



VOLUME 88 · NUMBER 6

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.*

5th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction

The 5th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction will be held on Sat., Mar. 29, at Studio 2131, located at 2131 Washington Street in the Crossroads Arts District. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this fun event!

Help ensure this year's event is a success by becoming a benefactor at one of six levels starting at \$250 or purchasing tickets to the event. Purchase your tickets in the Parlor on Sunday.

The dinner and auction not only has become an important source of funds for the church's operating budget, it has more importantly cultivated friendships that extend across generational lines and nurtured a sense of stewardship within our community.

Auction Items – Deadline for Donations Is March 16

Do you have auction items you'd like to donate? Contact Amy Holmes at 816-868-3417 or adholmes75@yahoo.com. Visit www.cccckc.org/stay-informed for more information.

Lenten Sermon Series: Hope Between the Shadows

When are you the most hopeful? When everything is going along great or when things are tough and you're not sure what is going to happen next? The Bible is full of insights that help us see that sometimes the shadow moments in life, times that appear to be almost too much to handle, are the very places where God's hope and grace are most fully revealed. In this sermon series we will linger in the shadows long enough to discover that the Spirit of God is already there. Dr. Glen Miles preaching.

Mar. 16 – Don't Stop Believin', Psalm 121

Mar. 23 – Passionate Patience, Romans 5: 1-11

Mar. 30 – Unfailing Kindness, Psalm 23

Apr. 6 – Rev. Carla Aday preaching



Easter and Holy Week Services

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship – April 13

Families are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and we will celebrate the baptisms of our Pastors' Class participants.

Maundy Thursday – April 17

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary – In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion.

Good Friday – April 18

12:15 p.m. – Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar with worship, readings, hymns and solos. A 15-minute organ prelude begins at noon with worship following at 12:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – The Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will present Dale Ramsey's "Requiem." This work is

Dale's most recent choral work and is one of incredible beauty and solemnity.

Easter Sunday – April 20

Celebrate the miracle of Easter at Country Club Christian Church. Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching.

Special Service Times

8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Sanctuary, led by our clergy, plus the children's and youth choirs.

9:30 and 11:00 a.m. – Worship in the Sanctuary, led by our clergy, the Chancel Choir and the Kansas City Brass.

No Sunday school for children and youth. Child care available for all services.

Complimentary Easter Breakfast –

7:30-9:30 a.m. Begin Easter with a complimentary breakfast in Social Hall.

A Conversation and Book Signing

Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, will be in conversation with Glen Miles and Pastor Tom Are, Village Presbyterian Church, discussing Hamilton's new book, *Making Sense of the Bible*, on Mon., Mar. 24, at Village Presbyterian Church (6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS). For admission packages or to order an autographed copy of the book, visit RainyDayBooks.com or call 913-384-3126. The admission package includes one ticket for entry, a copy of *Making Sense of the Bible*, plus a guest ticket (if needed). The admission package costs \$22.00.

Leadership Nominations Underway

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2014-2015 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. We need members who are energetic, dedicated and motivated to serve. The nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions: Congregational Board: Chairperson-Elect, treasurer, secretary, and Board members; Personnel Committee; Endowment trustees; Elders; Deacons; youth Elders; youth Deacons. Nomination forms are available in the Parlor or online (<http://goo.gl/Zh5Fw7>). Please turn them into the church office. Deadline for nominations is Fri., Mar. 21.

Faith Formation Groups

Embracing an Adult Faith

Who was Jesus? Who is God? What is salvation? How do we practice our faith? If you've pondered these questions, then you are encouraged to participate in Embracing an Adult Faith. This five-session class is for those seeking a richer understanding of issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology. Led by Lauren Weinholt. Cost is \$13 including book. The class will meet Mondays, Mar. 31 through Apr. 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information or to RSVP, contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org.

Faith Academy

Designed for those who seek to stretch the mind and expand the heart to explore new paths of faithful living, Faith Academy involves reading an

academic text and discussing it in class with a clergy person or professor as mentor and guide. To prepare for this seminar-type experience, pick up the text and begin reading now. Spring session will be led by Mike Graves, Professor of Preaching at St. Paul School of Theology. The book is *The Misunderstood Jew* by A.J. Levine. Mon., Apr. 7, 14, 21, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Reel Faith

Watch "The Way Way Back," enjoy pizza and then discuss the movie to see what images of faith are captured by the film. Meet at the Sulgrave Regency Condominiums in the movie theater. Led by Phil and Patty Love. Limit: 14 people. Sun., May 4, 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 to sign up.



Slightly Flawed, Purchase As Is

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Julie and I love to shop the outlet stores at the Legends Mall in Kansas City, KS. You can find some great deals but many of the clothes you buy come with a little tag on the inside that reads:

*Slightly Flawed
Purchase As Is.*

What is true in those discount stores is also true of you and me: we are all slightly flawed. We come “As Is.”

