



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

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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.*

Tammeus and Cukierkorn to Speak at Thanksgiving Dinner

Deadline for sign up is Nov. 15.

The featured speakers at Country Club Christian Church's annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 19 will be Bill Tammeus and Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn, authors of *They Were Just*



People: Stories of Rescue in Poland During the Holocaust. Their topic is "Gratitude for Life." Using stories from their new book, they will talk about the gratitude survivors felt once the war ended and they knew they had made it.

Tammeus is a former nationally syndicated columnist for *The Kansas City Star*, and Rabbi Cukierkorn, descended from Polish rabbis, is the spiritual leader of the New Reform Temple in Kansas City, MO. The book tells the stories of Polish Holocaust survivors and their rescuers. The authors traveled extensively in the United States and Poland to interview some of the few remaining participants before their generation is gone.

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall on Thur., Nov. 19 for a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings followed by the speakers. Cost is \$14. Make your reservations by Sun., Nov. 15 with Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917.

The Well will be open throughout the evening for holiday shopping.

Sacred Conversations – Visioning Team Update

The Visioning Team has been at work for over a year to create a collaborative process to evoke a church-wide discussion of who God calls us to be. This process has focused primarily on a spiritual process we call Sacred Conversations, which is developing themes and messages that will be shared with the staff, Congregational Board and lay leadership to shape the future mission and ministry of our church.

The process' spiritual focus and orientation are quite different from historical approaches to strategic planning at Country Club Christian Church. The Visioning Team started with a more typical approach and found itself headed down the path of adding many incremental tasks and activities to a staff that is already stretched and a church that is operating with diminished financial resources given the current state of the U.S. economy.

As our path turned to a more spiritually oriented process, we found it very invigorating and helpful in focusing on what makes this church great and the reality that for new growth to occur some things will have to be diminished or left behind for us to reach our potential. The process is not a debate of theology or the creation of wish lists or complaints or problems requiring immediate attention.

The process to date has included Sacred Conversations with the staff, board and two

Continued on page 6



Celebrate with Us This Advent Season

Advent Sermon Series: like a child
Advent invites us to bring a child-like spirit as we reconnect with the joy, peace and hope of the season. Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13, 20

Christmas at Country Club – Dec. 6

Join us for our annual service kicking off the holiday season. Christmas at Country Club is a musical celebration of the Advent season. 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary.

Chancel Choir Cantata – Dec. 13

The Chancel Choir will be joined by orchestra and soloists to present Bach's magnificent Christmas work *Cantata No. 191: Gloria in excelsis Deo*. 11:00 a.m. service, Sanctuary.

Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 20

Join us for a program of Christmas music from around the world. 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

Christmas Music for Organ and Brass – Dec. 21

David Diebold and the Kansas City Brass present a traditional concert featuring seasonal favorites at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services. Thur., Dec. 24

5:30 p.m. – Children and families service

8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight services

Chittister Enthralls Huge Crowd on November 7



Sister Joan Chittister captivated a crowd of more than 700 people in the Country Club Christian Church sanctuary on Nov. 7. Copies of her presentation are available on CD for \$4.00. Contact Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917.

Jarene Stanford, Lee Stanford, Joan Chittister, Glen Miles, Carla Aday and Lauren Weinhold

Despite A Hurricane Watch, Our Mission Team Is Working

For the fifth time, a mission team from Country Club Christian Church has traveled to New Orleans to help with the ongoing rebuilding efforts after the 2005 hurricane. The group, led by Kelley Quinn and Chuck Rolan, arrived in New Orleans on Nov. 9 for six days of work. A hurricane watch and tropical storm warning the first day altered the work assignments but didn't slow down the energetic team. The team returns on Nov. 14. In addition to Kelley and Chuck, members of the church team are: Carty Johannsen, Bill Mace, Kevin Melia, Betsy Wilson, Susan Garner, Linda McDandel and Ken Hubbell.



The mission team in New Orleans.

