



DISCIPLES
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COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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

## Winter Bible Study Begins Jan. 12

What do you think about when you hear someone mention the book of Revelation? Rapture? Armageddon? A frightening book about the end of the world and a fear filled report on who will be left behind? All of the above and worse?

Sadly there is a great amount of false and misleading information about this beautiful book of the Bible. A serious and thoughtful review of John's ancient work reveals a poetic vision of hope and good news. Oh sure, it uses some very strange imagery and extremely unusual metaphors, but the message of God's desire to reconcile all of creation comes through.

Join us on Monday nights – Jan. 12, 24,



Feb. 2 and 9 – and Tues., Jan. 20 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. as Dr. Glen Miles leads this penetrating study of the Bible's most unconventional text.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK



Join the congregation this winter in reading the newest selection in the Building Community Book by Book series, *Run* by Ann Patchett. After you've read the book, join in one of many one-time book group discussions. Then, meet the author when she comes to speak at the church on Thur., Feb. 5. This is a great opportunity to read an intriguing book, create community with fellow church members, and meet an acclaimed author. A list of book discussion groups will be available in January. Purchase your copy of *Run* in The Well for \$12. Proceeds benefit disaster relief through Week of Compassion.



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## Winter/Spring Study Group

**Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

If you are seeking to deepen your spiritual journey, then this is the class/group for you. Participants will be expected to read study materials prior to attending class. The class will study three separate themes and participants may sign up for all three sessions or only one. Facilitator: Rev. Carla Aday.

### **Session 1 – Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29**

We will read and discuss the new book by Kathleen Norris entitled *Acedia and Me: A Marriage, Monk's and a Writer's Life*. Please read the first three chapters before our first meeting on Jan. 8. Books are available for purchase in The Well or to borrow in the church library.

### **Session 2 – Feb. 5, 12, 19**

We will read and discuss *The Power of*

*God and the gods of Power* by Daniel Migliore. The book is available for purchase in The Well or to borrow in the church library.

### **Session 3 – Feb. 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9**

Lenten Study of the scriptures using the Bible Workbench materials. Cost for materials \$25. Order in the church office. These lessons will correspond with the sermons on the Sunday following our class.

Please sign up in the church office by calling 816-333-4917 or email [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org). Childcare available by advance request.

## Share Your Heart With the World: Missions Fair

On Feb. 8, the Country Club Christian Church Mission Trips Council will host a missions fair entitled "Share Your Heart with the World." Through visual displays, crafts, food, and activities, this event will allow attendees to get a first hand view of how our church members have previously shared their hearts with the world. Discover opportunities that exist for you to share your heart with the world. Stop by for a taste of rice and beans Nicaragua style or a hands on experience assembling health kits. Learn more about our mission partners around the nation and globe. All ages welcome. Plan to join us from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.



## Welcome to our Visitors!

Are you a frequent visitor who has been considering becoming a member of our church but just haven't taken the next step? Are you new to the Country Club Christian Church community and want to find out what there is for you here? Whether you're ready to join the church or simply want to learn more about Country Club Christian Church, we invite you to attend the next **Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Jan. 10 from 8:45 a.m.-12:00 noon**. 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. Meet the ministers, visit with some of the church's lay leaders and enjoy a light breakfast and lunch. 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).

You're also invited to the next **Information Open House on Sun., Jan. 25 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Stop by for dessert and learn more about the exciting events that will be taking place in the coming months.

We invite you to become a member of the Country Club Christian Church family! New members will be welcomed on Sun., Feb. 8 at the 11:00 service. If you would like to be included in the celebration, simply let Lauren know. We look forward to sharing your faith journey with you!



## Hope and Leadership

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



I picked up a book on leadership, titled *Unleashing the Power of Rubber Bands: Lessons in Non-Linear Leadership* by Nancy Ortberg. I bought it because Nancy's husband, John, is one of my favorite authors. I'm glad I did.

She links hope and leadership as two very important factors in moving any organization forward. She writes, "Leadership is the hope that we can change the things that need to be changed and create what we cannot imagine. Hope gives us the power to move forward, the power to forgive, and the grace to keep the promises we have made."

