



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

VOLUME 83 · NUMBER 26

COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Do Not Be Afraid
by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

The Next 90 Years
by Lara Schopp
≈≈≈
page 5

Giving Birth to
Something New
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.*

Opportunities Coming in January

Spiritual Practices for a New Year

This six-week group led by Rev. Carla Aday will read, discuss and try out the spiritual practices in Barbara Brown Taylor's new book *An Altar in The World*. The group will meet Thursdays beginning Jan. 7 and continue through Feb. 11. One group will meet 9:30-11:00 a.m. and one 6:30-8:00 p.m. In the introduction of the book, Taylor writes, "I have no idea what you will see when you look at your life—but if you are tired of arguing about religion, tired of reading about spirituality, tired of talk-talk-talking about things that matter without doing a single thing that matters to yourself, then the pages that follow are dedicated to you. My hope is that reading them will help you recognize . . . some of the altars in this world." Purchase a copy in The Well and read the introduction and first two

chapters prior to the first session on Jan. 7. Sign up for the group by calling the church office at 816-333-4917 or email marymargareth@ccc-ckc.org.

ABC, A Basic Christianity

Whether you are just beginning your faith journey or have been navigating your path for a while, we invite you to this series. Designed for the questioning Christian, the class focuses on basic topics related to faith and spirituality. The church's clergy lead this class using the book *To Begin at the Beginning* by Anthony Robinson, which is available for purchase in The Well or to borrow in the church library. This group will meet on Tuesdays beginning Jan. 19 and continuing through Feb. 16, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Solarium (Rm. 309).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Wishing you all the warmth and love that is the Christmas season! —*The staff of Country Club Christian Church*

Front row, (l-r) Rev. David Diebold, Laine Riley, Brandon Winstead, Rev. Carla Aday, Diana Black, Lori Hodges, Vicki Miller. Second row, (l-r) Dr. Brian Campbell, Lauren Weinhold, Chris Trout, Jane Fletcher, Chuck Lusso. Back row, (l-r) Dr. Chuck Rolen, Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, Sally Huggins, Justin Zeigler, Mary Margaret House, Marilyn Wimer, Lara Schopp, Dr. Glen Miles. Not pictured: Lisa McCleish, William "Fish" Terrill, Michelle Schlatter, Sandy Eisenman, Karla Herrington.



DECEMBER 25, 2009



Church's 90th Anniversary Celebration Kicks off on March 6

In 2010, Country Club Christian Church is celebrating 90 years of spiritual growth, faithful fellowship and cultivating community

through worship, study and service. In recognition and commemoration of our 90-year journey, and in preparation for our next 90 years, we invite you to join in one or more of the opportunities to celebrate which are planned throughout the year!



The celebration begins with a dinner and auction on Sat., Mar. 6 at the beautiful Mildale Farm in Edgerton, Kansas.

Join us as we reflect on the church's faithful foundation and imagine a future of growing in grace. Watch for details about this festive evening of fellowship in early January, and the other opportunities to celebrate later in the year.

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. Thur., Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m., Social Hall. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report, *An Emerging Vision*.

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 or simply want to learn more about Country Club Christian Church, we invite you to attend the next **Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Feb. 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. Meet the ministers, visit with some of the church's lay leaders and enjoy a light breakfast. 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.

New Members Welcomed on December 13



Alicia York
New Member Host:
Stephanie Pilkington



Elizabeth Rich
New Member Host:
Mary Linda McDonnell



Paul and Debra Rettenmaier
with children Beck and Chloe
New Member Hosts:
Tony and Anne Carreno

You're also invited to the next **Information Open House on Sun., Jan. 24** from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Last Supper Sculpture room off the parlor. 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. 21 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!



Do Not Be Afraid

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Luke tells two stories of miraculous births at the beginning of his gospel. You've heard of Mary's story but do you know the one about Zechariah and Elizabeth? They are an older couple and childless. They are well beyond the age of bringing children in to the world. The angel comes to Zechariah to announce the birth. Zechariah doesn't believe it and loses his voice as a result.