Women's Ensemble Is Seeking Additional Voices

There is so much Christmas music that lends itself to female voices, however we know it is difficult for many women to fit singing into their Christmas schedule. This year, the Women's Ensemble will be singing at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sun., Dec. 20. This opportunity is open to all who have sung with us in the past, as well as any new folks who would like to join us. There is only one piece to learn and it is easy. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, either from noon-12:30 p.m. or 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Pine Room.

You are also invited and encouraged to sing a couple of additional pieces for Christmas Eve with the Celebration Singers. We will have some members out of town and are in need of additional singers. If you can join us to sing for the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, stay for an additional 30 minutes after Wednesday rehearsals (7:30-8:00 p.m.) to rehearse. Contact Laine Riley at lainer@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



The Way of Faith

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



I am reading a marvelous book, one that invites the reader to dive deeply. I'm taking my time on these deep theological dives. I'm reading the book slowly. The book is *The Ministry of the Word* by REC Brown. It has been out of print for 30 years. However, I heard Fred Craddock say that it is the best book ever on preaching. He is right.

Brown asks preachers to think about faith. He writes, "Faith is not the absence of doubt and uncertainty, but the bearing of both in an attempt to answer questions which cannot be completely answered."

What he is saying is this: if you have no doubts, if you have no struggles with uncertainty, then what you have is not faith but something altogether different.

Brown goes on: "The more compassionate a pastor is, the more he or she is in danger of speaking heretically, but that danger is inevitable..." It is inevitable because faith can never be reduced to propositional truth. When that happens, it is no longer faith.

If we are following Jesus on the way, if we are with him on the path, then we are not looking to create an "in group," one that knows the answers and the truths. No. We are a part of a "Y'all come on in!" group. One that is ready to experience whatever new thing God is doing in our lives and in our world.

Jesus wants us to discover that the way he is sending us is one that is liberating and life giving, one that will open many doors to seeing new ways of living.

This reminds me of the promise spoken to Abraham many centuries ago: "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." It is an extraordinary claim, it is an extravagant proclamation of grace. When Abraham hears this, what is he doing? He is following God's call. Abraham has no idea where he is going. He has no idea where all of this may lead. He has not been asked to sign a statement of belief. He has simply been invited, invited to trust in God, to follow along the way!

Grace and peace to you,

Visitor Information Seminar on November 21

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? Whether you're ready to join the church or simply want to learn more about the many ministries here, we invite you to attend the next Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Nov. 21, 8:45-11:30 a.m. in the Solarium (Rm. 309). Learn about the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Meet the ministers, visit with some of the church's lay leaders and enjoy a light breakfast. Please contact Lauren Weinhold at laurenw@cccckc.org for more information or to RSVP for the event.

Worship with us!

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

Nov. 15

Who Needs Awe?
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Nov. 22

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**Advent Sermon Series
like a child**

Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13, 20
Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

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 450 Christmas stockings! You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of tube socks from the church at a cost of 70 cents per pair. Please purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Chris Trout at christ@cccckc.org.



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

- ◆ the other sock rolled up and placed in the toe
- ◆ small sized toiletries such as shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm
- ◆ washcloth
- ◆ hard candy.

Simply tie the tops of the filled stockings with a ribbon and bring them to church no later than Sun., Dec. 20. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church! Please contact Chris Trout, christ@cccckc.org, or Lauren Weinhold, laurenw@cccckc.org, with questions.

Micah Ministry is the urban, ecumenical outreach mission of Independence Boulevard Christian Church to the poor and needy in the historic northeast area of Kansas City, MO where the church is located. The Micah Ministry is designed to encourage Christian unity, end racism and "feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17) It is centered around a table ministry of home-cooked suppers in which faith-based and civic volunteers partner and seek to embody the call to evangelism by heeding the words of the prophet Micah. The ministry includes free, nourishing suppers each Monday evening and two well-stocked clothing pantries. Country Club Christian Church volunteers help with the Monday evening meals, providing food and manpower. We also collect clothing for them.

YaWhose Young Adults in their 20s and 30s

The group, which includes couples and singles, hosts four quarterly special events and four quarterly Sunday lunches, in addition to meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

Nov. 15 – A comparison of the three largest religions in the world, led by George Asante.