I like that idea a lot. I've always been a hope-filled person. Every year, for example, I block out Dec. 31-Jan. 2 for a possible trip to Pasadena to see my beloved University of California Golden Bears play in the Rose Bowl. The fact that they have not been there since 1959 does not deter my hope! (My friend Greg Bates would tell me I'm delusional, not hopeful, but he is a Mizzou fan so what does he know?)

Ortberg thinks there are many people in our congregations who are filled with hope. She points out that they are all ages. "Too often, I think, we unfairly stereotype the elderly. We accuse them of being resistant to change and stuck in the old ways. But here's what I think. I think people who resist change and hold on to the old ways when they are in their twenties become people who resist change and hold on to old ways when they are older. People who embrace change and gravitate toward new ideas in their twenties become people who embrace change and gravitate toward new ideas when they are older."

I remember a man named Gordon Dalrymple. Gordon was an elder and a member of the board at the church I served in Atlanta. One night at a church board meeting, as we argued over the appropriate next steps for some project, Gordon stood in the middle of our meeting and said, "I have great hope for the ministry of this church. Let's not get stuck in minutiae when the Spirit of God is leading us toward new opportunities for ministry." It was like a voice right out of heaven. Gordon was 70-something at the time.

Gordon's advice reminds us of the new opportunities God is placing before us here at this great old church as we seek to become God's church. There is great wisdom and hope in our leadership here. I'm eagerly anticipating this new year more than any other!

Grace and Peace to you,

## Finding our Way

### January-February Sermon Series

In this sermon series, we will consider the life and teachings of Jesus as we seek to travel with him along the way of life. We will explore the ancient yet contemporary topics of faith, belief, forgiveness, hope, truth and wisdom. Join us in worship on:

Jan. 11 – Faith  
Jan. 18 – Belief  
Jan. 25 – Forgiveness  
Feb. 8 – Hope  
Feb. 15 – Truth  
Feb. 22 – Wisdom

## 2009 State of the Church Dinner

Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future. Mark your calendar for Thurs., Jan. 22 to hear Dr. Miles report, *Becoming God's Church: Notes from the Journey*.

## Worship with us!

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

**Jan. 4**

Dr. Charles Rolen preaching  
What Lies Out There  
*John 1: 1-18*

### Jan.-Feb. Sermon Series Finding Our Way

**Jan. 11**

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Faith

**Jan. 18**

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Belief

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Pathways to Learning



### Coming in January

Pathways to Learning presents *Healthy People, Healthy Nation*. This series will include a current look at Alzheimer's, the rising costs of healthcare and heart health.

**Jan. 18** – “The Heart Truth,” Dr. Tracy Stevens, cardiologist.

**Jan. 25** – “Understanding Alzheimer's,” Michelle Niedens, Education Director, Heart of America Alzheimer's Association.

**Feb. 1** – “Skyrocketing Costs,” Professor Mike Wood, UMKC Bloch School.

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## Second Sunday

Where parents of children ages 10 and under nourish mind, body and soul. Children enjoy dinner and activity in the child care wing, while parents gather for a light supper, followed by a program. Dinner \$7.50 per person. 5:00 p.m., second Sunday of each month.

**Jan. 11** – “Shepherding Your Pack: A Positive Way to See your Family System.” Dr. Charles Rolen, leader

**Feb. 8** – “Will you be my valentine?” A refreshing look at how parents can keep the romance alive.

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## First Steps to Faithfulness

New babies bring many questions – what foods should they eat? How much sleep should they get? What should they be doing at what age? There is so much information about the physical, emotional and intellectual development of your child – but what about their spiritual development? Join other parents of children under 3 as we explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be. Make time to meet other families, please feel free to bring your child(ren) with you.