The same angel comes to Mary. She has some questions for the angel. She is "perplexed."

The angel, sensing her worry, says "Do not be afraid." She is invited to face her fear but not allow it to control her. At the end of this heavenly encounter she announces, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord."

The old priest lost his voice but Mary found hers. Zechariah, an official representative of the Holy God of Israel, doesn't understand that God is at work. Mary, a young, powerless peasant girl from a little nothing of a town, when faced with a holy opportunity, simply says, "Yes."

Kathleen Norris writes about this. "(Mary) does not lose her voice but finds it...she asserts herself before God saying 'Here am I.'"

Norris says that she treasures this story because it forces her to ask, "When the mystery of God's love breaks through into my consciousness do I run from it? Do I ask of it what I cannot answer? Shrugging, do I retreat into facile clichés, popular false wisdom of what 'we all know'? Or am I virgin enough to respond from my deepest, truest self, and say something new, a 'yes' that will change me forever?"

Luke is a master storyteller and a brilliant theologian, too. During this time of waiting and preparing for the celebration of Christmas, he wants us to know that it is OK to acknowledge our fear, to face the realities of our worries in this world and these days. But maybe, when we finally cradle the child named love, the very son of God in our arms, our fear might become what someone has called "a holy fear, full of wonder, mystery and surprise."

Merry Christmas,

Financial News

Giving Reports

2009 contribution records will be sent via email by Jan. 31 to all those with email addresses on file. If you would like a paper copy, please call the church. All contributions received by Dec. 31 will be credited to 2009. Thanks you for your generous support.

Pledge News

Actual fiscal year-to-date pledge offerings are \$516,085.54 versus a budget of \$512,323.97. Please make sure your pledges are current before the end of the year.

Worship with us!

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

Jan. 3

The Way Forward Is Back

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

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

**New Sermon Series
"Finding the Presence after
the Presents"**

Jan. 10

Part 1: When God Seems Far Away,

Psalm 88

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

New Personal Growth Opportunities Coming in 2010

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. 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. 10 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 Lauren Weinhold at 816-333-4917.

Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Saturdays, Feb. 20 and 27, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Michelle Schlatter at weddings@cccckc.org or call the church at 816-333-4917.

First Steps to Faithfulness

Sun., Jan. 3, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Rm. 10

New babies bring many questions – what foods should they eat? How much sleep should they get? 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.

Spiritual Life Retreat: Staying Alive Spiritually

Rev. Holly Whitcomb will lead the all church spiritual life retreat on Feb. 19-20 at Tall Oaks Conference Center on the theme “Staying Alive Spiritually.” In the midst of all the roles we play and the responsibilities we carry, how do we make room for God? Are you thriving spiritually – or merely surviving? Come learn how you can deepen your relationship with God as you make your life more purposeful and more peaceful.



Rev. Whitcomb, a pastor and clergywoman in the United Church of Christ, has served churches in Connecticut, Iowa, and Wisconsin. She is a graduate of the program for spiritual directors at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. She is a spiritual director and writer who has published dozens of articles and books on spirituality.

Cost for the retreat is \$65 per person triple occupancy, \$75 double occupancy, and \$40 for those who do not plan to spend the night. All prices include three meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Contact Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org to register.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume on Jan. 6 when we'll begin a study of the book of James. Join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). This group meets every Wednesday morning to study the Bible in an effort to create a deeper understanding of the sacred texts from lecture and discussion.

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

Jan. 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Families with children 6 and under are invited to join this group that meets the fourth Friday of the month for food, fun, and fellowship hosted in members' homes. Our next event is Fri., Jan. 22, hosts to be announced. Childcare is available at church beginning at 5:30 p.m.



The Next 90 Years

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



The end of a year always brings reflection and renewal. I find myself reviewing highlights of the year and pondering plans for the coming months. I gave up making New Year's resolutions long ago, however, I still make a mental list of things upon which I'd like to devote some energy over the course of the year.

