

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.*

Outreach Funds Help Near and Far

By Lance Jessee, Chair of the Outreach Council

Your Outreach dollars and hands help provide needed help here in the Kansas City area and in places like Afghanistan, Mozambique, Nicaragua and the Congo.

The Outreach Council and the Metro Mission Council are part of Country Club Christian Church's outreach ministry. Both receive funds from Endowment and the church budget. This fiscal year the Outreach Council received \$102,236 in undesignated funds and \$88,861 in restricted or designated funds. Metro Mission received \$15,897.

Metro Mission coordinates funding and volunteers for Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Micah Ministries, Collection Connection, Grace at Work, Hartman School, the Prison Book Ministry, the Tutoring Ministry and the Virginia Reed Food Drive. Metro Mission can be thought of as the hands-on part of our outreach beyond our own congregation. The work of Metro Mission would not be possible without dedicated and hard-working leaders and volunteers. Each of the ministries supported by Metro Mission was started by individuals wanting to make a difference and with a vision of how the church could help with that mission. Tom and Cindy Thornton are chairs of the Metro Mission Council and Rev. Carla Aday is the staff representative.



A women's microcredit and savings project with The Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo was a recipient of the special Easter offering.

The Outreach Council receives and analyzes grant requests from local charitable organizations and our Global Ministries partners overseas. During the past year funding was provided for 16 local charitable agencies, five Global Ministries projects, and our sponsored missionaries, Reverends Dawn and Jon Barnes. In addition, \$79,764 was provided to support our national denominational ministries. Members of the committee contact leaders of local organizations requesting grants and often visit the requesting organizations as well to get a sense of the work that the requesting agency is doing and to determine whether to recommend to the council that a grant be made. Not every request for funds is granted, and

often those that are granted funds only receive partial grants. The committee works hard to see that your outreach dollars are used wisely and prudently. The Outreach Council also selects recipients for and promotes the Christmas and Easter offerings. Lance Jessee is Chair of the Outreach Council and Dr. Glen Miles is the staff representative.

If you would like to become involved in either of these outreach ministries, or to just learn more about them you are invited to attend their regular meetings. The Outreach Council meets on the first Tuesday of the month, and Metro Mission meets bimonthly on the third Wednesday of the month.



New Landscape Master Plan

Guided by a group of members from the Green Team and the Design Team, the church is creating a new landscape master plan that will guide our landscaping for the next 10-20 years. The upcoming repairs to the church exterior require removal of much of the existing landscaping. Our last landscape master plan was done in 1989 and many of those plantings are showing age.



The master plan is being developed by the Landscape Architecture firm Vireo (formerly Patti Banks Associates), which is known for sustainable design.

A landscaping master plan goes beyond enhancing the beauty of our church. Perhaps you remember storm water running in the basement not long ago. Our landscape architect will create a plan for the great amount of water that comes from the roof of our church.

The team has asked for a plan that is sustainable – that means reduced watering, reduced mowing and trimming, and reduced overall maintenance. Existing plants will be kept if possible, transplanted and thinned as needed. Further “recycling” is planned by reusing broken architectural elements from the building repair into a gargoyle garden.

The landscaping will remain classic and respectful of the beautiful architecture of the church. We hope the new plan makes the landscaping not only inviting to wildlife but helps the church welcome neighbors and the surrounding neighborhood.

Infant Dedication



Sylvia Castile Johanssen with her parents Meredith Castile and Cree Johanssen

Steve Mason's Residency Concluding

Rev. Steve Mason's two-year pastoral residency with Country Club Christian Church concludes at the end of June. Steve's position was made possible through a generous grant from Vanderbilt Divinity School and an educational fund in the church endowment.



Both Steve and Country Club Christian Church were selected for this unique program called the Congregational Immersion Project. The purpose of the program is to create a positive transition into ministry for outstanding new graduates from Divinity School. Country Club Christian Church was invited to become a teaching congregation and Steve was selected for his outstanding academic and leadership record.

Please help us thank Steve for his service by joining us in worship on Sun., June 24. Steve will be preaching at all three worship services that day. Cards and farewell greetings may be given to Steve at the Ice Cream Social, which is being held in the Social Hall following the 11:00 a.m. service that day. In addition, a Love Gift is being collected to honor Steve's work here. If you would like to contribute, please mark your check “Steve Mason Love Gift” and mail or deliver it to the church office.

The ministry areas Steve currently oversees, including Singles and Young Adult ministries will be assigned to other staff members.

Steve is currently seeking a full-time clergy position through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) search and call process.



Sin Boldly!

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



A young man visited the great theologian, Martin Luther. This man was worried that he may be committing a sin without knowing it. He was concerned that he may be sent to eternal fire for something he didn't even realize he was doing wrong. This poor guy had almost no faith. He lived in fear. Luther could hardly contain himself. He looked right at him and said, "SIN BOLDLY MY SON, SIN BOLDLY!"