**Jan. 4** – 9:55–10:55 a.m., Rm. 304.

## Crossroads

For adults ages 35-50. We each face many different crossroads in our lives. Each Sunday provides an opportunity to build relationships, learn more about our faith tradition and discover the spiritual guidance needed to face the various crossroads. Meets every Sunday in the Pine Room (Rm. 10) from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

**Jan. 4** – A conversation with the church visioning team. Joint meeting with YaWhose. Pine Room (Rm. 10)

**Jan. 11 – Mar. 1** – Genesis. Talk about Crossroads! The first book of the Bible explores family relationships, job transfers, the pressures of living in a secular culture, and much more. Take a look at the dramas of Noah, Rebekah and many others who struggle with how God interacts with us at each and every crossroad we face. Learn the meaning and the mystery of the stories as we share our own stories with one another.

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## YaWhose

### Young Adults [age 22-35] Welcoming Hearts Open to Spiritual Exploration

Join YaWhose on Sunday morning from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m., Rm. 304 for a presentation and discussion of faith issues in our everyday lives. On the first Sunday of the month, Crossroads and YaWhose meet together.

**Jan. 4** – A conversation with the church visioning team. Joint meeting with Crossroads. Pine Room (Rm. 10)

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## Grief Support Group to Meet in January

A grief support group called “New Beginnings” will begin Sat., Jan. 3 and continue each Saturday through January. It will be held in the church library from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The group will be facilitated by Good Shepherd Hospice. For more information or to sign up, call Mary Linda McDonnell at 816-822-2292.





## Used Up Candles

by Catherine Stark-Corn, Minister to Children and Families



Only three of the five candles made it to Christmas Day, as my son said we “used up” the other two. Actually, this was something to be proud of because it meant we lit and celebrated the coming of the Christ child through the use of our family Advent wreath more than occasionally throughout the season. It was a joy to spend numerous evenings at the dinner table during the four weeks of Advent with the glow of flames reflecting in the window. It helped center us. It helped me be in the moment with my two boys as I helped them light the purple and pink can-

dles. It spurred conversation about how the church marks the time as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christmas. Tangible rituals children can participate in give them handholds to make sense of this season in the context of their lives. Familiar rituals around holidays provide comfort and security – a touch of predictability. There are a range of practices families make time for in their lives and in doing so this teaches their children what they value.

One of the areas the Ministry to Children and Families seeks to focus on is helping families develop faith rituals or practices to enrich their faithfulness to God. As I took pleasure in sharing the ritual of lighting the Advent wreath and reading Advent devotions with my family, I also took great joy in knowing our church seeks to support families in developing their own family-based faith practices. Over the past three years at an event called Advent in Advance, we have given more than 60 families their own Advent wreath and candles and information about how to incorporate this practice into their celebrations of the season. We provide devotional materials that help the children come to know the story of God’s love coming to us in the form of an infant. In the midst of placing the sticker on the Bethlehem scene the children are gaining foundations of our Christian heritage. With each practice we provide the opportunity for children to practice their faithfulness to God.

The family and home are essential in helping children (and adults) grow in their understanding and experience of the Holy One. What limited time we all spend within the church walls on Sunday gives us the community experience of worshiping and coming to know God, and carrying that into our daily lives through faith-based rituals is essential. Supporting families with tools and resources to claim their own home-based faith practices is a wonderful gift our congregation gives. So take heart, within our congregation there were many candles being “used up” during this Advent season!

## Rummage Sale Coming in May

Mark your calendar for the week of May 3-9 for the all-church rummage sale. Help raise funds for Country Club Christian Church’s Outreach Ministry by donating gently used items you no longer need. We’ll be collecting clothes, books, furniture, electronics, household objects and lots of other items for a large-scale church-wide rummage sale which will be open to the public. Many volunteers will be needed for this event, so mark your calendar today and plan to help out, in addition to making donations. For information, contact Pat Martin, [patmartin1050@aol.com](mailto:patmartin1050@aol.com) or 816-590-7134

## Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service

**Tues., Jan. 6 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 6 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

# 2009 Youth Calendar Kicks Off with Lock-in and Retreats

## Chi-Rho Lock-in Jan.9

Mark your calendars for the first lock-in of the new year. Chi-Rhos will gather Fri., Jan. 9 at 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205) for a mystery night involving games, food, worship, special activities and maybe some sleep. We will conclude by 8:00 a.m. Saturday. To RSVP, email [christ@cccckc.org](mailto:christ@cccckc.org) by Jan. 4.

