



DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST

VOLUME 84 · NUMBER 21

COUNTRY CLUB

# CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

## INSIDE

At-One-Ment  
by Glen Miles  
≈≈≈  
page 3

Life in  
Marvelous Times  
by Brandon  
Winstead  
≈≈≈  
page 5

The Mysticism  
of October  
by Chuck Murphy  
≈≈≈  
page 7

*We joyfully  
welcome  
and nurture  
all people  
by providing  
a vibrant  
Christ-centered  
community  
of faith,  
dedicated to  
spiritual growth  
through  
worship, study  
and service.*

## Author Kevin Salwen to Speak on November 10

Kevin Salwen, coauthor with his daughter of *The Power of Half: One Family's Decision to Stop Taking and Start Giving Back*, will speak on Wed., Nov. 10 as part of the Pathways to Learning on "Money: Faithful Approaches."



A reception in the parlor at 6:00 p.m. will precede the talk. Following Mr. Salwen's presentation, a book signing is planned in the Social Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Mr. Salwen spent 18 years writing and editing at the *Wall Street Journal*, then left to create his own company in 2000 and has been an entrepreneur ever since.

He was living with his wife and two teenagers in Atlanta when his 14-year-old daughter, Hannah, noticed a homeless man sitting next to a Mercedes. She said, "You know Dad, if that man had a less nice car, that man there could have a meal." What followed was the family decision to sell their house and give half of the proceeds to charitable causes in which they deeply believed.

The Half project also transformed the Salwen family, heightening their trust in one another, empowering the kids, building a deeper connection.

## October Sermon Series

IMITATIO DEI:

### IMITATING THE COMPASSION OF GOD

This series, inspired by Robin Myers book, *Saving Jesus from The Church*, continues through the end of October. In his book Myers writes, "The ministry of Jesus was, and is, and always will be about compassion--pure unbridled, reckless compassion."

Join us in worship in October, to hear more about how experiencing Christianity as a way of life helps us discover that compassion is a central aspect of our faith. Services at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

### October 17

Part Two: A Radical Trust in God  
*Luke 18:1-8*

### October 24

Part Three: The God of the Second Chance  
*Luke 18:9-14*

### October 31

Part Four: We All Matter; No Exceptions  
*Luke 19:1-10*

Visit Glen's blog at [www.cccckc.org/about-us/senior-minister/blog](http://www.cccckc.org/about-us/senior-minister/blog) for more on this sermon series.



---

# Sacred Conversations

By Mary Lehoczky  
Congregational Board Chair

Although it's been many months since the church participated in Sacred Conversations, periodically someone asks, "When are we ever going to learn the results of Sacred Conversations?" In some ways, the results are known, for over the last 18 months, hundreds of us participated in one of many small groups. We met new persons, reconnected with friends, and openly shared hopes, experiences, dreams, and concerns. In this respect, we already know one of the Sacred Conversation results – we experienced community.

However, most likely when someone asks about the results, he/she is wondering when the congregation will learn the responses. My initial thought was to put a copy of the compiled responses – 74 legal-sized pages – in the library for anyone to read. However, some of the responses are so personal that it might be possible to guess the person's identity. Because participants were not told their comments would be shared with the entire church, it would feel like a breach of confidence to place the responses in the library.

In reviewing the responses, the Visioning Committee learned that through every activity the church does, there are opportunities to experience community, awe, and the presence of God. This feeling was often experienced outside the church as well, in a bridge group, book club, golf foursome, an Army unit in Iraq, a theater group, a study group in law school, a Pacific beach during World War II.

However, some of the church activities that are meaningful to many are not helpful to others. As an example, several stated they feel community visiting in the parlor after church, yet one or two persons indicated this is a time when they feel excluded. Several persons mentioned they experience God's presence in the serving of communion, while another person found it uncomfortable to serve. One person stated community occurs "when I see God in new ways." Another person appreciated Justin Ziegler's children's sermon, when he told the children that "God's love is like the water around my pet goldfish." Some persons feel a lack of community within our church because: there is no college-age Sunday School class; when they feel judged at church; the church puts too many demands on them; persons are afraid to let others know when they're struggling; and they've not been elected to the Congregational Board.

*continued in column on right*

---

## Thanksgiving Dinner Is Nov. 18 Dr. R. Robert Cueni to Speak

Mark your calendars for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration. Former Country Club Christian Church Senior Minister Dr. R. Robert Cueni will speak on "Thankful for 90 Years of Ministry."