What is Luther's point? A life lived in fear of committing some little sin is no life at all. Lu-

ther, like Jesus, wants us to see that God is not some heavenly bookkeeper, sitting with pencil sharpened, keeping track of every little slip up. Luther's command to sin boldly was not a direction to live immorally but rather an invitation to live life to its fullest.

Back in my youth ministry days I told that story in the pulpit. A mom, whose obnoxious little 11 year old was a member of our Christian Kids Fellowship, did not like the story. She complained and said, "You've given Johnny permission to sin." I said, "Up to this point in his life Johnny has not needed my permission to be a brat!"

The grace of God is not heavenly permission to live a life of immorality. It is a call to live as the one that God created us to be. It is a sign that God will go after us, chase us down if necessary, even in the midst of sin, just to tell us that we are loved.

Kathleen Norris, author of the book, *Amazing Grace*, isn't so sure that we want a God like this. She writes:

"One so often hears people say, 'I just can't handle it,' when they reject a biblical image of God as Father, as Mother, as Lord or Judge; God as Lover, as angry or jealous, God on a cross. I find this choice of words revealing, however real the pain they reflect: if we seek a God we can 'handle,' that will be exactly what we get. A God we can manipulate, suspiciously like ourselves, the wideness of whose mercy we've cut down to size."

She's right. We don't need a safe God. We need one who is larger and holier than ourselves. Maybe, when we live in faith and not fear, we will discover the blessing that is waiting for all of us.

Have You Turned in Your Pledge Card?

We are still collecting your Pledge Cards for the 2012-2013

Strengthen our Foundation Stewardship Campaign. If you have not yet turned in your card, please drop it in the offering tray today, or bring it to the church office at your convenience.

Beginning this week, follow-up calls will be made to households which have not yet turned in pledge cards.



Worship with us!

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

June 10

Getting Carried Away
Mark 3:19b-30

June 17

Just A Church
Mark 4:26-34

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Virginia Reed Food Drive on June 17

On Sun., June 17, please bring your nonperishable food items for our collection for local food pantries that serve the homeless and hungry. Vans will be in the parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the barrels located at the east and north doors. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

Annual More² Imagine! Banquet is June 14

MORE², the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity, will celebrate with its annual Imagine! Banquet on Thur., June 14, at 6:00 p.m. at the Reardon Civic Center. Imagine! is an opportunity to acknowledge the successes of the past year and look into the future. Tickets to the banquet are \$60.00 each. Contact Bev Johnson at 913-942-3248 or Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for information.

This year the theme is Imagine: Bringing the Fire of our Faith to the Table. Rev. Johnny Ray Youngblood, senior pastor at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, will be speaker. Rev. Youngblood is founder of Brooklyn Congregations Together and the Brooklyn Chapter of SCLC. He has been recognized as one of the 10 most influential New Yorkers.

Country Club Christian Church was an initiating member when MORE² was established as a regional equity organization.

Haiti Mission Trip

If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Haiti Nov. 1-7, contact Julia Walker, trip coordinator, at juya213@yahoo.com, for more information. A \$100 deposit will hold your spot for the trip. Dr. Glen Miles is the staff leader.

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 from Nicaragua. The proceeds go to Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world.

Or you can 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.

Honor Loved Ones With Radio Broadcast Sponsorship

Each Sunday you can hear a broadcast of the previous week's sermon at 8:30 a.m. on 1660 AM. Now, you can honor a loved one by dedicating sponsorship of a broadcast to her or him. The cost of the broadcast is \$200 per week. You may either underwrite the entire cost or partially as you are able. Contact Rob Gilkerson at 816-333-4917 or robg@cccckc.org for more information.



Grain and Fruit, Bread and Wine

by Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator



Do you ever get that epiphany that seems to connect so many of the dots for you? It may even be common sense to someone else, but it offers you clarity.

Working for a church I seem to have one every few months. Working side-by-side with so many smart clergy I feel inferior and humbled by my knowledge of the Bible weekly. Recently, I had one of these epiphanies and thought I would share with you. You will not be surprised it, as usual, has to do with my favorite subject, stewardship.

The Bible refers to giving your first fruits and best of harvest to an extent that it seems obsessed with agriculture. Often these references are used for stewardship lessons. These are great illustrations because we can connect them easily with God and being a steward of God's gifts, and how we easily give these gifts back to God and to do ministry. However, I have always wondered what does God do with the pile of fruit and grain we put up? So, here was my epiphany.

Bread and wine are the elements of communion. Jesus first offered these elements to his followers, and since then the elements have become a cornerstone of worship and of becoming a Christian.

Where do the wine and bread come from? Perhaps it is our finest harvest. I would personally like to think that the elements of communion are made from the finest ingredients that we have given to God. I know that every time I take communion, I receive the best that God gives.

A small, square, light-colored box containing the handwritten signature "Rob" in blue ink.

