



DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST

VOLUME 82 · NUMBER 22

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.*

## Tom Bloch, CEO Turned Teacher, Will Speak at Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 20

Tom Bloch, son of Henry Bloch, will be the featured speaker at the annual all-church Thanksgiving Dinner on Thurs., Nov. 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.



Tom Bloch

Bloch followed in his father's footsteps, joining H&R Block, the world's largest tax services provider, in 1976 and eventually succeeding his father as its chief executive officer. He had it all, or so it seemed. Then, he stunned his father, his company, and the business community by stepping down in 1995 to become a teacher in the inner city.

He began his second career in 1995 as a middle school math teacher at St. Francis Xavier, an

inner city parochial school. Five years later, he co-founded the University Academy, a public charter school in Kansas City. Tom Bloch continues to teach 7th and 8th grade math at the urban college prep school he helped design and launch. He is also president of the school's board. The Academy has grown from 200 students in grades 7 through 9 in its first year to over 1,000 students in kindergarten through grade 12.

This annual Thanksgiving celebration will feature the traditional turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. Cost is \$13; children 12 and under \$6. Place your reservation on Sundays in the Parlor or by contacting Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or [marymargareta@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareta@cccckc.org).

## Prayer Vigil Planned Nov. 14 to Oppose Area Violence

The Country Club Christian Church Elders, in partnership with Bethlehem Christian Assembly Church, invite you to join in a 24-hour prayer vigil from Fri., Nov. 14 at 6:00 p.m. to Sat., Nov. 15 at 6:00 p.m.

The Elders, under the leadership of Jeff Zimmerman, have planned the vigil to pray in opposition to the increase in violent crime in the metropolitan area, and in support of those whose lives have been shattered and disrupted by this violence.

*continued on page 4*

## Nov. 8 Fun Run/Walk Kicks Off All-Church Book Event

Join us for a Fun Run/Walk this Saturday, Nov. 8 at 8:30 a.m. at Loose Park in honor of this year's book selection in the *Building Community Book by Book* series, *Run* by Ann Patchett. Runners will have a 5K route; walkers may choose a 1.25 mile route or longer. While the registration deadline has passed, you are welcome to join us Saturday morning for the fun.



# Update from the Congregational Board

By Bonnie Blythe Dee, Congregational Board Chair

It's almost time for Thanksgiving! This is one of my favorite holidays. My family gathers together, shares some turkey with all of the trimmings and talks about those aspects of our lives for which we are most thankful. It's an important time to reflect on our blessings.



order to meet expenses and continue to offer all of our fine programs, we need to raise additional funds. Some individuals have already responded and I thank them for their commitment. We are inviting every household to increase their pledge or make a one-time special gift as we move to successfully meet this challenge.

In this economic climate, I realize that every dollar counts. So keep in mind that gifts at all levels are needed, valued and appreciated. Please consider how you and so many others benefit from the wonderful ministries at our church. Let's count our blessings and let the church know that it can count on us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Bonnie*

When you're counting your blessings, I'm sure that you include Country Club Christian Church on your list. And I hope that you show that appreciation by responding to a mailing that you will be receiving next week. As I mentioned in my last article, the church has a budget deficit in this fiscal year of approximately \$50,000. In

## Pumpkin Pies for Micah Ministry

We are again asking church members to bake pumpkin pies for the Micah Ministry Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 24 at Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Last year more than 500 people were served and the pies were a great part of the celebration! Sign up in the Parlor on Sun., Nov. 9 or Sun., Nov. 16 if you'd like to lend your culinary talents to this great cause. Pies need to be dropped off at the church on Nov. 23. We need approximately 80 pies.

## New Members Welcomed October 19

We joyfully welcomed nine new members into the church family on Sun., Oct. 19. When you see these new faces around the church, please stop to welcome them and introduce yourself.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Country Club Christian Church family, join us for the next Visitor Information Seminar, on Sat., Nov. 15 from 8:45 a.m. to noon, Youth Center (Rm. 205). Learn more about our denomination and this church. Our ministers will be on hand to talk about the church's ministries and how you can get involved. Ask questions, enjoy breakfast and lunch and meet the church's lay leaders. Contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, for more information at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.