Last year I chose six words which I wanted to incorporate in daily living. They were: kind, persistent, daring, present, health, and generous. The goal was to do or be all of these things on a regular basis. I'm certain I failed frequently. For example, I can't think of one daring thing I did in the last year! But I also succeeded, mostly in small but sometimes significant ways.

I've been thinking of this list, and the concepts of reflection and renewal, as I've begun working on two projects about which you'll hear a great deal in January: the church's 90th Anniversary, and the rollout to the congregation of *Sacred Conversations: Your Voice in the Vision*.

Next year, the church will not only celebrate 90 years of spiritual growth, faithful fellowship and cultivating community, we will also have an opportunity to share our own voices in the vision for the church's next 90 years.

Here's how you can participate. Watch this newsletter, the Sunday bulletins, the web site and your mail for details about the first opportunity to commemorate our 90th anniversary, a celebration dinner and auction scheduled for Sat., Mar. 6. Mark your calendar now, and watch for more information.

Then, keep your eyes open for the list of Sacred Conversation groups which will convene in mid-February. Sacred Conversations are a spiritual process designed by the church's Visioning Team to evoke a church-wide discussion of who God calls us to be as a church. You'll get to join with other church members to share what that means to you. This is truly your opportunity to lend your own voice to the vision for the church's future.

As you make plans to participate in these two important milestones in the life of the church, perhaps you'll want to make your own list of words you'd like to remember to incorporate. Have we been a kind, generous church in our 90 years of history? How will we be daring, persistent and healthy in our next 90 years? How has your presence as a member made a difference?

I look forward to joining you in celebrating our history and dreaming of our future in 2010. Wishing you a joyous new year,

Lara

January Collection Connection

Country Club Christian Church is sending a group to Nicaragua to provide medical and construction work to the poorest of the poor. This group will be leaving Feb. 20 and returning on Feb. 28.

As part of this trip, the group will be providing home health kits to local families. To provide the most basic of items we all take for granted for the most simple of everyday health issues. We are collecting the following items during January to take with us to Nicaragua: acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil), antacids (Tums), cough drops, antibiotic ointment (Neosporin), bandages, toothbrushes, adult vitamins, children's vitamins (no gummies – they melt), prenatal vitamins (no softgels – they melt). Our greatest needs are for prenatal vitamins (no softgels – they melt in the heat) and antibiotic ointment. These two items are among the most expensive items we take with us and are of great importance to the people we will be visiting.

Due to restrictions on what we are allowed to bring into Nicaragua, we will be purchasing soap and toothpaste in Nicaragua to include in each kit.

If you would like to donate any of the above items [Note: All expiration dates must be no earlier than March 2011], or cash to help with the purchase of items in Nicaragua, please place your items in the Parlor during the month of January.

Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Tues., Jan. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 5 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity for church members and friends of our church to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

Upcoming Youth Events

CYF New Year's Eve Lock-in

Come join Country Club Christian Church Youth in 9th-12th grade as we ring in the new year together! The event will start at 8:00 p.m. on Dec. 31 and will go until 7:00 a.m. the following morning (Jan. 1). There will be worship and lots of food, games, other activities, and some surprises all night long. Don't miss this great time of fellowship and fun.

Winter Retreat

CYF and Chi Rho Youth Winter Retreat is set for Feb. 12-14, 2010 at Tall Oaks Conference Center. CYF and Chi Rho youth will gather for joint and separate study, worship, and fun. Cost is \$50 per person. RSVP to Chris Trout by Jan. 29 at christ@cccckc.org.

Pastors' Class

Begins Jan. 6

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. It culminates in baptism and first communion during Lent.

Pastors' Class will meet on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 6 through Mar. 24 (no meeting on Mar. 17). We will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Youth interested in participating should contact Rev. Stark-Corn at catherinesc@cccckc.org

7th-8th Grade Book Study

During Pastor's class, 7th and 8th graders will do an extensive book study on Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Chi Rho Sunday School Room (Rm. 202). Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org, for more information.

