdom is its availability. The kingdom is not for buying. It is not exclusive. It can’t be hoarded. It succumbs, not to power, not to birthright, not even to the magnitude and sparkle of one’s achievements...It requires one possession, freedom. The freedom to recognize kingdom-events and follow a kingdom-course.”

Her words remind us that the kingdom of God is for everyone. Everyone who chooses to live in the kingdom of God is welcome to live there.

Puls also writes that “true freedom, as true love, rids us of fear. In the economics of the kingdom, faith is sufficient.” The flip side of that, though, is that sometimes fear is more comfortable. Sometimes we choose fear over freedom because fear allows us to define ourselves as victims.

The world around us is shrinking. There is news of potential economic collapse. Terrorism is and perhaps will be for a very long time, an ongoing worry for us. Fear is an easy choice. Fear will say beware of the stranger, the outsider, the other. Fear will look at other religions and see danger.

This is where the church can be a beacon of hope and ray of light. By choosing to follow Christ, by listening to the voice of love, by opening our doors as wide as possible to the world, we can remind everyone who encounters us that we have left fear behind. We can become a place where hope lives and grace grows.

In a world that is desperate for good news we must find the strength, the courage and most of all, the freedom to proclaim God’s love for all.

Grace and Peace to you,

Winter Bible Study

Revelation: Not Left Behind

Join Dr. Glen Miles this winter for a serious study of Revelation, the Bible’s most controversial and confusing book. The group will meet on Mondays - Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2 and 9. Watch for more details.

Worship with us!

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

Oct.-Nov. Sermon Series
Bible Workbench
Sacred Tools
for Holy Living 2.0

October 12
Spiritual Narcissism

October 19
We Belong to God

October 26
Dr. George Gordon preaching
at the 11:00 a.m. service.

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).

October and November – YaWhose is participating in Bible Workbench 2.0, the eight-week study that ties into the sermon series for October and November.

Monthly evening gatherings

Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. – Meet in the party room at Pizzeria Uno's at the Plaza, 4710 Jefferson Street, Kansas City. We'll have dinner together, then break into teams for a photo scavenger hunt around the Plaza (no driving required!). The winning team will receive a prize.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 7:00 p.m. – Meet at YaWhose member Jen Robinson's house. We'll have a potluck Thanksgiving dinner together. Jen will provide the turkey and YaWhose members can sign up to bring a side. Please RSVP to get additional details and sign up for your side by emailing Jennifer Edwards at jennstreak@hotmail.com.

MORE² Annual Public Meeting

MORE² On Sun., Oct. 19, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., MORE² will hold its annual meeting to demonstrate that people of faith care, that people of faith understand, that people of faith act. Come share your voice. The meeting will be at Paseo Baptist Church, 2501 Paseo Blvd., in Kansas City, MO.

MORE² is a coalition of 18 multi-denominational and multi-faith metropolitan congregations working toward resolving issues of social justice such as living wage, education, and youth in poverty. MORE² offers opportunities to become involved according to time, talents and interests. For information go to www.more2.org or call 816-808-6604.

Share Your Tutoring Talents

Volunteers Needed at Argentine Middle School

Teams of tutors have begun volunteering weekly at Argentine Middle School in Kansas City, KS. Additional tutors are still needed. The school is located off of 18th Street Expressway (Roe).

Tutors are needed on Wednesdays at 1:00–2:15 p.m. We will work mainly on math but also mentoring and English. Tutors keep the same kids throughout the school year so that you can really get to know them.

Contact Kathie Allison at 816-361-6378 or email her at katiea@planetkc.com for more information or to volunteer.

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 email Mary Margaret Archer at marymargareta@cccckc.org.

Oct. 12 – “I Pledge Allegiance ...” What will our kids learn about voting and politics, about country and conflict during the election cycle this fall? Deth Im, a pastor and former candidate for public office, brings his passion as a parent of three small children and his dedication to public life and faith development to this timely topic.

Nov. 9 – Hoppo – 2008 Family Mission Trip Report.

Saturday Night Live

For Couples with Children 10 and Under

Join us for drinks and cheese on Sat., Oct. 18 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 112 W. 63rd Street in Brookside. In the midst of carpools, sports, homework, lunches and school supplies, take some time for yourselves.

Age appropriate activities and pizza will be provided for children at the church by reservation. Call the church office at 816-333-4917 or email marymargareta@cccckc.org.



The Organ Shoes

by Ms. Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music



Since Festival Sunday when our new worship schedule began, duties have expanded for volunteers and staff alike. I am excited to be playing the organ for part of the 8:00 a.m. chapel service. I enjoy the quiet, meditative nature of the service. As I prepared to play the organ again on a weekly basis, I took out my old organ shoes. These shoes and I have been together for many years, with a somewhat sordid history.