**Jennifer and Lee Robinson, with son Grey**

New Member Hosts:  
Cynthia and Howard Petrie



**Don Dimmitt and Beth Evans**  
New Member Hosts:  
Jeanne and Perry Cockayne



**Margie and Don Bonner**  
New Member Hosts:  
John and Norma Tilton



**Julia Walker**  
New Member Host:  
Shirley Hansell



**Bill Love and Colleen Eikemeier**  
New Member Hosts:  
Alan and Susan Garner



## An Inclusive Gospel

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



One of the most important aspects of the “emerging church” movement is the idea of inclusiveness. Many research organizations and reports are noting that people no longer search for a church based on “brand” loyalty. Fifty years go if you were a member of a Christian Church like Country Club and you moved away to another city you would simply find the closest Christian Church and soon thereafter place your membership there. That is no longer the case.

Today people search for churches based on factors like the message proclaimed week in and week out, the ministries offered and the overall mission of the church. This is why inclusivity is such an important issue. On any given week at Country Club Christian you may find yourself seated between a Presbyterian and a Pentecostal or a Baptist and Buddhist even!

Peter Gomes makes the very strong point that this inclusivity is something we can find in Jesus. Gomes writes, *“If the gospel is truly good news, it has to be good news for everyone, for it is either an inclusive gospel or no gospel at all. Prejudice, paranoia, the politics of exclusion—all these little systems have their day, and there are moments when they appear to prevail, but the church, we know from experience, will eventually do the right thing once it has exhausted every other alternative.”*

Jesus was constantly welcoming all kinds of people into his circle of friends and followers whose backgrounds caused the pious and the self-righteous to shudder. A close examination of the disciples themselves reveals an extremely flawed group of persons. I once preached a sermon on the disciples titled “Only the Unqualified Need Apply.”

The flawed disciples help to reveal the beauty of the gospel of Jesus Christ. God is not waiting for us to attain perfection. Instead, God invites us to acknowledge our brokenness as we move our lives into the center of grace itself. When we are able to do that we become, as Hemingway suggested, “strong in the broken places.”

This gift of grace then guides and directs us toward lives lived with love at the center. When that happens in a congregation, the walls of exclusivity evaporate and the pews become sacred places of hope and healing.

Grace and Peace to you,

## Advent Sermons

### There’s a Song in the Air

The poetic language of the familiar Christmas hymns might be lost on us after a lifetime of sentimental repetition. The music of Christmas offers more than heart-warming melodies. The verses offer a new perspective on an old story that can open our minds to the power of hope.

Nov. 30 – Shadows Put to Flight  
“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

Dec. 7 – Beneath Life’s Crushing Load  
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Dec. 14 – A Child for us Sinners  
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Dec. 21 – Repeat the Sounding Joy  
“Joy to the World”

## Worship with us!

**Services at 8:00, 9:00,  
10:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Nov. 9**

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
It Is Bad News Before It Is  
Good News

Rev. Kelly Ingersoll  
preaching at 8:00 a.m.

**Nov. 16**

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
When History Repeats Itself

Dr. Charles Rolan  
preaching at 8:00 a.m.



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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Prayer Vigil

*continued from page 1*

“You may not consider yourself a ‘prayer warrior,’” said Zimmerman. “You may be more disposed to specific concrete actions directed toward resolving a specific problem. But, as Christians, it seems that prayer is a good place to start a movement of change.”

Zimmerman developed the idea for this prayer vigil after reading daily news reports about the escalating violence in our community, resulting in a murder rate that is among the highest per capita in the nation. In particular, the recent “Precious Doe” trial and a record-setting 21 murders in August caused Zimmerman to ask what we as Christians can do to address something that has such a profound affect on our community.

The Elders invite you to join them at the partner congregation’s church, Bethlehem Christian Assembly, at 2732 Forest, Kansas City, MO. “We’d appreciate your presence with us at Bethlehem if possible, but if you can’t make it, please schedule some time to pray during those hours wherever you may be,” said Zimmerman. “We will be praying specifically for insight and guidance regarding the escalating murder rate. We will be praying for the families and friends of the victims, the community, the justice system in our community, law enforcement officers, and for those who can have a positive impact on this problem, such as educators, pastors, community leaders and others. Come explore the power of prayer with us.”

