



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.

Sign Up Now for Grace at Work on April 13

Harvesters, Rose Brooks Center, Habitat ReStore, Goodwill Industries, Give What You Got...these are just a few of the agencies with whom we are partnering for Grace at Work on April 13. Choose from among 16 different volunteer opportunities and join us

for a half-day of living out your faith and experiencing fellowship while assisting others and creating visible change in our community.

Grace at Work, a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities, supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects. 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 or register online at www.cccckc.org.



Easter Services — March 31

Celebrate the miracle of Easter at Country Club Christian Church. “In the Name of Love,” 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 the Social Hall.

Church Offices Closed April 1

The church offices will be closed on Mon., Apr. 1, for the Easter holiday.



Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction Will Be May 4

Mark your calendar for the 2013 Celebration Dinner and Auction on Sat., May 4, at the The Museums at 18th and Vine.

The festive evening begins at 6:30 p.m. and includes a buffet dinner and silent and live

auctions. Tickets will be available in the Parlor beginning Sun., Apr. 7.



Auction Items Sought

Participate by donating an item for either of the auctions. The auction committee is seeking items such as jewelry, trips, event/sporting tickets, personal service and more for both the silent and live auctions. If you have an item you'd like to donate, contact Nancy Lear at nancylear@gmail.com.

You can help ensure this year's event is a success by becoming a benefactor at one of six levels, starting at \$250. Visit www.cccckc.org/stay-informed for more information about the benefactor levels. And watch for more information on ticket sales beginning later this spring.

This annual event has become not only 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.

Sign Up for 2013 Christian Community Camp

We still have a few openings for Christian Community Camp, a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2013 camp will be

Aug. 3-10, 2013. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,500 for a private room; \$250 for the bunk room. Each private room sleeps a maximum of six people. A bunkroom contains all bunks and sleeps six to eight. We now have a male bunk room and a female bunk room available. Food and activity fee of \$75 per person. For more information, contact Jane Fletcher at janef@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



Special Easter Offering for Healing and Hope

"Healing and Hope" is the theme for the 2013 Easter offering. The Outreach Council has selected two projects to share in the offering.

The first project is Sheffield Place, a local agency that provides shelter and transitional counseling services to homeless women with children in the Kansas City area. These women and their children are fed and housed at Sheffield Place for up to 24 months, and during that time they receive medical care and counseling that prepares them to transition into jobs and permanent housing, and to heal from the traumas that have led to their homelessness.

The second project is the Samaritan Care Centre in South Africa. The Samaritan Care Centre cares for those who are infected and affected with HIV/AIDS, and also is bridging cultural barriers between the colored, black and white communities. HIV/AIDS has no face, no color and no culture and, therefore, everyone is needed to help find a way forward, a cure, and ways to help one another. The volunteers and those that are cared for are black, colored, and white. This indeed is a ministry of healing and also of reconciliation.

These two projects will each receive half of this year's Easter Offering.



Good Friday Is Too Painful

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Today is Good Friday. At noon today about 150 folks will gather in our sanctuary to face the ugliness of the execution of God’s beloved child. When we hear the story of the crucifixion our beautiful gold cross will be shrouded in black cloth. The service will end in a pain-filled silence.

Most of us, me included, want to skip right over all of the unpleasant scenes of death and dying while getting ready for the trumpets of Easter. We would just as soon avoid all of the pain and the problems that are so evident and get right on

to the party. I mean, really, who wants to face a dying Jesus?

Before you try to answer that question, I must let you in on a theological truth that too many treat like a secret: A Jesus who never dies, an antiseptic Jesus who never experiences pain, will never bring us to the deep joy that God intends for every one of God’s children.

Have you seen Mel Gibson’s film, *The Passion of the Christ*? When I went to see it I took my Moleskin notebook to make notes about it. I found many theological and artistic flaws in the movie.

My wife, Julie, watched it a few weeks later. I was curious about her view of the film. Julie is one of the brightest theologians I have ever met. Her sense of the Bible and some of the deeper issues around faith are amazing. Her eyes filled with tears as she described her reaction. She said, “What would it have been like to be Mary, to see your son, your boy, beaten, whipped, tortured and killed?”

Do you see what she did that I was unwilling until that moment to do? I wanted to keep it all in my head and my mind. I wanted to write a term paper, but she followed Jesus. She stood with Mary at the foot of the cross. She went with the women to the tomb. She was willing to face the pain, the blood, the sweat, the tears.