We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall on Thur., Nov. 18 for a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. Reservations will be taken beginning Sun., Oct. 31.

---

## Sacred Conversations

*continued from column on left*

Many expressed the church is their home, the members are like family, and they cannot imagine their lives without this church. One striking result of Sacred Conversations is that not a single person indicated a desire to exclude any person from attending and participating in our church – indeed, several responded that our church's lack of dogma and its open-mindedness are the reasons that brought them to our church. For whatever brought you to Country Club Christian Church and for all that keeps you here, we are grateful. We thank you for participating in Sacred Conversations and assure you that the Visioning Committee took your responses to heart as it prepared its final report, which will be available once it is presented to the Congregational Board.



## At-One-Ment

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Joseph Campbell says that “Jesus’ death on the cross was not as ransom paid, or as a penalty applied, but an act of atonement, at-one-ment with the human race.” What the church saw in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus was one like God who entered into our sufferings and our joys, our heavens and our hells.

The cross that stands before us in our sanctuary is an invitation to live and love within the light of God’s grace. It is an invitation to you and to me to give ourselves away to the world in the

name of Jesus Christ not to save them from eternal punishment but to invite them to live today within the love that God has already given to every being on the face of this planet.

Why we do we shy away from sharing this message? Are we afraid that grace makes life too easy? Why have we failed to preach this word to the world? Ask a random group of folks on the street what they think about Christians and the all too common answer will be “judgmental.”

Philip Yancey writes about a friend of his, a woman, who was standing in the sanctuary of her church with her 15-year-old daughter. The pastor’s wife approached Yancey’s friend and said, “I hear you are divorcing. What I can’t understand is that if you love Jesus, why are you doing that?” The pastor’s wife had never really spoken to this woman before. Her mean-spirited little lecture stunned the divorcing woman into silence. Later the woman said, “The pain of it was that my husband and I both really did love Jesus, but the marriage was broken beyond mending. If she had just put her arms around me and said, ‘I’m so sorry...’ ”

Why do so many who claim to follow Jesus live in a spirit of judgmentalism and fear? As I said in the sermon last Sunday, not once in the scriptures do we find Jesus specifically naming anyone a “sinner.” Instead, over and over again, we see Jesus reaching out to the lost, the least, the little, the last and the dead.

All we have to do to get a clear reminder of God’s great love as revealed in Jesus is look at the cross. What request does the thief on the cross next to Jesus make? “Remember me.” That’s it. Jesus’ shocking reply is “Today you will be in paradise.”

Jesus’ life and teaching invite us to leave fear behind so that we might live in the love of God.

Grace and peace to you,

## KC Brass Concert on October 26

Join us for an exciting evening of music for brass quintet and percussion on Tues., Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Kansas City Brass has prepared a new, non-seasonal program that includes a number of favorites. Included in the program will be a new transcription of the complete “William Tell” Overture by Chip Schutza, a member of the group.

If you have enjoyed the annual Christmas concert, join us in the Sanctuary. The event is free, although a free-will offering will be taken.

## Worship with us!

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

Imitatio Dei: Imitating the  
Compassion of God  
Dr. Glen Miles preaching

**Oct. 17**

Part Two: A Radical Trust in God  
*Luke 18: 1-8*

**Oct. 24**

Part Three: The God of  
The Second Chance  
*Luke 18: 9-14*

**Oct. 31**

Part Four: We All Matter;  
No Exceptions  
*Luke 19: 1-10*

---

## Staff Organization Study

At the request of the Personnel Committee and with funding from Endowment, the Alban Institute will soon begin an evaluation of the current organization of our support staff.

With Sandy Eisenman's departure, the church has an important opportunity to evaluate the position of Director of Financial Services and determine how that position should be structured going forward. In addition, because a management study of the church has not been done since 1992, now is a good opportunity to take an overall look at other administrative functions to determine the most efficient and effective way for the support staff to provide their services.

The Alban Institute, one of the premier consulting firms for churches, will provide an objective assessment of our current staffing organization, make recommendations, and provide options for restructuring the current staff. The focus will be on adequately defining staff roles, authority, responsibility and accountability. The purpose is not to eliminate positions, but rather to find if we could more efficiently and effectively serve our members, care for our building and provide outreach to our community and elsewhere. While we do not have a specific timetable, we hope that the consultant can complete the study and make recommendations before the first of December.