Maybe we should put a label on the inside of wedding gowns and tuxedos that reads “the wearer of this outfit is slightly flawed. You are marrying them today AS IS.”

Now, of course, every bride I have ever seen was beautiful, every groom handsome. But we come to each other in every relationship imperfect and flawed.

However, we can’t live without the other. Frederick Buechner said, “You can survive on your own. You can grow strong on your own. You can prevail on your own but you cannot become human on your own.” We need the other in order to be human.

To choose to love is to choose to live in the messy world of relationships. To choose to be in any relationship – marriage, neighbor, friend, parent-child, whatever it might be – is a risk. The decision to love is one that invites us to take a risk, to take a chance on suffering from a broken heart. This is not an easy choice but in the long run do we have any other option?

If you give your heart away it may be broken, wounded. But as the poet Antonio Porchia said, “To wound the heart is to create it.”

That may not sound like an easy road to walk but the ancient psalmist reminds us that God “heals the brokenhearted...”

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 begins something new and marvelous. That, after all, is the story of creation. 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.

Grace and peace to you,

Town Hall Meeting: Sharing Our Memories and Imagining Our Future

What message do we want to give the community about who we are as a church? How can our message and identity honor our past, reflect our theology and serve our neighbor?

The Congregational Board recently initiated a project to study our mission, vision and identity. Potential outcomes include new marketing approaches, a new name, and new signage. The project is expected to take about one year.

To kick off the project, a Town Hall meeting on Sun., Apr. 27 will focus on sharing our memories and imagining the future. We want to hear your stories, memories and experiences. We’ll also explore what makes this church special, and what you think is important for our church’s future. Please join us on Sun., Apr. 27 at 12:15

Worship with us!

**Service Times: 9:00, 10:00
and 11:00 a.m.**

**Lenten Sermon Series:
Hope Between the Shadows**

Mar. 16

Don’t Stop Believin’

Psalm 121

Mar. 23

Passionate Patience

Romans 5: 1-1

Mar. 30

Unfailing Kindness

Psalm 23

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Green Team Presents Class

On Apr. 10 the Green Team presents *The Not Too Big Vegetable Garden*, led by Marty Ross, Garden Journalist, at 6:30 p.m. You don't need to plant a 30-foot row of anything to have a great time growing your own vegetables. Small vegetable gardens are really rewarding.

In a plot, a pot, or a raised bed, you can harvest crops from spring through frost (and even into winter). Learn how to choose, plant, and grow vegetables you love, without a heck of a lot of work. Free and open to the public. No registration required. Door Prizes. For further information call 816-665-4456.



March Lunch Bunch: Our City, Our Future



The Lunch Bunch welcomes Yael T. Abouhalkah, editorial writer and columnist for The Kansas City Star, on Tues., Mar. 18, 11:30 a.m. Since 1984, Yael has written extensively about politics, government, and issues central to Kansas City and its suburbs. Yael invites you to bring your questions for a Q&A session.

Designed for senior adults but everyone is welcome. Cost is \$9.50 for lunch and program. RSVP to Mary Margaret 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

April Program: The Monuments Men

Join us on Apr. 15 when MacKenzie Mallon, a researcher in the European Painting and Sculpture department at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, will discuss the ownership history of artworks during the Nazi occupation in Europe.



Volunteer Training for Reading Tutors

Thur., Mar. 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Youth Center

The training will be conducted by Krista Calvert, who has written the Volunteer Training Manual being used to train volunteers for Mayor Sly James' *Turn the Page* reading initiative to help students read at or above grade level will conduct the training. The session will cover exactly what goes into reading to, reading with and reading by students, and the impact volunteers have by reading with students one day a week. All current and past Kansas City Public School District volunteers as well as anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to attend. Sign up by Tues., Mar. 18, with Nancy Ralson (nralston1@kc.rr.com or 816-590-1533).

2014 Mission Trip to Joplin

Country Club Christian Church will be sending a mission team to Joplin, MO, again this year. Mark your calendars for May 18-23, 2014. The team will continue to help with the recovery following the 2011 tornado. To sign up or for more information, contact Betsy Wilson at betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com.



2013 Mission Team

March Collection Connection

In March, we are collecting yarn for projects by our knitting group. They need baby yarn and yarn for warm scarves.

Recipients of the group's handiwork include:

- Truman Medical Center – the group supplies blankets and hats for the more than 200 babies born there each month;
- Cross-Lines Community Outreach – 225 scarves over the last year for parents to give their teenage children as Christmas gifts;
- Headstart – hats and scarves for preschool children;
- Congregational Care Ministry at Country Club Christian Church – 39 prayer shawls for homebound members.