Celebration of Service Week Culminates in Ice Cream Social Sun., June 24, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

This year the church will observe "Celebration of Service Week" from June 18-24. During this week, we will thank the servants and leaders of the church's various council or ministry areas. At the conclusion of the week, on Sun., June 24, the church will join together in celebrating our church members' service to God and neighbor during the annual Ice Cream Social from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. This event will feature complimentary hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, Foos' custard and toppings, and the ever-popular balloon artist. As we celebrate together the great ministry that we share, we will pause to honor our outgoing chairpersons of the Elders and Congregational Board and welcome our incoming Chair of the Congregational Board and Chair of Elders.

Community Camp Kansas City Happening in June

Wednesday evenings in June

Community Camp Kansas City continues June 13 on the east lawn. Families with children of all ages are invited to gatherings of fellowship and fun on Wednesday evenings in June – 13, 20, 27. Dinner will be served from 6:00-6:30 p.m. followed by activities for children, youth, and adults. Suggested donation is \$3 for kids and \$4 for adults. Each Wednesday night features a different fun activity including Magic Bob, inflatables, water games and a petting zoo. This time of intergenerational fellowship is inspired by the annual Community Camp in Estes Park, but closer to home!



Pathways to Learning Presentation by Mayor Sly James



The Pathways to Learning series “City of God,” which focused on poverty in the city and how we can faithfully address poverty to build up greater Kansas City, concluded May 27 with a presentation by Kansas City Mayor Sly James.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sun., June 10 – Chi Rho To Schlitterbahn Water Park. We will leave church at noon.

Wed., June 20-Thurs., June 21 – CYF Lock-In. Watch for details.

CYF Mission Trip

Join your fellow youth Sun., July 15-Sat., July 21 in Chicago, IL, as we “Walk, Love, Do” in the windy city. We will continue to work with organizations that have helped us serve the hungry. Cost is \$350. RSVP to Justin at justinz@cccckc.org ASAP.

Chi Rho Mission Trip

Join your fellow youth Sun., June 24-Thurs., June 28 in St. Louis, MO. Be part of “Walk, Love, Do” as we work with organizations that help end hunger and violence in people’s homes. Cost is \$250. RSVP to Justin at justinz@cccckc.org ASAP.

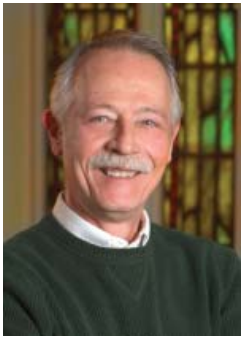
Justin’s Blog

Justin is blogging about a new faith practice every month. A “faith practice” is incorporating something into daily life that helps us see God in the world. Every month Justin will notify youth and families of what his new faith practice will be and asks that others follow his blog and help keep him accountable in his journey. Find Justin’s blog on the church website (www.cccckc.org).



Invitation to the Dance

by David Diebold, Minister of Music



It is hard to believe that the summer schedule is almost upon us. Soon, the choirs will begin shortened or no rehearsals, vacations will begin, and we'll be complaining about the heat again. If you are in town during the summer you probably will plan some day trips, attend Starlight or find something new to fill the time in relaxing ways. There is something new this summer at Country Club Christian Church and I believe many of you will want to add it you list of to-dos.

I'm sure you have all heard of Summerfest. They are a group of extraordinary musicians that perform chamber music on weekends through July. This year, I am pleased to announce that the Sunday afternoon venue for their weekly concerts will be our own Sanctuary.

The music for this year's series is related to dance in some way and each program has been expertly crafted to include not only diversity of instrumentation, but also musical styles. Having worked with many of the musicians at various times I know that these are the best of the best and am excited about the musical delights this season will bring. For those of you that are interested, I have their program brochure in my office, complete with works to be performed.

Summerfest concerts will begin at 5:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary on July 8, 15, 22 and 29. Tickets are available through their web site (www.summerfestkc.org) or through the Central Ticket office (816-235-6222).

I know a number of you are already supporters of this wonderful musical series. I hope more of you will decide to get out of the heat and plan an extraordinary experience with Summerfest.

David

Children and Families

Vacation Bible School

July 23-27, 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Make plans to attend our annual summer VBS. This year the theme is *SonSurf Beach Bash*. We will learn about various parts of Jesus' life and how we can seek to live in God's way.



For ages 4 years old-5th grade (completed in May 2012). Registration forms for participants and volunteers are online at www.cccckc.org or on the second floor in the Children's Wing.

Summer Outreach

Don't miss out! Join us in helping feed those in need through volunteering at Harvesters this summer. Kids ages 6 through 5th grade are welcome.

Fri., June 15, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Sat., July 14, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Spots are limited, so RSVP soon to Karla Herrington at karlah@cccckc.org.

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Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

Sympathy

DONNA WELLS passed away May 29. Services were June 2 in Combs Chapel, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

Memorials

Bonnie Veskerna

Payton & Carole Sher
Judith Hunt
Susan Carpenter

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Karla Herrington Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Rev. Steve Mason Pastoral Resident
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Mr. Brian Mathias Associate Organist
Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn Minister to Children, Youth and Families	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. Chuck Murphy Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Laine Riley Associate Director of Music
Mr. Justin Zeigler Minister to Youth	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. Rob Gilkerson Business Administrator	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth

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