## Scouts to Sell Christmas Greens

Scouts from Troop 84 will be in the parlor and in the lobby of the Chapel on Sun., Oct. 24 from 9:00 a.m. to noon to sell Christmas greenery. Fresh wreaths, sprays, garland, centerpieces and living trees are available with prices ranging from \$25 to \$30. Proceeds from the sale help reduce the costs of camp and monthly outings. Your support is appreciated! Delivery will be on Sun., Nov. 21.

## 90 Day of Service Volunteer Profile

Between now and Dec. 18, members of the congregation are participating in 90 Days of Service, an opportunity to actively live out your faith by serving the church and our community.

Over the next several weeks, we will feature profiles on individuals who are volunteering in our community and at our church. Maybe their stories will inspire you to try something new!

### Tom and Cindy Thornton

**Where they volunteer:** Kansas City Free Health Clinic



**How long:** Six years

**Why they decided to get involved:** We decided to volunteer there as Cindy is an RN and her skills are highly needed as the volunteer physicians want to have RNs with them as much as possible. Tom works in the front office as he doesn't have a medical background. We find shifts where we are both needed so we can go together. The need for medical care is large and continues to grow and we feel

everyone should have health care in a country as blessed as ours. One way of helping fulfill that goal is volunteering at free providers such as KC Free.

**What they enjoy most about this volunteer opportunity:** It is always rewarding to put in time at a clinic shift. The recipients are clearly in need (uninsured and often between jobs) and most grateful that they are being helped. Cindy sees this firsthand working in patient care. It is always a good feeling as we drive home and relate stories of the day both sad and joyful.

**Advice or word of encouragement they would give to someone who doesn't have a volunteer passion:** As we have found with all of our volunteer activities, the volunteer gets as much out of the experience as those that are on the receiving end. For those that haven't given their time in some of the myriad ways possible we would simply encourage them to try one thing one time. Our bet is they will then be on a continuing journey of volunteer activities.

**Other organizations or groups they volunteer with:** We also volunteer at Cross-Lines Food Kitchen (Cindy and Carol Pasley coordinate Country Club Christian Church's first Tuesday of the month preparation and serving of lunch there), our grandkids lunch program at their school, and pick up and deliver day-old bakery items from Hen House to Cross-Lines.



## Life in Marvelous Times

by Brandon Winstead, Director of High School Ministries



It was a normal day. There was nothing particularly marvelous about it. I had made it through a day's worth of work only to have the treadmill staring at me like some relative's fruitcake at Thanksgiving – you know it's there and for the sake of you and your family's well being, you have to eat it. So with drudgery I hopped on, turned on my iPod, and shoved my ear phones into the cavities leading to my brain in an effort to make my daily excursion more bearable.

After a few minutes, with the tunes blaring, the mill rolling, and the sweat pouring, I heard a line from a hip-hop song that broke through the monotony of the moment. The words blared out "wonders on every side, life in marvelous times!" When I heard it, things began to change. I noticed the sun beaming through the windows, the crystal blue skies, and even the gentle breeze from the fans that made the temperature of the gym tolerable. Of course, I enjoyed the mild ecstasy of the moment and was thankful that it helped me endure the routine, but it also led me to ask a question, "Do we as Christians realize that there are 'wonders on every side,' that make 'life in marvelous times?'"

I wish I could say that I came to a definitive answer that day, but I didn't and I still don't have the answer. All I do know or should I say what I've come to realize is that life and the beauty of the mundane are gifts given to us by God and that we need to listen to God in our routine. Once we do, I think we might begin to see "life in marvelous times" and just maybe, the treadmill will become a gift and not a proverbial fruitcake waiting to be consumed.

Grace and peace,

## Visitor Information Seminar on November 6

You're invited to the **Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Nov. 6 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).

## 2011 Christian Community Camp Sign Up is Oct. 31

Are you interested in the 2011 edition of Christian Community Camp? Members of the church gather in the Rocky Mountains near Estes Park, CO, each summer for fun, fellowship and renewal. Rooms fill quickly so if you are interested, sign up soon! This is a fabulous opportunity to connect with family and friends, deepen your faith and grow in your awareness of God's magnificent creation. In 2011, we will gather Aug. 1-7.

We will have information and an opportunity to sign up on Sun., Oct. 31 in the Last Supper sculpture room off the parlor. Stop by anytime between 8:45 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. to ask questions, pick up a brochure or turn in your deposit. If sign-ups exceed space available, a drawing will be held on Monday.