Whatever yarn you can donate, the knitters will find a use for whatever yarn you can donate. Please put your donations in the basket in the parlor during March.



What Is the Message?

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



Try not to be a jerk.

This statement was my favorite of all of those turned in during the recent Gospel in Seven words sermon series. Lots of you penned thoughtful and heartfelt words and phrases illustrating your version of the gospel in just seven words. Many of you used words like “Jesus,” “faith,” “grace,” and “forgiveness.”

We took all of the hundreds of words you turned in and put them into a word cloud generator. A word cloud is a visual depiction of a set of words that gives greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. I hope you had an opportunity to see the poster in the rotunda featuring the word cloud from all of your words.

I was struck by the five words that were the largest in our graphic, meaning that they were the most repeated words among all those you submitted. Those words were “God,” “love,” “all,” “is,” and “and.”

What I love about these five words is the way you can use them interchangeably.

God is love.

God and all.

Love is God.

Love is all.

The really cool thing about this whole project is it tells us a little bit about who we are as a church and what our message is. Over the next year we, as a church, are going to dive into this concept a little deeper, taking a thoughtful look at what messages we want to give the community about who we are, and how our mission, vision and identity can share the story of Country Club Christian Church with the rest of the world. (See page 3 for more information.)

What do you want our neighbors near and far to know about Country Club Christian Church? I want the world to know that this church believes that God is love; that all means all; and that all you need is love. As I try to live my life based on these words, I’m also going to remind myself of the good advice from our church-wide exercise, and every day, try not to be a jerk.

Peace to you on your journey,

Memorial Easter Lily Sale

Honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter lily. The lilies will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, Apr. 20 and may be taken home after the 11:00 a.m. service or donated for our home-bound members. Prices are \$20 for single stem plants (four to five blooms) and \$35 for double stems (seven to 10 blooms). The deadline for ordering lilies is Apr. 6. Pick up an order form in the main office. Please return the completed form, with payment, to Mary Margaret House by Sun., Apr. 6. Your payment is the confirmation of your order. If you have questions, contact Mary Margaret House, marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Grace at Work Is April 5

Do you have the passion to volunteer, but don’t know where to start? Do we have an opportunity for you! Join us at the annual Grace at Work event on Sat., Apr. 5, a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects. Many different volunteer opportunities are available. Through your participation you will have the opportunity to experience fellowship, while assisting others in need and creating visible change in our community. Sign up in the Parlor on Sunday or online at <http://tiny.cc/89xncx>



Visitor Information Luncheon

You’re invited to an informational gathering to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and church at a luncheon on Sun., Mar. 30, from 12:15-1:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve your spot at the luncheon, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Sun., Mar. 16 – No Youth Group.

Enjoy spring break.

Sun., Mar. 23 – Game Night – Re-

scheduled, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Our first game night was cancelled due to weather so let's get together and share our favorite games. Bring a game you can teach to the group (board game or other). Be ready to explain the rules!

Sun., Mar. 30 – Share Your Story, 5:30-7:30 p.m. John Stewart ...and no, we don't mean of the Daily Show. A member of our congregation will be here to share a part of his faith journey with us. You won't want to miss it!

Volunteers Needed for Sunday

Night Suppers – There are still opportunities to bring a snack supper in March. Please sign up on SignUp Genius (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A623A0FC1-sunday1>) to bring a Sunday Night Snack Supper!

Don't want to prepare a meal, but are willing to sponsor one? Cost is \$75 per meal. Sign up for a slot and write SPONSOR in your comment.

Northeast PartNerShip Chalk Walk April 26-27

Youth and their families are invited to work alongside our neighbors in the Northeast to create a beautiful chalk square at this annual festival. We are partnering with middle school students from Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School in the Northeast for the event. ALL church members and friends are invited to stop by anytime during the festival to see our youth working with their new friends on a beautiful work of art! Festival will be at the Kansas City Museum, 3218 Gladstone Blvd, Kansas City, MO. Sign up for shifts at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A623A0FC1-northeast>

Important Dates for Pastors' Class

Wednesday night meetings, 7:00 -8:30 p.m. in the Youth Center:

- Mar. 19 – No Class due to spring break.
- Mar. 26 – Trinity.
- Apr. 2 – Faith Mentor Session.
- Apr. 9 – Prep for baptism and faith statements.

Sun., Apr. 13 – Palm Sunday and Baptisms. Youth need to arrive by 10:15 a.m. for photos and preparation.

Thurs., Apr. 17 – First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 p.m.

Family Night at Micah

Youth families are invited every second Monday of the month to serve together at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry. The next opportunity will be Apr. 14. Meet at Independence Boulevard Christian Church at 5:00 p.m. to serve families in need.