Nov. 22 – God and Genes, led by Ingrid Larson.

Nov. 29 – No class.

Dec. 5 – Christmas party – progressive dinner and white elephant exchange. Watch your email for information.

One-ers

A diverse group of singles ages 35-60-ish, where everyone is always welcome. Focusing on developing spirituality, service to others, and providing opportunities for growth through fellowship.

Sunday School – Join us in Room 302 every Sunday from 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Nov. 21 – Cross-Lines Community Outreach, 7:00-10:00 a.m. Help prepare and serve breakfast to those in need.

Located at 736 Shawnee in Kansas City, KS (corner of 7th Street and Shawnee Dr.).

Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 21 – Come and enjoy an evening of food, fun and fellowship. 6:00 p.m. at Talisman Clubhouse, 105th and Wornall, David Showalter hosting. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and your beverage.

Movie Night, Nov. 28 – Join us for a current movie followed by dinner. Watch your email for more information.

Second Sunday Where parents of children ages 10 and under nourish mind, body and soul.

December 13 – Family caroling party, 3:30-6:00 p.m. See page 7 for details.

T.G.I.F. (This Group Is Fun)

Parents with children 6 and under are invited to gather for fellowship and fun the fourth Friday of each month. Our next gathering will be Fri., Nov. 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. Parents are asked to contribute \$5 per child for childcare (\$10 maximum per family). Childcare will be at the church beginning at 5:30 p.m. RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



With a Servant's Heart

by Brandon Winstead, Director of High School Ministries



Recently, after spending an afternoon eating frozen yogurt with teens from church and discussing the joys of Chipotle burritos with Justin, I found myself staring at my computer screen, wondering how many pages I could possibly type on my dissertation before I got bored and started searching on YouTube for old MC Hammer and Jazzercise videos.

I had a classic case of writer's block and I felt like only a flash of lightning or an Alabama dump truck coming through my office wall would be able to jolt my senses and awaken me to complete my nightly task.

However, in that moment, my walls didn't cave in and bolts of light didn't flash from the sky. Instead, something much different transpired. After twirling around on my office chair like a kid on a Ferris wheel, my eyes landed on a quote from a picture collage that my wife recently made for me. The words flashed like a neon light—"Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve." I quickly recalled the story of how Mary McLeod Bethune, the well-known 20th century black female educator, had placed those words in the hallway of the school she founded in 1904 as a reminder to her students that they studied and learned so that they could improve their communities.

For some reason, the silent recollection of those words and that story energized the synapses of my brain. Ideas and sentences started to flow because I realized what Bethune had known all along—everything that we do should be done with a servant's heart so that we may be able to enrich the lives of those around us. Whether we are completing a dissertation, planning for a business meeting, attending a PTA function, or working for justice, we should do so with a heart of service.

My prayer is that we will let a similar heart beat inside of us in the days and weeks to come so that we may enhance the lives of others. And trust me, a little frozen yogurt or an occasional 1,000-calorie burrito can't stop it from beating.

Grace and peace,

Brandon

Excursion to Leavenworth, KS, Set for December 16

S.P.I.C.E. and the Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will travel to Leavenworth, KS, on Wed., Dec. 16 to visit the Merritt Hitt Insley historic residence and have lunch in Leavenworth. The Insley home, built in the 1850s, will be decorated for the holidays. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places. After touring the home, the group will select a place for lunch, with cost the responsibility of each person. The van will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. and return early afternoon. Please RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 by Wed., Dec. 9. All members and friends are invited.

Yoga: Finding Harmony During the Holidays

With the hectic holiday season upon us, you have an opportunity to take a little time out for yourself to renew, relax and recharge with yoga. Learn how to create balance in the body, developing both strength and flexibility through meditation. Certified yoga instructor and church member Susan Garner offers two classes each Monday in the Solarium (Rm. 309): a mixed level group at 9:00 a.m. and gentle yoga at 10:30 a.m. The first class is free for new participants; classes are \$10 each after that, and you may pay as you go. Experience peace, harmony and a renewal of spirit as you focus on the union between the mind, body and spirit.