The cost is \$1,300 for a private room (sleeps 4-6), \$220 for a bunk room spot. There is a \$75 food and activity fee per person. A \$250 non-refundable deposit (\$100 deposit for bunk room) is due Oct. 31.

## Youth Events and Opportunities

**Chi Rho Laser Tag Lock-In** – Join other 6th-8th grade youth beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 12 and continuing through 8:00 a.m. on Sat., Nov. 13, for a lock-in. We will start at the church and then go play laser tag. Cost is \$16 for laser tag. Bring extra money if you want to buy snacks while there. And bring treats to share with the group! Contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

### **CYF Breakaway Now Nov. 12-13**

On Fri., Nov. 12, CYF will gather with more than 700 youth from across the Kansas City area for a night of worship, games and fellowship. The event, which lasts from Friday evening until Saturday morning, involves a beginning time of worship, and moving out to a variety of locations around the city to play laser tag, bowling, ice skating and other activities. Proceeds go to the Kansas City Urban Youth Center. Contact Brandon Winstead, brandonw@cccckc.org for more information.

### **Pastors' Class Informational Meeting**

All youth 6th grade and older interested in Pastors' Class and their parents are invited to an informational meeting on Sun., Nov. 7 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Pastors' Class prepares the youth for baptism and/or church membership. We will share information about the planned sessions and determine which night of the week the class will be meeting (Feb. 14-Apr. 21, 2011). Please save the date for this important gathering. Questions? Contact Catherine at catherinesc@cccckc.org.

### **Youth Ministries Selling Holiday Poinsettias**

Country Club Christian Church youth are taking orders for Christmas poinsettias on Oct. 24, 31 and Nov. 7 in the Parlor. Full payment must be received with all orders. Plants will be available for pick up from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 4 and Sun., Dec. 5 at the church. The poinsettias cost \$13 for a 6-inch plant, \$19 for an 8-inch plant, and \$25 for a 10-inch plant. Proceeds benefit youth ministry programs and missions.



### **Micah Ministry Needs**

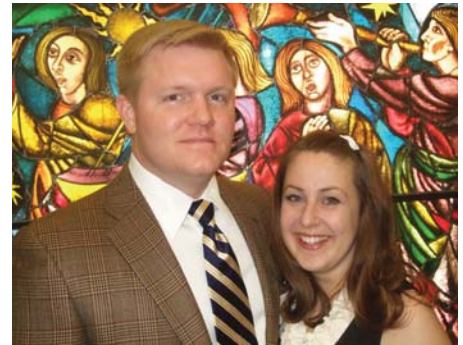
Micah Ministry needs fall/winter clothes for boys size 6-14, blankets and men's winter coats. As you clean closets, please bring donations to the church and put in Karla Herrington and Catherine Stark-Corn's office. Donations will help the clothing closet at Independence Blvd. Christian Church.

## Infant Dedication



Zoe Isabel Edwards, daughter of Mike and Jennifer Edwards

## New Members Welcomed on Oct. 10



Shaun Symmonds and Erin Okerstrom  
**New Member Hosts:** Brett and Marisa Taveau



Bret and Erin Knighton (daughter Olivia not pictured)  
**New Member Hosts:** Lindsay and Phil Howes



Stan McManess  
**New Member Host:** Jeff Algie



## The Mysticism of October

by Rev. Chuck Murphy, Minister of Congregational Care



There's something mystical about October. The cool air reminds us that summer is over, yet it's easier to enjoy those deep healing breaths. Summer annuals cease their blooming, but new grass grows, replenishing the spots created by long, hot summer days. The trees tell us that winter is coming, but the beauty of fall foliage touches our hearts even in their decline.

One of my favorite patients kept her strong spirit into her 90s. She had fought breast cancer, outlived two husbands and was the family stronghold

even while her 11-year-old great grandson battled leukemia. Her forearms told the story of hard work on the farm. She loved gardening and animals – her safe havens from childhood abuse.

I was her minister in her final years, but I received so much from her. One day, after Dawn and I had to say good-bye to our dog Sugar, she was my Stephen Minister. She opened a book on the love of a dog for her family. We shared stories of our beloved pets and the day was filled with laughter and tears.

Still, in that last year, something wasn't right. Even the trees in her yard seemed to sense her decline. Her favorite tree, a Formosa, failed to bloom that summer. I feared this might be her final battle.