Spring Musical

The Youth and Children's Choirs presented the musical, *Happily Forever After* on Sun, Mar. 9, to a standing room only crowd.



Left to right, Lita Lockhart, Makenna Lockhart, Jack Bartlett, Elizabeth Crocker, Ben Crocker



Left to right, Liam Petrie, Riley Zschoche, Mia Bohach, Hudson Huff, Blake Petrie.



Why This Church?

by Matt Moeder

Why This Church? is a periodic guest column submitted by members of our congregation who are sharing why they chose Country Club Christian Church as their faith community.



Matt and Valerie Moeder

Over the years, several people have told me that God directs you to the church where you belong. After attending Country Club Christian Church for nearly three years, I am positive those people were right. In the spring of 2011, my longtime girlfriend (and now my wife), Valerie, and I were searching for a church to reignite our faith as we started our life together. Country Club Christian Church was the first church on our list. As we approached on that first Sunday, I did not know exactly what to expect.

I was a bit intimidated by the grandiose structure and thought the service would resemble the many Catholic masses that I experienced in my younger years when I belonged to that faith. But it was not. It was a service that was rich in tradition yet exuded warmth, inclusiveness, and provided a practical connection to God and his teachings. Our first Sunday service was indicative of everything that Country Club Christian Church has stood for since then.

We became members in November 2012 and got married at the church in September 2013. We have thoroughly enjoyed the high level of activity and the many programs and services that Country Club Christian Church offers. Many of the programs – a Lenten book study, marriage enrichment, and couple communication classes – have strengthened our faith and our relationship with each other. However, the point when I realized more than ever that Country Club Christian Church was the church where I belonged was when my family and I dealt with heartbreak. In June 2013, my younger brother, Nicholas, tragically passed away. Although a new member at that time, church officials and members coalesced around us and offered genuine support, thoughts and prayers in the days and weeks that followed. I was so touched by the level of kindness. At the first service that I attended after his death, the church was engaged in the sermon series titled *Overwhelmed: Finding God in the Midst of Life's Storms*. It seemed as if the sermon was divinely designed to assist me as I moved forward. The sermon that I heard on that day and all of the sermons in that series have provided me a guidebook as I assimilate to life without my brother and to rely on God and take solace in him.

Country Club Christian Church offers so much to its members, visitors, neighbors and community. It practices what it preaches and it perpetuates the highest ideals that are engrained in God's words and his many lessons. God has pointed us to Country Club Christian Church for many reasons, some have already presented themselves and many are yet to be discovered.

Children and Families

First Steps of Faithfulness

Sun., Apr. 6, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Rm. 215

Parents with children under 3 are invited to join other families as we explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness.

Omaha Zoo Overnight

May 3-4 for 3rd-5th graders

Travel by van to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo for a campout in the Desert Dome. Evening activities include: night hike; games and activities; building tour and sleeping in the Desert. Sunday morning we will have breakfast, a morning hike, then tour the full zoo in small groups, eat lunch and return home. Cost is \$100 per person, which includes transportation and fees plus meals at the zoo. Sign up Mar. 23 and 30 in the Parlor. The deadline to sign up is Apr. 13. Contact Monica Lewis with questions at monical@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

VBS Early Registration

Vacation Bible School will be July 27-31. You can register children during the Easter Egg Hunt on Apr. 6.

Club Kids (3rd-5th graders)

Mar. 16 – No Club Kids.

Mar. 23 – 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

Save the Date:

Apr. 6 – Easter Egg Hunt. 12:15 p.m., Chapel Lawn.

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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Hayley Holt Interim Youth Director
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Dr. Brian Mathias Associate Organist
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Youth and Families	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Joe Walker Interim Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. John D. Clemmer Business Administrator	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth

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.cccckc.org

A Few Spaces Available for 2014 Christian Community Camp

The 2014 camp at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO, will be Aug. 2-9. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge and enjoys home-cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. Cost is \$1,550 for a private room; \$350 for a bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$80 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on March 16

On Sun., Mar. 16, 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 baskets 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."

Memorials

Athelia Clingan

Nancy & Jim Carnes
John & Erma Hess
Gina Cartnell Hovey
Shirely & Emil Schutzel
Doris Thompson
Frank & Virginia Young

Fontelle Hilfinger

Donald & Margie Bonner
Perry & Jeanne Cockayne
John & Erma Hess
Randy & Cindy Irey
Robert & Alyce King
Paula Lane
Richard & Marge Lyon

Kelley Shepard

John & Erma Hess

Tom Tompkins

Angela & Earl Hughes

Sharon Van Dyke

Ada Lee Gibbs
Jean Hunter

Ken Young

Robert & Alyce King