



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

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COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Every Heart Has
the Right to Break
by Glen Miles

~ ~ ~
page 3

Experiencing
Church
by Lauren
Weinhold

~ ~ ~
page 5

Connections
Formed
by Carla Aday

~ ~ ~
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.*

Visioning Report October 2010

In the fall of 2007 Country Club Christian Church was introduced to the visioning process as identified in the book, *Holy Conversations*, by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann. In the book, planning is described as a journey of spiritual discernment, and the committee focused on a process of using dialogue among the congregation to answer three questions:

*Who are we?
What has God called us to do?
Who is our neighbor?*

Initially, our approach was very corporate-like. In strategizing, the committee identified additional activities and tasks that only led to increasing workloads and cost, without providing a process to answer the three guiding questions.

In 2008, Dr. Robert Martin, Associate Professor at St. Paul School of Theology, was retained to guide our direction. He turned our path toward a more spiritually oriented and collaborative process. The result was to implement a spiritual process of more than 30 church-wide Sacred Conversations lasting over a period of 18 months. Through these evocative congregational discussions, the committee began to discern what it means to “be church” at Country Club Christian Church. We prioritized congregational responses and noted key observations.

From this, the committee has made two recommendations, one related to small groups within our church and the other to the church as one community:

1. That each small group participate in an ongoing spiritual process led by church staff or others, in which a short sabbatical from regular activities is taken to reflect on ways to create a more meaningful spiritual experience for both individuals and the group.
2. That church leadership (clergy and laity) develop our collective spiritual gifts for service. The recommendation includes that the Congregational Board consider a project(s) that would bind varied efforts and focus collective gifts of the congregation as expressed during Sacred Conversations.

In hope, faith, and prayer, we imagine a congregation in which more and more persons seek God, deepen Christian community, and extend their life in Christ to others.

The complete Visioning Report may be found on the Country Club Christian Church website at www.cccckc.org or by request to Jane Fletcher (jane@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917).



**Author Kevin
Salwen to
Speak
6:30 p.m.
Wednesday,
November 10**

More information,
see page 2.

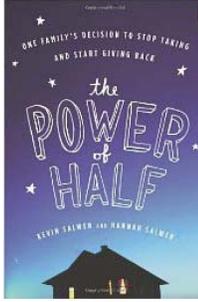


Kevin Salwen to Speak on November 10

How do you turn the good life into a life of good? Kevin

Salwen, coauthor of the book *The Power of Half: One Family's Decision to Stop Taking and Start Giving Back*, will speak at Country Club Christian

Church on Wed., Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. about how his family did just that.



Come hear him describe his family's journey which began when his then-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's decision to sell their house and give half of the proceeds to charitable causes in which they deeply believed, leading them to a new commitment to giving, relationships and community. Their inspiring story is not about how much to give, but about how giving can change your life and the lives of others.

The presentation is free and open to the public. Please come and invite a friend or two. A reception precedes the event at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor, and a book signing will follow the presentation. The book is on sale in the church's book and gift shop, The Well for \$22.

Salwen's appearance is cosponsored by Country Club Christian Church, The Jewish Community Center, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, KS. For more information about the event, visit www.cccckc.org, or for more the about Salwens and the book, visit <http://www.thepowerofhalf.com/home>.

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!



Ben Crocker

Age: 10

Hi, I'm Benjamin Crocker, my family is my sister Elizabeth, Tepring, and Glenn. I'm going to tell you a little something about Harvesters.

Where he volunteers: Harvesters Community Food Network.

How long: I have been doing Harvesters for three years. I think it's a great way to help out in the community by having fun.

Why you decided to get involved: I decided to join because I'm with all my friends at church and its really fun too.

What you enjoy most about this volunteer opportunity: I like to help out and play with my friends, we sort food and sometimes weigh the food.

Advice or word of encouragement you would give to someone who doesn't have a volunteer passion: You have a lot of fun because you know that you're helping out in such a big community and you get to go in a giant freezer that's 0 degrees.

Other organizations or groups you volunteer with: At my school I raise money for the Diabetes Foundation and for the kids at our school. I walk around the school blacktop with all of my friends.

Year-to-Date Financial Report

As of Sept. 30, Country Club Christian Church as received:

Actual receipts year-to-date = \$401,936.46

Budgeted receipts year-to-date = \$385,441.65



Every Heart Has the Right to Break

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Leonard Sweet, a scholar and theologian, writes, “Every heart has the right to break...the only hearts that never break are those that beat behind closed doors.”

If you want to guarantee that your heart will never break than simply keep your heart hidden behind closed doors. If you give your heart away it may be broken, wounded. But as the poet Antonio Porchia wrote, “To wound the heart is to create it.”