Then, October came. She fell and broke her hip. Her cancer returned and had spread. Her family moved her to a nursing home and, in two weeks, she was gone. Later, they asked me to officiate her memorial service. We met at the mortuary to plan her service. Yet, it just didn't feel right. I must admit arising out of my own needs, I asked if we could meet at her home, the place of meaningful memories. When we arrived, we all got out of our cars and in unison shouted, "The Formosa tree is in bloom!" It was truly a sacred moment. Nothing could have meant more to us – a reassurance of life in our time of loss. As a friend of mine once said, "You knew God would do something special. Yet when it happens, it's like the first time all over again."

No doubt it was a miracle. Even in our times of doubt, angst, loss and grief, there are moments of great beauty. October continues to show us our Creator and its mysticism is deeply comforting.

*Chuck*

## Children and Families

### Club Kids Parent Gathering

**Sun., Nov. 7, 5:00-6:45 p.m.**

Drop your Club Kids (3rd-5th graders) at church at 5:00 p.m. and head over to the home of Ann McCray (6131 Reinhardt Drive, Fairway, KS) for fellowship and light refreshments. Please bring an appetizer to share. Childcare for younger siblings available (we will feed them a pizza dinner); please request childcare with your RSVP to Catherine, [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org) or Karla, [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

### Mystery Trip for 1st and 2nd Graders

**Sat., Nov. 6**

Make plans to join in the fun! We will gather at the church at 10:00 a.m. and head out to an undisclosed destination, returning to church by 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per child, which covers activity and lunch. Contact Karla Herrington for sign-up information, [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

### Moms' Coffee and Conversation

**Fri., Nov. 12, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

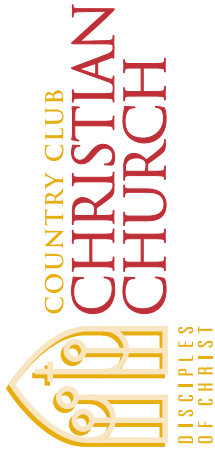
Moms with children 5th grade and younger are invited to gather for fellowship at the home of Vicki Lopatofsky. Take time for yourself and drop in to connect with other moms from Country Club Christian Church. Childcare available on-site; please request with your RSVP to Catherine, [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org) or Karla, [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

### Advent in Advance

**Sun., Nov. 21, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Families are invited to prepare for the Advent season through this make-n-take workshop. Children will have opportunities to make decorations for the home and a family keepsake ornament. A light lunch will be served. Cost is \$20 for a family (or \$5 per person). Join us in the Social Hall for this annual event.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113  
Return Service Requested

## PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. R. Glen Miles**  
Senior Minister

**Rev. Carla Aday**  
Senior Associate Minister

**Rev. David Diebold**  
Minister of Music

**Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn**  
Minister to Children,  
Youth and Families

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

**Ms. Karla Herrington**  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

**Rev. Steve Mason**  
Pastoral Resident

**Mr. Brian Mathias**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Lisa McCleish**  
Director of Early  
Childhood Programs

**Ms. Laine Riley**  
Associate Director of Music

**Ms. Lara Schopp**  
Director of Communications

**Ms. Lauren Weinhold**  
Director of Church Growth

**Ms. Marilyn Wimer**  
Director of  
Administrative Services

**Mr. Brandon Winstead**  
Director of High School  
Ministries

**Mr. Justin Zeigler**  
Director of Middle School  
Ministries

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, [laras@cccckc.org](mailto:laras@cccckc.org)

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538  
email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)

## Pathways to Learning October Focuses on Sustenance for Soul, Self, Society



This month's three-part series exploring the themes raised by the visit from Wendell Berry in *Building Community Book* by Book concludes this Sun., Oct. 17, with a discussion on *Society* by Karen Haren, CEO of Harvesters Community Food Network. 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

## November Focus Is on Money

A three-part Pathways to Learning in November is about "Money: Faithful Approaches."

**Sun., Nov. 7** – Chris Lester, Senior Vice President/Business Growth for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

**Wed., Nov. 10** – Kevin Salwen, coauthor of *The Power of Half*, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See pg. 1 for more information.

**Sun., Nov. 14** – Dr. Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and Vice President of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis. 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

## Food Drive on October 17

On Sun., Oct. 17, 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

CLAUDIA BATES passed away Sept. 30. She is survived by her husband, Robert Bates, and sons Greg, Jeff and Tom Bates and daughter, Sue Lowder. Private services were Oct. 4, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

## Memorials

**Helen Yates**  
Audrey Shafer  
Erma & John Hess  
**Claudia Bates**  
Erma & John Hess