



VOLUME 86 · NUMBER 16

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.*

Join Us on Festival Sunday!

Festival Sunday, the day we kick off a new church year of spiritual growth opportunities, is Sun., Aug. 19!

Join us for all the fun, including:

- Dr. Glen Miles' sermon that day is entitled *Where Hope is Alive*.
- Lunch, games and activities on the lawn.
- Bible presentations to our incoming third graders at 11:00 a.m.
- Reunite with your Sunday School class
- Sign up for fall classes and events.
- Children and youth will advance to the next Sunday School grade level.

Invite Friends and Family

Festival Sunday is a great day to invite your friends and family to join us. See page 2 for tips on how to invite a friend to church.

Vacation Bible School Filled the Halls

Nearly 70 children overflowed the church July 23-27 when they gathered for SonSurf Beach Bash. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make VBS a great experience for the children. From sand candles to prayer flags to story telling we had a range of experiences. We are particularly proud of all the ways the groups served – rolling silverware, making cookies and designing placemats for Micah Ministry; creating gifts for first time visitors to our church; making new supplies for the worship bags and our 3rd – 5th graders served at Harvesters and visited Brighton Gardens – all reaching out in the name of God.



Inviting Family and Friends to Festival Sunday

Not sure how to invite someone to church? Try these tips:

1. Offer to pick them up. Walking into a new church is much easier with someone who knows where to go and what to do. And carpooling will help with busy parking.
2. Let them know about service opportunities like Grace at Work (which is Sept. 15, by the way).
3. If you have kids, make sure they know our children will be singing in worship that day.
4. Mention the food!
5. Make sure they know all are welcome, regardless of race, sexual orientation, faith background, or economic status.
6. Tell them about Glen's great preaching, the choirs' fantastic music, and most of all, tell them about the grace of God that is offered to all.

Give it a try! Invite a friend or family member to the festivities on Festival Sunday and you could win your very own parking spot at the church for three months. When your guest writes your name in the "How Did You Hear About Us" box on the friendship register, your name will be entered in a drawing for the parking space! The more folks you invite, the more times your name will be in the drawing box.

Members of our church invite friends to worship each week. Below, the Roses and the Lears share their stories on inviting, and being invited.

From Amy and Jared Rose: *While attending an event at the home of Steve and Andrea Bough, we were fortunate to meet Greg and Nancy Lear. We mentioned that we had been "church shopping" in that first year of living in Kansas City. Greg and Nancy spoke fondly of the church they attended and mentioned that we might also feel at home there. Five minutes later, the Boughs heard this and echoed the invitation. A few minutes later Carla Aday introduced herself as a pastor at the aforementioned church and warmly invited us again. A few days later we received a follow-up card from Carla in the mail and decided that if all of these folks love it so much, we have to go and see what all the fuss is about. Four years later we are just as enthusiastic as those who invited us.*

From Nancy and Greg Lear: *At a gathering hosted by Andrea and Steve Bough, at which most of the attendees were strangers to Greg and me, we met and started talking to Amy and Jared. In the course of our conversation, they mentioned that they were looking for a church, but hadn't found one that worked for them. As we talked more, it sounded like many of the things they were looking for, both programs and theology, were things we offer at Country Club Christian Church. We talked about the programs and community that our congregation offers, as well as about the general beliefs of our denomination. We talked about how the church has been a wonderful, life-supporting experience for our family. We invited them to attend a service and see for themselves. We were delighted to see them, along with their son, Carter, at church the following Sunday and welcomed them enthusiastically. It wasn't long before they had become valued members of our congregation.*

New Members



Crystal Hardwick and Jason Bandy
New Member Hosts: Jen and Jayson Parker



Anne Phillion and Bret Clark
New Member Hosts: Jillian Woodford and Jonathan Wasson



When Life Is Difficult

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Peter wrote to the early church, “rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.”

I do not normally put rejoice and suffering in the same sentence. But there is a serious lesson for us here.