Sometimes these wounds run very deep. I cannot begin to tell you how many have shared with me the deep wounds they have experienced in family, in marriage. The church was created to stand, in the name of Jesus, with all who are broken. The church is called to remember that just as it is crucial for us to stand by couples when they say “I do,” it is just as important for us to stand by them when they say “I don’t.”

In A. N. Wilson’s biography of C.S. Lewis, there is a section that asks why Lewis’ autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, ignored so much of the pain of his personal struggles. Wilson concludes that it was because Lewis never did come to realize “that God’s grace works by means of human weakness, not by side-stepping it.”

When the world is broken and falling apart, God moves into our lives and creates something new. God moves into the empty space in our souls and there in that formless void (Gen. 1) begins something new and marvelous. God isn’t waiting for you to get everything together. God is ready to move to the broken and empty places in your spirit and begin a new creation.

This new creation is based on the actions of God. God is not waiting for you and me to get right with God. God does not act like a holy bookkeeper, keeping track of all the good and bad things you do, balancing them on a record sheet. The new relationship is not about you proving yourself to God in your marriage or your family or your work or anything else. The new creation is based on God’s invitation to us to move our lives into the very heart of God, into the very gracious passion of God’s love.

Grace and peace to you,

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.

Worship with us!

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

Oct. 31

Part 4: We All Matter;
No Exceptions
Luke 19: 1-10

November Sermon Series

Back to the Future Again: What Will
the Church Look Like Tomorrow?

Nov. 7

Part 1: Begin at the Beginning
Genesis 1: 2-4; Revelation 21: 1-5a

Nov. 14

Part 2: Something New
Isaiah 43: 16-21

Nov. 21

Part 3: Broken and Poured
Luke 22: 14-23

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on November 2

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Nov. 2, 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.

Pathways to Learning 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.

Soul Mates for Engaged and Newlyweds

If you are recently engaged or recently married, we invite you to participate in Soul Mates, a class designed specifically for you. Soul Mates will meet one Sunday a month during the Sunday School hour from January through December 2011. There is no required text for this class, however resource books are available for those who are interested. Each class will be led by experienced facilitators and will focus on cultivating your relationship and discussing topics that are relevant to you. Join us on Sun., Jan. 9 from 9:55-10:55 a.m. for an open house where you will have the chance to meet other class participants and facilitators. Class will formally begin in February. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Rev. Carla Aday or Lauren Weinhold at 816-333-4917.

Fill Stockings for Micah Ministry

It's time once again to make Christmas stockings for the guests of Micah Ministry. Our goal is to distribute over 550 Christmas stockings! You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of tube socks from the church at a cost of 75 cents per pair. Please purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Heather Rotter at heatherr@cccckc.org.



Each stocking should be filled with items that can be used by either men or women:

1. Roll the other sock and place it in the toe.
2. Fill the stocking with small sized toiletries such as shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, washcloth, and hard candy.

Simply tie the tops of the filled stockings with a ribbon and bring them to church no later than Sun., Dec. 19. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! Please contact Heather Rotter, heatherr@cccckc.org, or Lauren Weinhold, laurenw@cccckc.org, with questions.

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.

Be Green: Electronic Waste Collection Event

The fastest growing type of trash in the country is electronic waste: computers, TVs and other electronics. When electronic devices are landfilled, these pollutants may pose environmental risks. The Green Team recommends you safely dispose of your electronic waste at the Midtown & Southtown E-Waste Collection, Sat., Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the UMKC Parking Lot (South of 51st & Oak). Some fees apply. Visit www.surplusexchange.org for full event details and item fees. Cash and check only. Leave original packaging at home.





Experiencing Church

by Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



You would have thought it was Christmas Eve. Or Easter Sunday. In reality, it was an ordinary Thursday night in September, with no special significance on the world's calendar. But you couldn't have convinced the nearly 900 people that were gathered here of that. The Sanctuary and balcony were overflowing with Wendell Berry fans here to listen to Mr. Berry talk, teach and inspire.

Of those 900, nearly two-thirds of the audience was composed of folks who had never set foot in Country Club Christian Church before. Some heard about the event on Facebook. Some drove by and saw the banner. Some read about it in the newspaper. Some saw the poster in a nearby coffee shop. And, as always, most of our guests that night were invited by a friend. One church member went so far as to insist that her entire book group of 13 people attend the event.

Another woman was invited by a friend but wrote the wrong time on her calendar. She arrived at the church an hour early, thinking she was running late and wouldn't be able to find a seat. In an attempt to pass the time, she took a self-guided tour of the building and ended up in the church kitchen. Upon arrival there, she found a scurry of activity as volunteers were busy plating cookies and mixing punch for the reception later that night. Much to the surprise of the volunteers, the visitor grabbed an apron and started pitching in! Later that evening at the reception, I introduced myself to this woman and she told me about how hospitable this faith community had been to her just a few hours earlier. She was clearly moved by her experience here.