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## 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](mailto:marymargareta@cccckc.org).

**Nov. 9** – Hoppo – 2008 Family Mission Trip Report. Indian tacos will be served.

## 2009 Community Camp

### Sign Up is Nov. 16

Are you interested in the 2009 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.



There will be an informational/sign up meeting on Sun., Nov. 16 at noon in the Social Hall.

A \$200 (non-refundable) deposit will be due on Nov. 16 at noon (\$100 deposit for the bunk room). If reservations exceed capacity, there will be a drawing to determine participation. Those who are wait-listed will receive priority next year (2010). A private room (sleeps 2, 4 or 6) costs \$1,150 a week plus each participant pays a \$75 food and activity fee. The bunk room fee is \$200 plus the \$75 food/activity fee.

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## 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).

**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 [jenstreak@hotmail.com](mailto:jenstreak@hotmail.com).



## A Lesson in Conversation

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



She was probably 50 years old, but her lined face and dark eyes indicated many more. Her ducked head, slumped shoulders and dragging feet betrayed her exhaustion. Her clothes, inappropriate for the warm weather and riddled with stains and snags, and her tattered plastic bag suggested a meager income. As we waited together at the bus stop, this woman's demeanor did not invite conversation, and though I smiled weakly as she sat to my left, I did not speak.

However, my 4-year-old Caroline, who doesn't know a stranger, struck up a conversation with the woman, excitedly telling her that we were going to a festival at Crown Center. At first she tried to maintain her blank expression, but despite the exhaustion, despite the rough day or maybe the rough life she'd had, the woman couldn't help but smile as Caroline detailed all the things she planned to do once we arrived at our destination: ice cream, moonwalks, dancing.

Then Caroline said to her, "I just had my birthday!" Never mind that her birthday was nearly six weeks prior, it was still fresh in her mind. "You did?!" the woman asked. "How old are you?" Caroline proceeded to tell her all the details of her birthday party: the kind of cake we had, the many presents she opened, the friends with whom she celebrated.

By now we were halfway to our destination and this woman was completely charmed by the child. Wonder and interest replaced her dark, tired features as she listened intently to Caroline's incessant babbling. Light shone in her previously vacant eyes.

A few moments later, when Caroline was looking away, the woman held out her hand and dropped something into mine. As I glimpsed the crumpled one-dollar bill, I looked at her in confusion. "It's for your daughter," she said. "Tell her it's a birthday gift, for her piggy bank." Tears burned my eyes as I tried to refuse the money. This was a woman for whom one dollar meant a lot. She insisted, and seeing the pride in her eyes, I sensed she felt great joy in giving something of her own to make someone else smile.

I usually try to write about communications, and this story doesn't seem to have much to do with that topic, except maybe it does. In a few minutes of friendly chatting, Caroline made an impression on a stranger. She made someone smile. In a world filled with virtual communication, email and text messaging often take the place of old-fashioned talking. That day, I saw that something as humble as a child's conversation can produce positive energy.

*Lara*

## Do We Have Your Email Address?

### Receive the Christian by Email and Save!

Did you know you can help the church save money and be more environmentally friendly by getting your copy of the newsletter and other important communications via email? We already have reduced the number of newsletters printed and mailed by 25 percent, a substantial savings for the church. But we need your help in reducing this number even more.

Do we have a current email address for you on file? If we don't, or you're not sure, contact Jane Fletcher with the correct information at [janef@cccckc.org](mailto:janef@cccckc.org). You'll receive the newsletter early and in full color! If you haven't been receiving electronic newsletters from the church, but want to, let Jane know.

You may also view the Christian on the church's web site, [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org), by clicking on "Stay Informed." Then click the link in the left-hand column.

Even if you prefer to read a paper copy of the newsletter, printing your own copy saves the church money. If you need help with printing, contact Jane and she can assist you.

If you prefer to receive your Christian via the U.S. Postal Service, we are requesting a "subscription" donation of \$20 a year to support printing and mailing costs, effective Jan. 1, 2009. Please use the enclosed envelope to pay your subscription.