In that moment it dawned on me that only a broken Christ can heal a broken world. When we get lost in the abstract discussion of who Christ really was or what he really might have said, we lose sight of our faith.

Life is broken. You may be too young to know that but someday every one of us will know that life breaks all of us. In God’s world, though, the breaking is the new beginning. As Ernest Hemingway’s immortal words remind us, “We are strong in the broken places.”

May your journey to the empty tomb begin at the cross,

Visitor Information Luncheon on April 7

All visitors and friends of the church are invited to a special luncheon on Apr. 7. You will get to visit with the ministers, ask questions and learn more about the church. We hope you will join us on Sun., Apr. 7, from 12:15-1:45 p.m. Then, if you’re ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Apr. 28**. 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.

Worship with us!

Easter Sunday, March 31

**Special Service Times:
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching
In the Name of Love

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

Sunday, April 7
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Sunday, April 14
Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, preaching
Weaving with the Thread of Hope
Acts 9:36-42

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

March Collection Connection

We are collecting diapers, especially size 3 and larger, for Operation Breakthrough, which cares for almost 500 children daily ages 6 weeks to 13 years. Operation Breakthrough began in 1971 when a group of working-poor parents in the central city voiced their need for child care. The center has been located at 31st and Troost, since 1981. Please bring your packages of diapers to the basket in the Parlor, or mark your donation check for March Collection Connection.

The Well Book Corner

Do you need books for your children or grandchildren? Do you need a Bible to use in your Bible study? Would you like to read a book mentioned in a sermon or a minister's column in *The Christian*? Then visit The Well, our book and gift store on the ground floor of the church.



The Well also features gifts for everyone, including wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world. Shoppers will find jewelry, scarves, CDs and handmade items. The proceeds go to Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world.

You can also shop at home through Amazon to benefit Week of Compassion. If you use the Amazon search function on  The Well's web page, a percentage of the purchase price is directed to Week of Compassion. Go to www.cccckc.org and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.

The Well is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Classes Sponsored by the Green Team



Interested in learning how to help your landscaping cope with extreme weather or how to add edible plants to your existing landscape? Join the Green Team at two free classes this spring and their April 21 plant sale.

Rain Garden: Thur., Apr. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Social Hall. Learn how to improve water quality and reduce flooding with a rain garden. Rain Gardens use native plants whose long roots help draw the water deep into the soil. Led by Blue River Watershed Association Director Leslie Alford.

Edible Landscaping: Thur., May 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Social Hall. Learn how to add healthy, edible plants to your existing home landscaping. You'll help the environment while improving taste and nutrition at lower food cost— and get fun and exercise at the same time! Presented by Green Team members Jenny Doty and Mary McClure.

Green Team Plant Sale: Sun., Apr. 21, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the church lawn. The Green Team will sell native plants for rain gardens or home landscaping. The Green Team has also been growing edibles for you to plant into containers or tuck into your yard. Plants include lemon basil, sweet basil, sweet peppers, lettuce and nasturtiums. Proceeds will be used for landscaping at the church.

2013 Mission Trip to Joplin

Country Club Christian Church will be sending a mission team to Joplin, MO, again. Mark your calendars for May 5-11, 2013. To sign up or for more information, contact Betsy Wilson at betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com. The team will continue to help with the recovery following the 2011 tornado.



2012 Mission Team



A Church Called Faith

by Justin Zeigler, Minister to Youth



Maria Guadalupe wandered onto the farm where our Nicaragua youth mission team was staying. We had worked at this adorable girls' primary school earlier in the day. She came and handed our guide a note. It said that her mother was sick and needed medicine and asked if we had any to share with her. Another group leader went through the supplies and tried to get as much as we could to share with this family who had a need. We felt weird about giving medicine to a 5-year-old so a few of us accompanied Maria to her home, which was about a five-minute walk away. When we arrived, her father greeted us warmly and thanked us for the medicine. He then very proudly invited us to come and see the church that they were building just down the road.

We walked with him as he shared how the community had been working to raise money to finish the church. We came to a simple building with a concrete floor and a tin roof. It was a large open space. He took us further into the church where there was a floor, some pillars, but no roof or walls. This was the part that they were waiting to finish. He explained that they were a church named Faith because the women of the church had prayed over each brick used to build the pillars and they had faith that soon they would have the money to finish. He explained that even though the church wasn't finished they filled it with music and praise whenever they gathered for worship. The pride in his face and voice and the way he showed us the humble building was overwhelming.