I don't know if this woman has been back to visit on a Sunday and, quite frankly, that's not the point. The woman in the story experienced church that night. She was welcomed and accepted. My prayer is that the other 900 guests experienced church that night as well.

How can you and I replicate this for others? We can invite friends to one of the myriad of events and services coming up over the next few months. We can show a visitor to the restroom. We can invite people to pitch in when they ask how they can help. We can smile at someone we don't know when our eyes meet. We can BE church!

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 Mon., Aug. 1-Sun., Aug. 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 Nov. 1.

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.

Thanksgiving Dinner Is Nov. 18 Reservations Being Accepted Now

Make your reservation now for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration. 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. Former Country Club Christian Church Senior Minister Dr. R. Robert Cueni will speak on "Thankful for 90 Years of Ministry." Reservations will be taken in the parlor on Sunday or contact Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917. The cost is \$14 per adult and \$7 per child.



Dr. R. Robert Cueni

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 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 worship, and moving out to a variety of loca-

tions 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 (and their parents) 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 meet (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. 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.



Club Kids to Pumpkin Patch on October 17



With their pumpkin selections are: *Back row*–Sam Berry, Ben Crocker, Scotty Holt, Megan Herrington. *Middle row*–Evan Hulsey, Zoe Jensen, Taylor Corn, Luke Lopatofsky, Katie Zane, Lauren Reddin, Jillian Schlatter, Xander Hulsey. *Front row*–Amelia Commerford, Will Roske, Daniella McCasland, Jack Bartlett, Dustin McCasland, Lita Lockhart.



Connections Formed

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



Money: Faithful Approaches. It sounded like a great topic when the Pathways to Learning team dreamed it. But who, really, could speak on that? This had been our dilemma for months. One day the chair of our team, Katie Allison, called me. “I just heard a guy on the radio who would be perfect for our topic of money. Problem is he lives in Atlanta.”

“Who was it?” I asked.

“Kevin Salwen. He has the most amazing story to tell about how his family decided to begin investing in what they really believed in and how it changed them and brought them to life. He was awesome. He has a book out called *The Power of Half*.”

I googled him and discovered that he would cost way more than we could afford to pay. But then I decided to contact him anyway, to see if he had an interest in speaking to churches. I sent him a message on Facebook. He called me a few days later at home. We connected instantly, like you do with a friend you just haven’t met yet.

“I’d love to come and speak. I’m heading to St. Louis in November so perhaps I could stop on my way in Kansas City and save some money on travel.”

He was willing to speak to us for a drastically reduced rate because he read our church web site and realized that our values as a church were aligned with his values and purpose. He also mentioned that November was extremely busy for him because he was appearing in multiple cities as a part of Jewish Book Month.

I made a cold call to the Jewish Community Center and discovered a delightful partner in Jeff Goldenberg, the Director of Adult Jewish Learning. He was thrilled to partner with our congregation on bringing Kevin to Kansas City. Within a week Dixie Junk, the priest at St. Paul’s Episcopal church in Kansas City, KS, emailed me to say that she, too, would be happy to co-sponsor Kevin’s appearance. He had been her neighbor decades ago in New York and they had remained friends. When I met with her recently, I felt again like I was meeting an old friend.

I tell you all this for two reasons. One is because I want you to know how rare an opportunity we now have to hear an amazing story of family transformation. But the real reason is because I want you to know that the Spirit seemed to work in making this opportunity real. Doors opened. Ways became clear. Connections formed. Some days the church is not so much seeking God or speaking for God but simply acting out the presence of God already moving in our midst. *Carla*

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 or Karla, 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 or Karla, 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.

Club Kids – October 31

No meeting.

SAVE the DATES

Breakfast with Santa – Sat., Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Family Caroling Party – Sun., Dec. 12, 3:30- 6:30 p.m.

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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

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

Pumpkin Pies for Micah Ministry

Each year, Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church serves Thanksgiving dinner to hundreds of hungry individuals. Help make this dinner a success by baking a pumpkin pie to go along with all the traditional fixings which will be served. Sign up in the Parlor on Nov. 7 and Nov. 14 if you'd like to lend your culinary talents to this great cause. Pies need to be dropped off at the church kitchen on Nov. 21. We need approximately 100 pies as we will serve 600 people.

Food Drive on November 14

On Sun., Nov. 14, 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. Food is also purchased in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

Our Church Family Sympathy

DR. HENRY G. BURGER passed away Oct. 14. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. Memorial service was Oct. 23 in Combs Chapel, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

Memorials

Knitting Circle
Bill Kunkler

John & Doris Soltys

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