### Food Drive Nov. 16

With the holidays right around the corner, area food pantries need your help more than ever. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the church's monthly food drive on Sun., Nov. 16.

## Breakfast with Santa

**Sat., Dec. 6 – 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 6. From



10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., children will have an opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa by Salt Photography, enjoy pancakes by Chris Cakes and make Christmas crafts.

Cost is \$7 for adults and for children 2 and older. Tickets will be available beginning Nov. 16 in the Parlor, at the reception desk or preschool office.

### Order Holiday Poinsettias

Country Club Christian Church youth are taking orders for Christmas poinsettias through Sun., Nov. 9 in the Parlor. Orders must be received with full payment by Nov. 9 and will be available for pick up on Sat., Dec. 6 and Sun., Dec. 7 at church. The poinsettias cost \$12.75 for a 6-inch plant, \$18.75 for an 8-inch plant, and \$24.75 for a 10-inch plant. Proceeds benefit youth ministry programs and missions.

### 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!

### avoda service on Nov. 16

Join us for this contemplative, meditative worship experience featuring art, technology and the avoda band. The service is geared for young adults and the young at heart. College-age persons are invited to stay after the service for food, drink and conversation.

## New Associate Organist Joins Staff

Brian Campbell began his responsibilities with us on Nov. 1 as Associate Organist to the congregation. Brian grew up in Wellington, MO, and is currently finishing his Doctor of Music Arts at KU, where he will graduate in December of this year. Brian also holds a Bachelor of Science in music from William Jewell College and a Master of Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX. Most recently, Brian has been the Music Director at Park Hill Christian Church, a position he has held since January 2004.

In addition to his many musical gifts, Brian is an Eagle Scout, holds both his Colleague and Service Playing Certifications from the American Guild of Organists, and, has developed and maintained the web site for the Division of Organ and Church Music at KU. Brian will coordinate the music for our 10:00 a.m. service each week, accompany the Chancel Choir, and play at 11:00 a.m. every four to six weeks. He will assist with weddings and funerals. Please introduce yourself to him and welcome him into our community.

## The Future of Our History

By Craig Doty, Chairman of History Committee

How important are your family heirlooms to you? If you are like me, they are among your most important possessions. Most of us take special care that these items are preserved not only for us, but also for the future generations of our families. So what about the heirlooms from our other family, our church family? Is it important to be sure the past of our church has a place in our future?

Almost 90 years have passed since the first meeting of our congregation. Throughout this time the members of Country Club Christian Church have striven to create a church life full of passionate service to each other, to the community and the world. Much of this vibrant history is documented not only in our memories but also in the artifacts scattered throughout the church in newsletters, photos and copies of sermons.



With time, these cherished possessions become fragile. Photos from the 1920s and '30s we find in boxes are folded and faded, blueprints from building additions from the '50s are discovered behind walls during renovations, newsletters and other papers are brittle, and the only records from the pulpit are the sermon tapes kept in the church library. Without attention, it is possible that these items could be unknowingly destroyed or damaged beyond repair.

The Congregational Board recently approved the creation of a committee charged to gather, organize and preserve the documents and artifacts from the life of our church. If you are interested serving on this new committee, please contact Craig Doty at 913-789-9374 or at ccsdd@yahoo.com.



## Weekly Thanksgiving

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



Ann Patchett's novel *Run* lifts up many of the same themes that resound in our lives during the season of Thanksgiving. What really constitutes a family? What thread connects us to one another when our lives grow in divergent directions? How do Americans in this melting pot continue to seek wholeness in the midst of myriad inequities? How does the faith story of our ancestors echo in our present reality?

I enjoyed reading *Run* not only because it was a brilliant and compelling story whose characters intrigued and delighted me but also because I found these topics of faith, family, community, brokenness and the quest for truth and meaning so artfully portrayed. As each of us turns our attention to Thanksgiving, mindful of the table where we will gather with family or friends, we may begin to wrestle again with the characters and contours that shape our own lives. What connects us? What divides us? Who will show up for Thanksgiving dinner? Who will be absent? What words will be unspoken but felt by all in the room?