A Presbyterian preacher told his congregation that “one suffers well not by acting brave or pretending it doesn’t hurt...one suffers well by suffering honestly.” Those are the words of a good pastor. He knows that the primary way to healing is to follow the truth even when the truth is very difficult to comprehend and even harder to face.

Not long ago I visited a member of our congregation in the hospital. The patient was asleep. I quietly left a note on the table next to the phone. On the other side of the curtain I heard a voice say, “Please God, please help, please.” I did not know the patient on the other side but I could hear the desperation in that plaintive cry, “Please...” He’s got God by the lapels and he is begging for the suffering to end.

If we are able to be honest in our suffering we can find new hope in ways we never thought possible. Think of all that we experience in our lives: marriages, families, careers, communities. Now think of the time in each of those that you grew the most. I’ll bet you a dollar that you are thinking about times when things were tough. In that experience you discovered something new. In that low time, that valley, you found that there is a way to live that transcends the pain and suffering.

There are plenty of dishonest claims being made about what it means to follow Christ. Turn on the TV and you’ll be able to find a preacher who offers following Jesus as a sort of get-out-of-suffering savior. They’ll tell you that Jesus is the way to be healthy and wealthy. Fred Craddock calls this a “Gospel of painless success and uninterrupted smiles.”

We are not promised an escape from this world and the pain that comes with life. We are given instead the very presence of God in all that we experience. That may not be what we want but in the long run it is what we need.

Grace and peace to you,

Visitor Information Seminar on August 11

You’re invited to the Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Aug. 11 from 8:45-11:30 a.m. Learn more about our history as a denomination and as a church and discover the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Our ministers will be on hand to talk about the church’s ministries and how you can get involved. Ask questions, enjoy breakfast and meet the church’s lay leaders. Then, if you’re ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Sept. 9**. For more information or to reserve your spot at the seminar, please contact Lauren Weinholt, Director of Church Growth, at laurenw@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Worship with us!

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

Aug. 5
The One Thing
Ephesians 4:1-16

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

CAYA Class Moves to Monday Nights

Are you a young adult looking for a way to get connected at church? CAYA, an acronym for Come As You Are, is the church's group for young adults ages 23-33. CAYA is composed of members with different backgrounds and a variety of occupations who come together to continue their journey of faith. This fall CAYA is kicking off a new format. Beginning Aug. 20, the group will meet on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. to explore new ways to practice faith and see God in everyday life through discussion and reflection on a new practice. CAYA welcomes you to Come As You Are and join us as we become closer to each other while becoming closer to God. Email us at countryclubchristian.caya@gmail.com for more information.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on August 19

On Sun., Aug. 19, 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."

2013 Mission Trip to Joplin

Country Club Christian Church will be sending a mission team to Joplin, MO, again next year. 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.

Follow Us on Facebook



Are you a fan of Country Club Christian Church on Facebook? The church's Facebook page includes photos, information and an option for you to leave messages. You can sign up to be a follower if you have a Facebook account. If you don't have an account, you can create a free one. The church already has more than 500 people following us on Facebook. Join the fun. Just go to www.facebook.com.

Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed course designed to help you discover the keys to successful and productive communication in your family, work and social relationships. The class teaches talking, listening and conflict resolution skills that equip couples in building a stronger relationship. Research shows that couples who learn these skills early in marriage increase their chances of having a lasting and deeply satisfying marriage. We offer this course because we are committed to reducing the staggering divorce rate (54 percent of all first marriages fail; 20 percent of those within the first two years).

The next Couple Communication class is being offered in two four-hour segments on Aug. 11 and 18. We will meet at the church from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. each Saturday. If you are interested in attending the next two-part session please contact Lauren Weinholt at laurenw@cccckc.org.