Second Sundays and Fourth Fridays

Every second Sunday during Youth Group time, CYF will join our friends at the Kansas City Urban Youth Center to play games and seek to build relationships with people who live all over our city, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The fourth Friday of each month we will invite people from the Kansas City Urban Youth Center to come and spend some time with us. We will play games and hang out from 8:00-11:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). For more information, contact Brandon Winstead, brandonw@cccckc.org.

New Sermon Series Begins January 10

It happens every year. We sprint through the shopping and the cooking and the partying and the decorating on a mad dash to create the perfect Christmas. Before we know it the story is over, the carols are sung, the candles are burned out... and so are we.



Join us in January as Dr. Glen Miles leads us on a search for the presence after the presents at the 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. services beginning Jan. 10.

January 10

Part 1: When God Seems Far Away, *Psalms 88*

January 17

Part 2: The Art of Letting Go, *Luke 10: 38-42*

January 24

Part 3: Deep Calls to Deep, *Psalms 42*

January 31

Part 4: God Has Moved into the Neighborhood, *Revelation 21: 1-5a*

Your Voice in the Vision

What's your vision for Country Club Christian Church? During the 2010 Lenten season, you will have an opportunity to share your voice in the visioning process through a series of Sacred Conversations, the spiritual process through which the church's Visioning Team is inviting the congregation's participation. This collaborative process is designed to evoke a church-wide discussion of who God calls us to be as a church.

Choose a Sacred Conversation group which fits your schedule, and plan to meet weekly during Lent. Watch for more information about other opportunities to join the church on a spiritual journey through Lent in 2010. Sign up begins in January.

Groups will begin Feb. 15 and conclude by Apr. 2.



Giving Birth to Something New

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



My hand rose and fell in gentle motion across his tiny 4-year-old spine. I sang my standard lullabies. His muscles began to soften, releasing the days energy. Almost asleep. All of a sudden, my toddler son raised his head off the pillow and turned his serious face to me and offered this revelation: “When the dinosaurs were on the earth the people were still in God’s tummy.” My eyes widened. How did he ever think of this? How could this little boy concoct this complex awareness of time and space? How could he arrive at this creative resolution to blend the science in his dinosaur books with his budding faith in the Creator God?

Initially I marveled at how a child could craft a solution to the dilemmas posed by science and religion. And yet so many experts in religion and professors of science have settled for dismissing the truths offered by the other. But over the years I have come to appreciate Connor’s childhood insight as a challenge to my own faith. I try to conjure up his image of a God who holds humankind inside the holy womb, waiting to give birth to us. I re-imagine God as a presence that envelopes human life. I picture God as that creative process that allows us to evolve into new ways of living. Maybe God who gave birth to Jesus (the holy in the human) so long ago, can still bring the divine into human flesh today. Maybe God can still give birth to us.

As we move from the birth story in the holy manger on Dec. 25 to the new beginnings of a secular New Year beginning Jan. 1, each of us has a chance to ponder what aspect of our lives might be born anew. The lights of Christmas sometimes highlight the painful places in our lives: a fractured marriage, a strained sibling relationship, an addiction, a career crisis. But even those of us not in crisis are sometimes haunted by a longing for new life: finding a soul-mate, re-entering the spiritual journey, risking a deeper friendship, deepening a community service commitment, devoting oneself to a self-care practice. Pay attention. It is possible that some old dinosaur in your life is becoming extinct? And God is giving birth to someone still inside God’s tummy.

Carla

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith Rotation: Feeding of the 5,000

Jan. 3-31

1st-5th graders will begin a new rotation in the new year. We will explore the miracle story of Jesus and the feeding of the 5,000 and what it teaches us about God and our relationships with one another. Through art, cooking, storytelling and more the children will connect with this biblical story.