The same questions arise when we gather at church around the Lord's Table. What holds the family of faith together? What rips at our fabric? As we break bread and sip wine we remember brokenness of life and hear again God's summons to wholeness. A weekly Thanksgiving of sorts.

I believe that our table fellowship during holy communion becomes richer when we share ordinary table fellowship with folks in the church. That is why the program entitled "Building Community Book by Book" brings people together to discuss a book. Elsewhere you will read in the newsletter about where to purchase the book *Run*. In January of 2009 you'll be asked to attend a one-time discussion group (at the kitchen table, over coffee, while sharing a piece of pie in someone's living room) and share your reflections about the book. Then in February the author will visit us. My hope is that the themes of the book will not only be talked about but experienced by our church. Together, we will grow in gratitude for the gifts on our collective table.

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

**The Covenant: Noah – Oct. 26-Nov. 23**

The emphasis of this rotation focusing on the story of Noah is covenant. A covenant is a promise of a relationship. God seeks to have a relationship with humankind, despite our human nature which keeps us from this relationship. God extends the open hand and offers the covenant unconditionally.

Children will encounter the story of Noah by meeting Mrs. Noah; exploring God's sense of humor; making an edible ark; creating rainbow pictures and playing games.

### Collecting Used Toys

Club Kids are collecting gently used toys for a service project for GiveWhatYouGot.org – a local non-profit organization which gathers new and gently used toys to create care packages for children in the foster care system to help celebrate birthdays. Please bring your items to the children's wing on the second floor through Sun., Nov. 16. We are collecting gently used toys (new stuffed animals from pet-free homes can be accepted) for infants through 12 year olds and new or gently used books, activity or puzzle books.

### Advent in Advance

**Sun., Nov. 23 – 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

The season of Advent is quickly approaching and families with children 5th grade and younger are invited to join us in preparing for Advent. Join us for a light lunch and a make-n-take session which includes adding to (or beginning) your block nativity set; creating items to decorate your home; making gifts for our homebound members and more! Cost is \$15 per family, which includes lunch and all activities. Please RSVP to Mary Margaret at [marymargareta@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareta@cccckc.org).

### SAVE the DATE

#### Christmas at Country Club

Sun., Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary. Advent kick-off service.



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# Christmas Stockings for Micah Ministry

Metro Mission has purchased 450 pair of heel-less tube socks perfect for “stuffing” for the Christmas giveaway at Independence Boulevard’s Micah Ministry this year. Stockings will be available at the church for Sunday school classes and other groups wanting to participate. The stockings will be “generic” this year, not male or female specific. Each class may purchase its own items to fill the stockings and reimburse the church at \$.70 per pair for the socks. To sign up your group, contact Chris Trout at christ@cccckc.org.



Filled stockings need to be at the church office by Sun., Dec. 21 for distribution on Mon., Dec. 22. To create the stockings, roll up one sock and put it into the toe of the other sock. Then fill the sock with an assortment of small sized but not necessarily travel size, toiletries, including: bar soap, shampoo, tooth brush, toothpaste, comb, wash cloth, skin lotion, lip balm or other assorted toiletries. Please tie closed the socks with a red ribbon.

## PROGRAM STAFF

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

**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

**Ms. Sandy Eisenman**  
Director of  
Financial Services

**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

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

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## Our Church Family Sympathy

LYNN ROWAN passed away Oct. 19. She is survived by daughter Lynnel Rowan and son Peter Rowan. Services were Oct. 23 at Foxwood Springs, Dr. George Gordon officiating.

## In the Hospital

As of Oct. 30, we are calling on the following individuals: Leola Bernard at Bishop Spencer Place, J. M. (Morgan) Williams at KU Medical Center, Theron Swank at Timberlake Nursing Center, and Helen Ruth Williams at Manor Care.

## Memorials

JESSE L. CHILDERS  
Susan & Brian Egbert  
Art & Sonnie Brown  
Barbara Nichols

**Permanent Missionary Fund**  
BROWN F. JENKINS  
Fritz & Nancy  
Zschiezschmann  
Shiela Richards  
Lance & Pat Jessee  
Vicky Cross  
Ron Cross  
Chuck & Janet Roberts