## Pastors' Class

### Begins Jan. 7

Pastors' Class, led by Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, is designed for youth 6th grade and older who are interested in becoming members of Country Club Christian Church. The class teaches the Bible, the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the history and heritage of the Christian faith, and culminates in baptism and first communion during the Lenten season.

Pastors' Class will meet on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 7 through Apr. 1 (no meeting on Mar. 18). We will meet from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Youth interested in participating should contact Rev. Stark-Corn at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).

## Couple Communication

Learn practical communication skills to protect and sustain a vital partnership. In this class you will develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating faster, better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. Saturdays, Feb. 21 and 28, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Call 816-333-4917 to register.

## Chi Rho and CYF Retreats

### Feb. 13 and 14

The youth of Country Club Christian Church will head out to Tall Oaks Conference Center on Fri., Feb. 13-Sat., Feb. 14 to relax and grow spiritually. We will arrive at Tall Oaks before dinner on Friday, and conclude our retreat on Saturday afternoon. These will be two separate retreats, with separate housing for Chi Rho and CYF. We will be hanging out, doing outdoor activities and eating a lot!! Approximate cost is \$50 per

## 2009 Preschool and Parents' Day Out Calendar

The cooperative preschool and parents' day out programs at Country Club Christian Church have set their spring schedule.

|            |                                                             |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 5     | Classes resume                                              |
| Jan. 12    | Preschool Parent Tea, sign up for volunteering in classroom |
| Jan. 19    | No school                                                   |
| Feb. 17-19 | Preschool Open House                                        |
| Feb. 23    | In-house preschool enrollment                               |
| Feb. 24    | In-house enrollment for Parents Day Out                     |
| Feb. 26    | Open enrollment                                             |
| Mar. 16-20 | Spring break                                                |
| Mar. 30    | In-house summer enrollment                                  |
| Apr. 1     | Open summer enrollment                                      |

## 2009 Ministries and Events Guide Available Jan. 12

Pick up your copy of the 2009 Ministries and Events Guides, starting Mon., Jan. 12. The Ministries and Events Guides is your one-stop reference to all of the opportunities for worship, bible studies, educational offerings, fellowship groups, community service, outreach, mission trips, and special events at Country Club Christian Church over the next six months, including a handy reference calendar. When you pick up your copy, take a few minutes to look through it, then designate a spot in your home or office where it will be readily available for reference throughout the year. Most members will receive a copy in the mail by mid-January, but if you do not receive a copy or would like more than one, please feel free to pick up an extra at the church.

## S.P.I.C.E. Christmas Show



Mary Margaret House and the Sassy Sisters, Janet Hubbell and Betty Farmer Pifer performed Christmas favorites during the S.P.I.C.E. luncheon Dec. 17 in the Social Hall. Scott McDonald accompanied on the piano.



## Unimaginable Love

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



On a snowy Sunday morning at St. Luke's Hospital, I cradled him in my arms for the first time, about 7 and ½ pounds. Within weeks he was 13 pounds. It seems like I blinked and now today he turns 13 years old.

I thought I would teach him about the world and pass on the faith to him. But already he knows so much more than I do (especially about electronics, music and all other things cool). And watching him grow has renewed my faith and deepened my awareness of divine love.

When I first held him I made all sorts of promises. Over the years, I've broken them all. At first I thought I could protect him from all harm and I imagined that if I could master parenting, all would be ok. But now I realize that no matter what I do, it will not be enough. In order to thrive he needs other adults who care about him: Steve who served as his faith mentor, Mary the neighbor who pays him to care for her dogs, Peter who told him to use good table manners, Alex the babysitter from Bulgaria who taught him computer skills, Mrs. Pearson who inspired him academically, Mr. Ray who engages him in critical thinking.