I thought about our own capital campaign. Our beautiful building on the corner of 61st and Ward Parkway is a lot like the building that isn't quite finished on the un-named street in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. We, too, are a community of faith, a community of strong people working hard to gather the money needed for our project. We, too, are proud of our space and like to share it with others, and we, too, fill our sanctuary with music and praise even though the work is not finished.

The need of sacred space crosses boundaries of language and culture. My friends in Nicaragua have taught me that we are not alone in our work to continue to offer sacred space to others. It may be a long haul and a difficult goal, but we simply must have faith in ourselves and in our God.

Greece Beckons

Grab your passport and pack your bags to go with fellow church members and friends on the trip of a lifetime this October! Join Glen and Julie Miles and Scott Fuller and Lauren Weinhold as they tour Greece in the footsteps of Paul Oct. 8-18, 2013.



The trip will begin and conclude in Athens. Marvel at the ancient architecture of the Olympic Stadium, the Temple of Zeus, Hadrian's Arch and the Acropolis. We will continue the tour with stops in Delphi, Kalambaka, Meteora and Thessaloniki. To top it all off, we will enjoy a three-night cruise on the beautiful Aegean Sea with stops in Ephesus, Patmos, Heraklion, Crete and Santorini.

The tour is \$3,699 per person and includes airfare from Kansas City, accommodations at first-class hotels, most meals, comprehensive sight-seeing and top-notch guides. Travel arrangements are through NAWAS International, a tour company with over 63 years of travel experience.

For more information or to request an information packet, contact Glen Miles at glenm@cccckc.org or Lauren Weinhold at laurenw@cccckc.org. Completed reservation forms and a deposit of \$400 is due by May 15. Opa!

Upcoming Youth Events

CYF and Chi Rho Sunday Nights

5:30-7:30 p.m.

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us on Sunday evenings. Each Sunday of the month focuses on a different path designed to help youth transform lives and relationships through spiritual growth, express God's love in tangible ways, and experience the life changing love of God through fellowship and worship. During months when there are five Sundays, we'll use that evening for planning and feedback.

Mar. 31 – Happy Easter. Spend time with your family.

Occupy the Balcony

Coming April 28.

Prom Wear Collection for Southwest Early College Campus

Do you have gently worn prom dresses, men's suits, shoes and jewelry taking up space in your closet? This is the time to donate them. SECC is collecting donations for this year's prom boutique! Donations can be dropped off in the parlor through Thursday, April 4.

Chi Rho Mission Trip

This summer the 6th-8th graders will go to Indianapolis, IN, July 8-12 to work on justice projects including working with people who experience poverty and people who are striving to escape violence. This is a great opportunity to learn how to serve in a very direct way as well as be in a new city and have some fun! Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org.

CYF Mission Trip

CYF will travel to Chicago July 21-27 to continue working in the city with local organizations to address issues of homelessness, poverty and racial injustices. Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org.

Youth Mission Team in Nicaragua



The group of high school youth and adult sponsors traveled to Nicaragua from March 6-23. The work was primarily building relationships with a local primary school in Matagalpa as well as working on CEPAD's farm planting coffee, banana trees and even hanging out with a sloth! Members of the mission team from left to right (back row): Parker Hoffman, Justin Zeigler, Steven Miles, Graham Forman, Conner Ehman, Grant Forsee. Front row: Lucy Lehoczky, Carla Aday, MaKenna Lockhart, Charlotte Martinie, Zoe Ziegenhorn, Michaela O'Connor. Also pictured: Raul, his parents and his sister. Raul is a boy with a chronic severe illness who our congregation has supported by helping him and his parents to find appropriate medical care. In the years since we were first introduced to Raul, his condition has improved steadily.

Rose Garden Memorial Bricks Available

Honor your loved ones with an engraved memorial brick in the Rose Garden pathway. In addition to inurnment in the Columbarium or the scattering of ashes in the Rose Garden, engraved memorial bricks are available to past and present members and their immediate families.



Price is \$350 each and includes brick, imprinting and placement. Contact Chuck Murphy at 816-333-4917 or chuckm@cccckc.org for more information.



Easter People

by Catherine Stark-Corn, Minister to Children, Youth and Families



Cleaning is a loved and hated adventure in my house. I relish the feeling of all being refreshed and renewed. This year I am trying to be realistic and set aside chunks of time focused on specific projects. Needless to say, many are in limbo until we hit a little more spring like weather, but indoor projects are being tackled with umph.