Club Kids

3rd – 5th graders

Meets Sun., Jan. 10 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

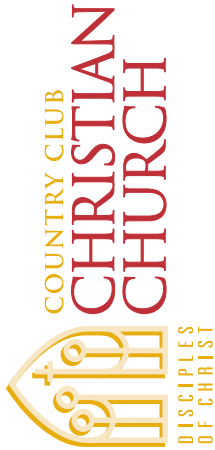
Mother/Daughter Workshop

All 4th-6th grade girls and their mothers are invited to join us for this workshop on Sun., Jan. 24, from noon to 3:30 p.m. focusing on three areas: communication and decision making; body image; and puberty. Presenters will lead us in discussions and activities that help strengthen communication bonds between mother and daughter and give families an opportunity to jointly explore an age-appropriate approach to sexuality. Cost is \$15 per pair. Make reservations with Mary Margaret House, 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Yoga: Renew and Relax

After the hectic holiday season, 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.

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



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Associate Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

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

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
Ministries

Ms. Lisa McCleish
Director of Early
Childhood Programs

Ms. Laine Riley
Associate Director of Music

Ms. Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

Ms. Lauren Weinhold
Director of Church Growth

Ms. Marilyn Wimer
Director of
Administrative Services

Mr. Brandon Winstead
Director of High School
Ministries

Mr. Justin Zeigler
Director of Middle School
Ministries

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

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

Our Church Family

Sympathy

RICHARD A. HARDY passed away on Dec. 10. He is survived by three sons, Earl R. Hardy, Richard A. Hardy and Brett Hardy. Services were at D.W. Newcomer's Sons Johnson County Chapel on Dec. 19.

TERRY THATCHER died Nov. 29 in Ft. Collins, CO.

VERA GOLLY passed away Dec. 18. She is survived by his three daughters, Nancy, Diane and Sharon. Services were Dec. 23, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

Congratulations

Congratulations to HOWARD and CYNTHIA PETRIE on the birth of a son, Kent Constantinos, on Dec. 17. He joins brothers Blake and Liam.

Memorials

JOHN S. FIELDS

Mrs. James Rawlings

ROBERT ANDERSON

Robert & Beverly Dockhorn

Gale & Elizabeth Jones

Homesteaders Sunday

School Class

Milburn & Evelyn Hobson

Burnie & Betty Hielt

Harley Webb

John & Doris Soltys

Jill Reynolds

Orvis Fitts

Peggy Curts

Shirley Stallard

Dick and Yolanda Fuller

Don Jensen

Jeanne Shopen

Donald & Sally Henderson

Mary Jane Krugh

Patti Nichols

The Round Robin Study

Club

Jean Maneke

Janet Gottsch

Mrs. James Rawlings

John Brooks

Susan & William Webster

Carl Corbin

Tom & Helen Gray

Thomas & Dorothy Housh

Frank & Janet Siler

Howard & Gay Woosley

Mr. and Mrs. William Berg

John & Mary Anne Henke

Louise Haines-Sherman

Gerald Carson

Gerry & Cheryl Gleissner

Mary & Don Dibble

John & Erma Hess

FRANK S. RIDGE

Mary & Don Dibble

John & Erma Hess

Edith & Keith Grafing

Ann & John Readey

Suzanne & Paul Koontz

R.A. Brown, Jr.

Ann & Jack Mahurin

Gale & Elizabeth Jones

Rick & Paula Shteamer

Mrs. Loyd C. Owen, Jr.

Margaret Gustin

Dr. & Mrs. Hires Gage

Bill & Bruce Hopkins

Nancy and Jim Carnes

ELMA HOPKINS

Don & Mary Dibble

RUTH WEBB

Susan Rinella

PAUL & VIRGINIA

JORDAN

Bill & Doty O'Sullivan

RICHARD HARDY

Tri C's Class

Music Memorial Fund

JOHN S FIELDS

Dr. and Mrs. John J Turley

ELMA HOPKINS

Dr. and Mrs. John J Turley

HELEN LITTLE

Dr. and Mrs. John J Turley