Maybe the miracle of our faith is that each of us has the capacity to give birth to some unimaginable love. Maybe the miracle is that we cannot do it alone. Every week I come back to church, because I want to believe that God can still do something new with me. And every week I leave awed by the gathered folks who sustain me, my family, my fragile faith. The baby born in a stable reminds us that our lives are woven together so that the holy one of heaven can live among us. God is not an abstract idea or a winged creature floating above. God is that strength that we discover in community, that humility revealed to us when we try to love, that commitment we keep making to let our lives be filled with a holy joy.

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Fountains of Faith Sunday School Sun., Jan. 4

We begin a new rotation on the first Sunday in January. The focus is on *Kingdom Parables: The Great Feast*. Through interactive storytelling, a wood-based art project, and cooking children will learn how Jesus used the parables to reveal a new vision about how we should all live together and with God. This rotation will run through Feb. 1.

### First Steps to Faithfulness

Families with children under three are invited to join other families for a time of fellowship and activity on the first Sunday of the month. We will meet Sun., Jan. 4 from 9:55-10:50 a.m. for singing, discussions around young children faith development and an opportunity to get to know one another. For more information contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn 816-333-4917.

### Club Kids

3rd -5th graders are invited to join us for Sunday evening fellowship when we resume on Sun., Jan. 11, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

### Moms Group: Growing in Faith

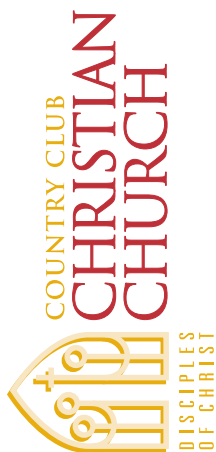
Beginning in January, the Moms group will begin meeting on the second and fourth MONDAY for fellowship and service. Childcare for pre-school children and younger is available while we meet. Make plans to join us on Mon., Jan. 12 and watch for details in an email. Please contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn for more information at 816-333-4917.

### Family Mission Trip Meeting

**Jan. 25, Noon – 1:00p.m.**

Each summer families are invited to experience an opportunity for service and fellowship on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The 2009 dates are June 17-23. Join us for an information session to learn more about the trip.

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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. Cynthia Heller**  
Minister of  
Parish Visitation

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

**Dr. Charles Rolan**  
Interim Minister of  
Congregational Care

**Mr. Brian Campbell**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Sandy Eisenman**  
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Financial Services

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

**Ms. Laine Riley**  
Associate Director  
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Director

**Ms. Lara Schopp**  
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## Our Church Family

### Congratulations

To Sandy and Bart Finney on the birth of grand-daughter Ava Mae Finney. Her parents are Ross and Denise Finney of Ashland, OR.

### Sympathy

LAWRENCE J. RITTER, father of Brian Ritter, passed away Dec. 12 in St. Louis, MO. Services were Dec. 22 in Ballwin, MO.

MAUD TUCKER passed away Dec. 12. A memorial service is planned in the spring. She is survived by her son Richard Tucker, Kansas City, MO, and her daughter Patricia Morgridge of San Luis Obispo, CA.

MARY DORN passed away Dec. 12 in Wichita, KS. She is survived by a son, Curtis, in Wichita. Private services are planned at a later date.

### In the Hospital

As of Dec. 18, we are calling on the following individuals: Bob See at St. Luke's Hospital, Mary Ann Hess at St. John's Hospital in Leavenworth, Helen Ruth Williams at Manor Care, and Mary Ann Cooper at Claridge Court Health Center.

### Memorials

UMATILLA M. ARNOLD  
Barbara J. Speers  
Allyson E. Speers  
Vicky & George Leonard  
Lizbeth B. Pener  
Doug & Sue Irwin  
John & Erma Hess  
Ron Cross  
Vicky Cross

LYNN ROWAN  
Women's Ministries  
Circle 17

DORIS WHITAKER BETTS  
John & Erma Hess  
Ron Cross  
Vicky Cross

ELIZABETH SCHMIDT  
JENKINS  
John & Erma Hess  
ROBERT THOMPSON  
Bob & Jane Marty  
PAUL A. & VIRGINIA T.  
JORDAN  
William & Dorothy J.  
O'Sullivan

**Permanent Missionary Fund**  
DORIS WHITAKER BETTS  
Tri C's Sunday School Class