



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.*

New Sermon Series Starts in January

What God Wants to Know

Inspired by the book *What God Wants to Know*, by Bruce Larson, this sermon series will take a look at the questions God asks throughout scripture, looking deeply into the heart of these questions in order to find new and contemporary ideas for us today.

Jan. 5 – Where Are You?, Genesis 3:8-11

Jan. 12 – Do You Want to be Well? John 5:1-9

Jan. 19 – What Do You Want Me to Do For You? Mark 10:46-52

Jan. 26 – Why Are You So Afraid? Mark 4:35-40

Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

New Faithbook Session Begins January 7 and 8

More than 60 women ages 25-65 are participating in this faith formation group. Any women interested in joining in the discussion are invited to come to the next session, starting Jan. 8/9 or sign up by calling 816-333-4917. Join us to explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey as we listen to a brief Bible presentation and then share reflections in guided small groups. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. OR Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Pick the time frame that works best for your schedule. Led by Rev. Carla Aday.

Tues., 7:00-8:00 p.m., Jan. 7-Apr. 22.

Wed., 9:00-10:00 a.m., Jan. 8-Apr. 23.

No classes held the week of Spring Break (Mar. 18 and 19).

Apr. 29 – Closing Dinner

Apr. 30 – Closing Coffee

Sign up with Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@ccccc.org or 816-333-4917.

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. Winter session led by Dr. Nancy Howell, professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion at St. Paul School of Theology. Book is *On the Mystery* by

Continued on page 2.

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 on Thur., Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m., in the Social Hall. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report.



Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

Continued from page 1.

Catherine Keller, available in The Well. Thursdays, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Enneagram

Dr. George Gordon, Minister Emeritus of Congregational Care, will lead this session that explores the nine ways that we obstruct our relationships with ourselves, with others and with God and the nine virtues or “gifts of the spirit” into which they can be transformed.

Thursdays, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 7:00-8:45 p.m.

Sign Up Now

Reserve your spot in the group of your choice by contacting Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Reel Faith

Watch a movie, 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. Two opportunities – Sun., Jan. 26, or May 4, 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for movie titles or to sign up.

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 Weinhold. 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.

Pathways to Learning in February



The Changing Face of Christianity

Sun., Feb. 2 – Bill Tammeus, author and the former Faith columnist for The Kansas City Star.

Feb. 9, 16, 23 – Speakers to be announced.

9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall

Coming later this spring:

Do you know your Urban IQ? Speakers to be announced.

Sundays, June 1 and 8, 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communications skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free; for those not married at the church, the fee is \$35. Mondays, Feb. 17 -Mar. 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Lauren Weinhold at laurenw@cccckc.org.

Visitor Information Luncheon on January 26

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., Jan. 26, from 12:15-1:45 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.



Let Us Go

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



According to the lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings for preaching and worship, the scripture for New Year’s Day is Luke 2: 15-21. If you were in worship on Christmas Eve, you know doubt heard this text read. It is the shepherds’ response to the angelic message that the messiah is born this day.

The shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now...”

I’ve read this text a few dozen times, at least, but until now I had not been struck by the power of those simple words, “Let us go.” What an amazing reaction. Consider the moment before the angelic host appears. They are out with their sheep. They are not waiting for something amazing to happen. They are not praying for God to step into their lives and turn things around. They’re just doing their jobs, minding their own business, when out of nowhere a heavenly army appears.

Luke’s story tells us that they were terrified. That is understandable. But they refuse to let their terror define their next steps. They listen to the words of the angel. They pay attention to the signs that the angel notes that they will see. When the experience is over, they go.

Think for a moment about how often you have been held back by fear or worry when a new opportunity comes to you. Consider how you’ve been held back by concerns over the changes that you know in your gut need to be made in your everyday life but you resist because change is just too inconvenient.

In my life, when the Spirit is sending me in a new a direction, I too often want to overanalyze the situation. Paralysis by analysis is a cliched saying but in my life, and maybe yours, too, it often becomes an easy route to take to avoid facing the truth of whatever God is inviting me to see.

After visiting the child, the shepherds returned. After all, they still had work to do. There were sheep that needed tending. No doubt one or more of the simple-minded animals had wandered away and needed to be found. In some ways, nothing had changed. Their everyday lives looked like they did before.

Except that now they were “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen...” Maybe that is the key to finding a life that matters. Maybe what we need more than anything else is the ability, in our basic routine lives, to hear the angels, to see the holy and to praise the One who knows each of us by name.

Grace and peace to you,

New Member Sunday February 2

While the process is simple, the act of joining a faith community is not a simplistic one. Knowing that faith is relational and that one’s experience is enhanced by deeper connections, we expect that all members will make attending worship a priority, that they will find ways to get involved in a class, volunteer initiative or council, and will make a financial commitment to the church. All new members are paired with a New Member Host who will help them get and stay connected and navigate their spiritual journey. The next opportunity will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Feb. 2. Contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Worship with us!

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

What God Wants to Know

Jan. 5

Where Are You?
Genesis 3:8-11

Jan. 12

Do You Want to be Well?
John 5:1-9

Jan. 19

What Do You Want Me
to Do For You?
Mark 10:46-52

Jan. 26

Why Are You So Afraid?
Mark 4:35-40

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Lunch Bunch Features Bill Tammeus



Bill Tammeus, author and the former Faith columnist for The Kansas City Star, will be the speaker at The Lunch Bunch on Tues., Jan. 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. His topic is “Who’s Afraid of Other Religions” about why interfaith dialogue and understanding is crucial today.