Flower Vases

Thanks to all of you who were so thoughtful to bring vases. We really appreciate them. We have plenty at this time and will not need any for several months. Blessings, Gloria & Esther

Breakfast with Santa

Sat., Dec. 5 – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 5. From 10:30 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. Breakfast is served until 11:30 a.m.



Cost is \$7 for adults and children 2 and older. Tickets are available Sunday mornings in the Parlor, at the reception desk or at the preschool office.

Pastors' Class Information Session

Sun., Nov. 15 – 7:00-8:00 p.m.

All 6th grade youth and their parents are invited to an information session Sun., Nov. 15 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). The Pastors' Class will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning Jan. 6, 2010, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Baptisms are scheduled for Palm Sunday (March 28). We will celebrate their first communion as church members in the Maundy Thursday worship service on Apr. 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Sacred Conversations, *continued from page 1*

ad hoc groups from the congregation. We currently have seven groups underway with established Sunday School classes under the leadership of Visioning Team members and church members who have already participated in groups. All leaders have been through leadership training conducted by Dr. R. Glen Miles.

Key themes to be built on include the importance of small groups, mission trips and other service activities, and our beautiful facility and location to the fulfillment of our purpose and potential.

More Information on Sacred Conversations

The Sacred Conversations typically consist of six to seven sessions on a weekly basis with 10-12 participants and two or more leaders to facilitate the process. The Sacred Conversations are a practice of asking evocative, intimate questions about one's (an indi-

vidual, group or congregational) spiritual health and discipleship; that is, how goes it with your soul and how can the church facilitate our individual and collective connection with God and one another?

The Sacred Conversations each begin with a spiritual practice of *lectio divina*, which centers on meditative prayer and scripture reading. The sessions then focus on the following themes and each session has questions centered around that theme:

- Spiritual Vitality
- Gathering
- Receiving
- Giving
- Sharing

Sending Out the Message/Extending our Faith in the Community

The final session of the series of conversations shares the learnings to date and confirms what the Visioning

Team has gathered in the current group's journey, which will be shared with leadership to shape the future vision of our church.

The staff, board and Visioning Team are in the process of planning how to expand the reach of the Sacred Conversations to the congregation.

In the coming months, more opportunities will be made available for all members of the congregation to participate in this process.

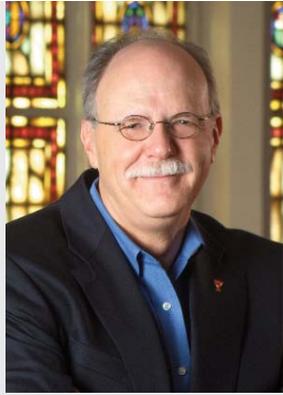
Future newsletter articles will share more information and our plans for expanding Sacred Conversations with the congregation. In the meantime, thank you for your interest and support of the Visioning Team and its work.

Members of the Visioning Team are Bonnie Blythe Dee, Lynn Cockle, Barbara George, Chris Howard, Carolyn Hughes, Randy Irey, Glen Miles, Mary Lynn O'Connor and Tim Webster.



Opportunities and Challenges

by Dr. Charles Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



As I write, a group of volunteers are preparing to make the fifth mission trip to the New Orleans area to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. I am grateful for a church that makes mission trips a priority. One of the greatest miracles of mission trips is not only what gets “done” while on a mission field, but what happens to the “doers” while there. All of us will be changed.

Of the many heroics and stories that emerged from Katrina, I’ve always been touched by a particular one. Just a few days after the storm, displaced persons and animals desperately journeyed the maze of roads and bridges of the flooded city. Out of the chaos, on Causeway Boulevard emerged a 6-year-old child carrying a five-month-old baby and leading five toddlers – three 2-year-olds and two who were 3. There they were, seven little souls trying to find their way out of the mayhem and desperation.

The leader was 6-year-old Deamonte Love. He could recite his home address, phone number and name of his school. For the next three days volunteers prayed, comforted the children, and hoped that the parents were still alive. As communications improved and websites began posting pictures and descriptions of missing persons, the children’s distraught parents were located in San Antonio, TX, and all were promptly reunited.