Recently I was working on the bookshelf area where many of our family photo albums are housed. I began flipping through some of the ones when the boys were much younger. Easter egg hunts with friends; our cousins visiting for Easter; grandparents holding little ones in front of the church. So many special memories as I look back. I long to linger in those moments before I move on.

I wonder if I approach the mystery of Easter too much in that way – looking back on the act that revealed the transformative power of God’s new life in the world. Lingering in the awe-filled moments before I move on, back to daily life. It is so easy to be overwhelmed by what God did in the resurrection that we move past it – because how can we possibly make sense of this in our daily lives. How can we begin to live faithfully given the depth of love God reveals to human kind in Good Friday and Easter?

Words from Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann call us to live into Easter, saying:

It’s important, nonetheless, that we do not hold that moment back there, because Easter is always again an immediately contemporary reality. God’s power for life is always again being given in a world tempted to settle for deathliness. It is the power of death that leads to hostility toward neighbor, that evokes greed and rage and violence toward others. The Easter Lord, invites an Easter people to be about that defiant civil disobedience of new life in a weary, spent world.

This world needs us to be an Easter people in our daily lives – to live in the moment of God’s love in all that we do. May we live showing Christ is risen!

Catherine

Children and Families

Club Kids (3rd-5th Grade)

Mar. 31 – *No meeting*

Apr. 6-7 – **Annual Overnight at the Omaha Zoo.** We have just two spots left for the 3rd–5th grade overnight at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. We will leave from church Saturday (4/6) afternoon, travel to the zoo, spend the night in the JUNGLE and do activities. Sunday morning we will tour the zoo then head back to KC – returning mid-afternoon. Contact Catherine Stark-Corn to reserve your spot at catherinesc@cccckc.org.

Apr. 7 – *No meeting*

Apr. 14 – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Social Hall. Special Guest Dr. George Gordon will lead us in a paper airplane launch from the balcony! Don’t miss this evening of fun!

Fountains of Faith Sunday School

Sun., Apr. 7

1st–5th graders will be in a combined session exploring stewardship through a variety of activities.

First Steps

Sun., Apr. 7, 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Families with children 3 and under are invited to join with other families for informal fellowship and a chance to connect. Make time to come by the Play Zone, Room 215.

Tall Oaks Summer Camp

Summer is coming quickly and it is time to explore a day or overnight camp for 2013. The theme for this summer is *All Things New*. From day camps for children completing K- 2nd grades to overnight camps for children completing 2nd-5th grade, attending Tall Oaks Summer Camps is a great addition to summer. Check out the details at the camp website – www.talloaks.org.

Save the Date – Vacation Bible School

July 29 – Aug. 2. Watch for more details.

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Return Service Requested

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Dr. Brian Mathias Associate Organist
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Mr. Michael Patch, Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Catherine Stark- Corn Minister to Children, Youth and Families	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communica- tions
Rev. Chuck Murphy Minister of Congrega- tional Care	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth
Mr. Justin Zeigler Minister to Youth	

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

Virginia Reed Food Drive on April 21

On Sun., Apr. 21, 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."

Our Church Family

Memorials

Dan Weary
Greg & Nancy Lear

Capital Campaign Organ Restoration Fund
Jay Buehler

Kristin & Evan Patterson
Sharon & Tom VanDyke
Dolores Wylie
Sue & William Mayberry
Nancy & Greg Lear
Peggy & Carty Johannsen
Linda & Dick Nixon

Virginia Reed Food Drive
Virginia Reed

Marilyn & Jack Waller
Homesteaders
Paula Lane
Mary Linda McDonnell
Karen Kistner
John & Doris Soltys
Max & Sue Deweese
Robert & Shirley Legg
Michaila Prelogar
Robbie & Karen Robinson
Harvey & Dorothy Ray
Evan & Kristin Patterson
Jill Reynolds
Suella Calkins
Mary Orlofski
Linda & Neil Roadman
Cheryl & Charles Herbert
Jon & Linda Yeager
Hannah Fenley
Cynthia Pearson
Mary Kay McPhee & Bill Pfeiffer
Hampton Hubbard
Linda Reece
Lloyd & Betty Wilkerson
Asmeron & Patricia Mahari
Bill & Ruby Jane Scott
Greg & Nancy Lear
Linda & Dick Nixon