When I was 23 years old and had just moved to Newport News, VA, I began looking for a part-time church choral directing job while working on my master's degree in choral conducting. I happened to call Hilton Presbyterian Church literally hours before their search committee was going to decide to hire one of their current candidates. They asked if I could drive by a resume, and then called to schedule my auditions with their various choirs, as well as on the organ. Yikes. What I did not volunteer to them was that my entire organ experience consisted of one year of half-hour lessons during undergrad, but frankly, I needed the job.

So, I dusted off my organ shoes and prepared... a lot. I remember that for my organ audition I played the only two difficult pieces I knew well, and the hymns that were assigned. I actually convinced them that hearing me sight-read wasn't really necessary, as I would prepare extensively for every service. They were more than kind, and took a leap of faith. I was terrified.

I remember spending several hours a day on the bench those first year couple of years. There is nothing like countless hours of practice combined with the desperate need to know to help improve your skills. There were many moments of frustration and feelings of inadequacy as I put on those shoes every day. I also began to enjoy the challenge.

One Sunday morning about 12 years ago, as the choir and I were preparing to walk into worship, the strap broke on those old shoes of mine. In hurried frustration, I ran into the office, grabbed a rubber band and strapped my shoe back on. I told the choir, "That's it, once this rubber band breaks, I'm done playing the organ!" Well, that same rubber band was still on my shoes when we moved back to Missouri. It finally broke just weeks ago, as I was putting on my shoes to practice the Saturday before Festival Sunday. I smiled as I remembered my dear friends from Virginia, and their patience with me. After all these years, I have come to love playing the organ. This time I calmly walked to the office, and grabbed another rubber band. Although this one might hold out just as long, I think maybe it's time for a new pair of shoes.

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. A \$200 deposit is due immediately for those participating. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at 816-333-4917 or carlaa@cccckc.org for more information.

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.

Visit the Well for Unique Gifts

It's not too early to begin shopping for those on your holiday list at The Well, our gift and book shop, located on the ground floor of our church. The Well is open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays and from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Purchases at The Well directly benefit our Outreach projects.

Also, if you use The Well page on the church's web site, www.cccckc.org, to do your shopping at Amazon.com, a percentage of the purchase price is directed to our Outreach projects. Just go to www.cccckc.org, and click on Stay Informed and then on The Well. You will see an Amazon search box. By using the search box to find any product at Amazon, a percentage of your purchase benefits our outreach.

Youth Regional Assembly

Oct. 25 in Lee's Summit

Calling all youth! Sign up for Regional Assembly in Lee's Summit on Oct. 25. Join us for this fun opportunity to hang out with other Disciples of Christ youth that we don't see except for camp and other regional events. It is only one day, but it connects our church with others in the denomination.

We will participate in youth-specific activities, and Kelly Ingersoll and



Justin Zeigler really want us to be there! "Loving with Christ" – Celebrating our Diversity is the theme.

Registration is \$10, and due Oct. 13. Forms are available from Chris in the business office or in the Youth Center, Rm. 205.

Watch for Green Changes Around the Church

With an eye to being the best stewards of God's creation that we can be, Country Club Christian Church now has a Green Team examining what we as a church might do better in terms of minimizing our impact on the environment. The team recently had consulting firm BlueStem Solutions determine the size of the church's carbon footprint and deliver recommendations about how the size of that footprint can be reduced.



In the months to come, keep an eye out for updates from the Green Team in the *Christian*, on the web site, and around the building. The team's goal is to not only make the church itself greener, but for Country Club Christian Church to become a sustainable model for the Kansas City area. We also hope to educate you, the congregation, on ways you can live greener at home. Some of these will be easy, low-cost methods and some will be a bit more difficult, but as true custodians of God's earth we feel that these are important steps to take as a church body.

If you haven't yet noticed, the light bulbs in the Sanctuary chandeliers are all now CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps). Also keep an eye out for some new high-efficiency toilets and faucet aerators in the main bathrooms. The differences might be subtle, but they will have a great impact in the long run. Anywhere you see the new Green logo, change is afoot. The Green Team is excited about moving forward on creating a more sustainable church and hope you will be, too. For more information or to get involved, contact Mindee Forman at mindeeforman@sbcglobal.net.

avoda on Oct. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Join us on Sun., Oct. 19 at 4:30 p.m. in the Combs Chapel for a contemplative, meditation worship experience featuring art, technology and the avoda band. The service is geared to young adults and the young at heart.

Note that this is a change in time from the regular schedule due to the celebration for Dr. George Gordon on Oct. 19.

College-age individuals are invited to stay after avoda for good food, drink and conversation.

Youth to Salvation Army

Chi Rho and CYF youth will be visiting the kids at the Salvation Army Children's Shelter again on Sun., Oct. 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Children's Shelter provides emergency shelter care for Missouri-resident children unable to remain in their homes due to a family crisis or issues of abuse and neglect. Since opening in 1981, over 5,000 children have received care through this program.