What happened defies the imagination. Deamonte’s family and some neighbors were on the roof of their apartment building. On their fourth day of being stranded without food or water, a helicopter came and the children were loaded first and the commitment was made: “We’ll be back.” The parents made the agonizing decision to “let the babies go.” The helicopter did not return. The parents ended up in Texas and somehow the children ended up alone, walking down the road.

We live in a world that is full of opportunities and challenges. God so loved so we can find the faith and dedication to go whenever and wherever the storm has been. As we head into Advent, may faith, hope, and love abound ... a child of God leads us!

Chuck

Children and Families

Advent in Advance

Sun., Nov. 22, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Kids and parents prepare for the Advent season by creating an Advent worship center, adding the three Wise Ones to their crèche, and making gifts for homebound members. At that time we will also be collecting winter clothing and coats for the families served by the Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church. A light pizza lunch will be served. Cost is \$15 per family for lunch and supplies.

Family Caroling Party

Sun., Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m.

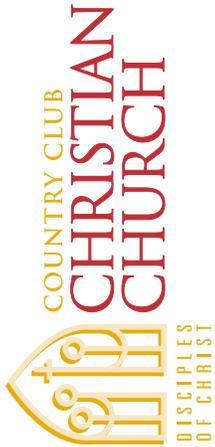
Join us for our annual children, youth and families caroling party. We will gather at the church at 3:30 p.m. and travel by bus or van to area residential care centers and homebound members to share songs of the season. We will return to the church by 5:30 p.m. for a chili and soup supper (and chicken nuggets for younger kids). If you would be willing to provide a pot of chili or soup, contact Catherine for full details, catherinesc@cccckc.org. Childcare will be available for children 3 and younger while we carol.

Help Us Help Other Kids

Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church

We are serving 75-100 kids every Monday night at Micah Ministry. We are in desperate need of winter clothes for girls size 3-7 and boys size 6-10 especially. We can use anything under size 12 really! We are always in need of size medium to large socks. Please bring any donations you can to the office of Karla Herrington (Rm. 109) or Catherine Stark-Corn (108).

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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

Dr. Charles Rolan
Interim Minister of
Congregational Care

Dr. Brian Campbell
Associate Organist

Ms. Sandy Eisenman
Director of
Financial Services

Ms. Karla Herrington
Director of Children's
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Ms. Lisa McCleish
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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

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816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538
email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org

Pumpkin Pies for Micah

We are again asking church members to bake pumpkin pies for the Micah Ministry Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 23 at Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Sign up in the office 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. 22.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on Nov. 15

On Sun., Nov. 15, please bring your nonperishable food items for 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

HELEN FRANCES THORNTON passed away Oct. 27. She is survived by a daughter Esther Glover and a son, Tom Thornton. Services were Oct. 31 in Marceline, MO.

Congratulations

Congratulations to NORA SMITH and MARSHALL LOCKTON II who were married Oct. 3 in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to SIDNEY LOWREY and DANIEL PALOMINO who were married Oct. 10 in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to CHRISTIANNE HOWARD and TIMOTHY BAUM who were married Oct. 31 in the Sanctuary.

Memorials

JOHN S. FIELDS
Bill & Ruby Jane Scott
Daniel & Sharon Brown
Mary & Charles Reiff
Melba & Twyla Caldwell
Mark & Kelly Mayer
Bob Allen Ford, Inc.
Max & Carol Clark
Norma Perry
John & Jill Hartman
Perry & Jeanne Cockayne
Dick & Carol Chapman
Connie Veskerna
Fred & Pat Brown
J.A. & Peggy Ziser
Bob & Peggy Sympson

NORMA "BUNNY"
CORBIN
Dale & Jonna Hunter
HAYES WALKER III
Chris Rice
THELMA B. FIELDS
J.A. & Peggy Ziser
Bob & Peggy Sympson
BOB FITZPATRICK
John & Martha Jane Stewart
George & Travis Reichman
Kansas City Food & Shelter Fund
JOHN S. FIELDS
Harvey & Dorothy Ray