Green Church

by Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator



Since joining the church staff a little over a year ago I have had a great time meeting lots of wonderful people. I also have had the honor of working with lots of great groups. One of these groups is the Green Team. I recently led a workshop on Waste Management for the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of Kansas City. During this workshop it was apparent how Country Club Christian Church is among only a few churches that are leading the way on stewardship of our earth and resources.

What is the Green Team? The Green Team is Country Club Christian Church's committee overseeing our congregation's efforts to be friendlier to the environment. They are not just a group of people who lead our church's recycling effort, although they were a part of the decision to increase our efforts in that area and save the church over \$5,000 a year on waste disposal. They also brought in the reusable coffee mugs that many of us use to help not only produce less waste, but yet again save us more of that green we put in our wallets.

The Green Team is the same group of people who look over the green, red, blue, yellow and all of the beautiful colors found in the landscaping. Many of the gardens, beyond making the church beautiful, serve a greater purpose of producing food for our neighbors for whom hunger is a real issue.

These are just a few items the Green Team is doing. I would love to share more about their classes on mulching, canning, rain gardens and the many other programs that they are doing. We just do not have enough room in the newsletter. The Green Team is only one of the many ministries that could not describe or list all that they do on one page. I am proud to be a part of the staff that gets to work with lots of great people to make a difference.

Grace at Work Is September 15

Please join us Sat., Sept. 15 for our fifth Grace at Work event. Many hands will make for light work and a great impact in our community! A few hours of service can make a difference at a local organization in Kansas City or even complete projects right here at Country Club Christian Church. Grace at Work is a wonderful opportunity to make a short time commitment of service that results in a widespread impact in Kansas City. It offers a unique occasion for rewarding fellowship and service that you will not want to miss. Watch for sign-ups later this month.

New Conversation Group For College Aged People

"You Can't Say that at Church!" is a conversation group that will meet every other Thursday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. beginning Aug. 23. We will (respectfully) cover topics in the news, "hot button" issues, and anything else we want to talk about. Location TBA. If you have any questions please contact Justin at justinz@cccckc.org.

Summer Collection Connection

School Supplies for Don Bosco

According to the National Retail Federation, the average family spends approximately \$98 on school supplies for every school-aged child. For a family already struggling financially, preparing children for the school year can be a large financial burden. This month we are collecting school supplies for the Don Bosco "Project Yes!" program.

While all school supplies are needed, "Project Yes!" typically runs low on the following items:

- kindergarten writing tablets
- beginner pencils
- facial tissue
- index notecards
- highlighters
- protractors
- binders
- loose-leaf paper
- backpacks
- pencil box

Please place your donations in the basket in the Parlor. With your help, Don Bosco will ensure that the community's youth are prepared for the upcoming school year.

2012 Tall Oaks Gala Is October 19

Tall Oaks Conference Center's 15th annual gala fundraiser, Tall Oaks Gala MMXII, will be at Arrowhead Stadium. All fans can rally to help by bringing auction donations, making a reservation and coming prepared to make a cash donation.



The event is Fri., Oct. 19, and begins with stadium tours at 5:30 p.m. Fellowship time and silent auction begin at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 7:45 p.m. followed by a spirited live auction at 9:00 p.m. Stadium tours cost \$10 per person. Tickets for the dinner are \$90 per person, \$720 to host a table of 8, or \$1,000 to sponsor a table of 8, or guests can become an All-Pro sponsor at \$1,200 for a table of 8. Tables of 10 are available on request.

Auction donations are greatly appreciated as well. Auction items that are record-breakers are gift certificates, arts, crafts, sporting events, theme baskets, labors of love, travel and entertainment tickets, and cash donations. All donations are tax deductible. Contact our Tall Oaks Ambassador Vicki Lopatofsky at 913-908-1048 or vicki@billsoft.com with donation questions. For dinner reservations, contact Ken Mohler at kmohler@swbell.net or 816-444-1553.