Come share a smile and friendship with these great kids of all ages! Enjoy Hereford House burgers! Let us know if you are coming, so we can arrange for enough burgers and drivers. RSVP to Chris Trout by Oct. 9 at christ@cccckc.org.

Save the date for CYF Fall Retreat!

Join your CYF friends for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and future planning Nov. 21-23 at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Watch for more information as the time gets closer, but be sure to reserve that weekend for the CYF Fall Retreat!



To Serve and to Grow

by Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music



Sometimes the moments of serendipity in our lives are subtle. Other times I think they crash into our consciousness. Over the last several days, my experience has been the latter. Recently Glen preached a fine sermon on Matthew 25: 31-46. The next day, Kelly used a passage from Mother Theresa to center the staff before a meeting.

On Saturday, the daily quote in my day planner was from Marianne Williamson: “Nothing liberates . . . like the desire to help, the desire to serve.”

This is a message I’ve heard all of my life: people of faith do for others. Service takes many forms, from giving a homeless person a few dollars on the street to offering volunteer time in a service organization. The list of possibilities is as varied as the list is long. I am aware many of us have a regular routine of helping others and each of us has our own motivations for doing so. Personally, I have noticed that our lives are changed when we are of service to others, as are the lives of those we help. One of my involvements in recent years has been with the MS Society.

Almost 10 years ago, while purchasing a new bicycle, I saw a poster for what was then the MS 150, a two-day event that involved bicycling 150 miles through the Missouri countryside. I realized that I had found an opportunity to serve others. I knew I could train for such a distance and it would not encroach on my work schedule. I was attracted to the MS ride because there are two individuals in my choir that have Multiple Sclerosis. I figured I would ride in their honor and raise money for MS. It seemed like a perfect fit.

That first year, as people sent me contributions for the ride, a number included handwritten notes explaining that they also had a family member with MS. That first year I learned of 10 people with MS that were in some way attached to our congregation. Every year I have added new names to my list and now ride for about 26 individuals. The ride has now grown to almost 200 miles of riding in two days. This year was my ninth consecutive ride and it continues to change my life.

I realize that not everyone can or wants to ride, walk or run. There are other ways we can help people. My hope is that we take the message of Matthew 25 seriously enough that we will risk our comfort level and do something, anything at all, that will be of service to others.

Peace...

David

Children and Families

Volunteers Reap the Rewards

Each Sunday morning a group of adults has an experience like no other! These volunteers help as a teacher, shepherd, storyteller or greeter in the Children’s Sunday School ministry. You too can enjoy getting to know some of the younger members of our faith family. There are a range of ways to get involved in the Children’s Ministry – if you have one Sunday morning or numerous Sunday mornings to volunteer we can use your time and talents. We know you will benefit from opportunities to interact with the children of our church. Contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn for detailed information about working in the Children’s Ministry, catherinesc@cccckc.org.

Fountains of Faith

The Covenant: Abraham

First through fifth graders will explore the theme of covenant through the stories of Abraham’s faithfulness to God. This covenant established so long ago is a covenant that binds us, calls us, demands of us that we worship God and acknowledge the grace and salvation offered to us through God’s everlasting love. The Abraham rotation will be taught through Oct. 19. Through cooking, storytelling, art and more, the children will learn the Biblical stories of Abraham.

Moms Group – Growing in Faith

Many women feel the daily pulls on them – work, family and household. We invite you to take time for yourself – to nurture your spirit through faith-focused discussions. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays (Oct. 14 and 28) in the morning from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. Our current discussion is based on the series *Living the Questions*. Join us for fun and fellowship. Childcare available. RSVP to Chris at christ@cccckc.org

Club Kids Fall Outing

Sun., Oct. 26

Save the date for this fun outing for 3rd through 5th graders. Watch for details.

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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. Catherine Stark-Corn
Minister to Children
and Families

Rev. Charles Rolen
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Food Drive Is Oct. 19

On Sun., Oct. 19, please bring your non-perishable food items for our collection for local food pantries which 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. Financial donations are also appreciated and can be made by marking your check "Food Drive."

Recipients of the food include First Christian Church of Kansas City, KS, the Don Bosco Community Center, Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Community Christian Church and Alta Vista Christian Church.

Park University Concert

Sun., Oct. 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Plan to join us for a glorious concert in our sanctuary by performers from the music department at Park University. A reception will follow.

Our Church Family Congratulations

Congratulations to Cherie and George Asante on the birth of daughter, Sophia Julianna, on Sept. 21.

In the Hospital

As of Oct. 2, we are calling on the following individuals: Virginia Reed and Leola Bernard at Bishop Spencer Place; Brown Jenkins and J. M. (Morgan) Williams at KU Medical Center; Theron Swank at Timberlake Nursing Center; Helen Ruth Williams, at Menorah Medical Center; and Edmund Scherer at Olathe Medical Center.