Upcoming Youth Events

Sundays, July 29 – ReStart. We will go to ReStart, a ministry that serves the homeless population in Kansas City. Meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. to get a ride to help this ministry. RSVP to Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

Spring Break Mission Trip

All youth in grades 10-12 for the 2012-2013 school year are invited to participate in a mission trip to Nicaragua over spring break 2013. The dates are Mar. 17-24. The cost is \$1,475 per person with help from fundraisers through the next year to bring the cost down. Anyone who is interested, please contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

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).



Enough Is Enough

by Justin Zeigler, Minister to Youth



I'm leaving for vacation next week. I'm excited, but before I go I have a very long to-do list. I walked into my office Monday morning with a terrible feeling that there wasn't going to be enough time. That is when I read a post on facebook written by Amy Gopp, director of Week of Compassion: "I NEVER ceased to be amazed at this simple concept: there is enough. There is really, truly, already ENOUGH on this earth for us all. The objective for us is to get that ENOUGH to those who need it."

I think it's time, as Christians, that we realize that we trust in a God of abundance and try to live that way.

One of my favorite Bible verses is "God is Love." The love that is God is wide and abundant and capable of embracing all of creation. With this knowledge it should be simple to love all people, to share all that we have, and to accept the fact that we ourselves are loved. It should be simple but, there is never enough in the bank account to be "rich." We don't have enough time to be engaged in relationship with those that we consider enemies. We are never good enough to be loved.

Maybe we are the ones that need to hear Amy's words "there is really, truly, already ENOUGH on this earth for us all." There is enough love for us all. There are enough resources to feed everyone, there is enough time to understand those who are our enemies, there is enough grace for us. There is even enough time for me to write this article and leave for vacation on time.

This widely abundant God that we worship has enough for all of creation. It is our task to realize this, cherish it, and share it.

Peace and grace,

Children and Families Fountains of Faith Sunday School

Holy Moly

1st – 5th graders are exploring Old Testament characters through a series called Holy Moly. This 'Bible brought to life' series will help the children become familiar with key stories which connect to our faith foundations. Our final two sessions in the series will look at Jacob and Joseph. Join us at 9:55 a.m. on the second floor.

Worship and Wonder (3 1/2 yrs - Kindergarten)

Both Worship and Wonder classes will gather in Room 210 for Sunday School on Aug. 5 and 12. After hearing the story, classes will break back into separate rooms for work time and feast.

Festival Sunday

Shepherd Sunday - August 19

We will return to our full Sunday School rotation on Sun., Aug. 19. We will reconnect with our Shepherds and return to our grade level groupings.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, August 19

11:00 am Worship Service

Children beginning third grade will be presented with a Bible as a gift from the congregation on Festival Sunday. This special celebration is open to any of our incoming third graders. If you have not received information and are eligible (by grade level) to participate please contact Heather Rotter, heatherr@cccckc.org

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Our Church Family

Sympathy

ELIZABETH RICH passed away July 23. She is survived by her three children, Xavier, Emil and Adrian Fleming. The service was Aug. 1 in Combs Chapel, Rev. Chuck Murphy officiated.

BEVERLY LOREE CHRISTIE passed away July 28. She was the mother of Karen Sherbondy. Services were Aug. 1 at Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory.

Memorials

John Tilton

Tri C's Class

Bonnie Veskerna

Victoria Rhoades

John J. Turley

Tom & Eloise Kipp

Dr. Glade & Mrs. Ann Whitworth

Larry & Jeanie Snider

Thomas & Rhetta Johnston

Ken Young

Robert & Barbara Garrity

Jean Messplay

Mary Anne Kretsinger

Aileene Embrey

Scott & Susan Hinderks

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

Rev. Chuck Murphy
Minister of Congregational
Care

Mr. Justin Zeigler
Minister to Youth

Mr. Rob Gilkerson
Business Administrator

Ms. Karla Herrington
Director of Children's
Ministries

Mr. Brian Mathias
Associate Organist

Ms. Lisa McCleish
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Ms. Laine Riley
Associate Director of Music

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