Bill currently writes the daily “Faith Matters” blog, a monthly column for The Presbyterian Outlook and a biweekly column for The National Catholic Reporter. Bill was a member of the Star staff that won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. His many other awards include several from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists and the American Academy of Religion, in addition to receiving the 2005 Wilbur Award given each year to the best religion column in the country. He received the David Steele Distinguished Writer Award from the Presbyterian Writers Guild in 2003 and is the author of *A Gift of Meaning*, published in 2001, and co-author of *They Were Just People: Stories of Rescue in Poland During the Holocaust*, published in 2009.

Cost for the luncheon is \$8.50 per person (\$5 without lunch). RSVP to Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Sign Up for 2014 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2014 camp will be Aug. 2-9. For many years, families and individuals from our congregation have gathered for a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge with lovely mountain views and enjoys home-cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. If you don’t like to camp but you love the mountains, this is the place for you. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable desposit will hold your place. 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.



Save the Date for Grace at Work

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.

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.



Instead of a New Year's Resolution

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



Anne Lamott says that she used to start diets on New Year's Day, and that when she mentioned it to her therapist, the therapist would say cheerfully, "Oh, that's great, honey. How much weight are you hoping to gain?"

We all have the best of intentions on Jan. 1. An old year comes to a close; there's a new beginning in front of us. We make resolutions, we set goals. We have big plans. But if you're like me, by mid-January the real world has already begun to conspire against you. The stomach flu prevents you from working out with your new trainer. A bout of insomnia keeps you from getting enough rest. Your new vegetable juicer breaks. Your preferred yoga teacher changes studios.

Suddenly it's Feb. 1 and you realize the changes you hoped to make are slipping away from you.

For this reason, I gave up making New Year's resolutions many years ago. But, I still think it's a good idea to take a look at where you are and where you're going with some perspective.

Anne says, "Maybe some of us will eat a bit less, and walk a bit more, and make sure to wear pants that do not hurt our thighs or our feelings. Drinking more water is the solution to almost all problems."

I hope that as you consider where you are and where you're going in early 2014, you'll include spiritual growth in your assessment. But instead of resolving to come to worship more often, perhaps you could think about the things that make church meaningful for you, and how you might more fully immerse yourself in those elements of church life.

Instead of setting unrealistic goals for how often you'll volunteer this year, perhaps you might reflect on the most spiritually gratifying experiences you've had, and consider how you might share those with others.

Instead of signing up for more Bible study classes, perhaps you could share the warm support you've received from your church family with someone else in need of such a community.

This year, instead of keeping the beauty and wonder of Country Club Christian Church to yourself, I hope you will share our message of God's grace and love for all people with those who could use a word of hope.

Wishing you strength for your journey and grace for your soul in 2014.

Lara

Nicaragua Mission Trip

A few spaces remain for our mission trip to Nicaragua on Feb. 22-Mar. 2, 2014. Our team will partner with the poorest of the poor to conduct medical clinics and assist with construction projects in a rural community. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org for information.

2014 Mission Trip to Joplin

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



2013 Mission Team

Mark your calendars for May 18-23, 2014. 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.

Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction

Save the date for Country Club Christian Church's 4th annual celebration dinner and auction on Sat., Mar. 29.

Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events

Jan. 5 – New Year’s Resolutions. Adding to or giving up? We’ll talk about our hopes and dreams for the new year and create a wordle to represent our vision for 2014. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Jan. 12 – Fireside Chat. As we reIMAGINE our Youth Ministry, we want to hear from you. Join us to talk with other youth and children’s families and staff about what we are doing well and what we can improve. This month’s focus will be the youth and children’s musical and youth mission trips. We will meet from 12:15-1:00 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Jan. 12 – Golden Globes Watch Party. Are you planning to watch Tina Fey and Amy Poehler laugh it up on this year’s Golden Globes? It’s always more fun to watch with friends! Join us for popcorn and laughs as we watch this year’s Golden Globes during Youth Group. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Jan. 19 – Invisible Child: Dasani’s Homeless Life. A recent piece came out in the New York Times which followed a young girl in New York City. The poignant story will make us think about where this might exist in our city and what we can do. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Jan. 26 – Share Your Story. Shelle Jensen will be here to share a part of her faith journey and talk about her work with CASA. We know and love Shelle! Get to know her even better on this night! 5:30-7:30 p.m.

High School Lock-In

Let’s pull an all-nighter! Save the date for an all-night lock-in here at church. Feb. 7-8

Family Night at Micah

Youth families are invited every second Monday of the month to serve together at Independence Boulevard Christian Church in their Micah Ministry. The next opportunity will be Jan. 13.

Summer Mission Trips

This is a great opportunity to serve in a very direct way as well as be in a new city and have some fun! Middle School – June 22-26, 2014; High School – July 13-19, 2014. Watch for more information. Come to the Fireside Chat on Jan. 12 to talk about mission trips.

Children, Youth and Families Assessment

We value the children and youth of our church, and we are committed to building meaningful and sustainable youth and children’s ministries. That’s why we are developing a game plan together. On Feb. 15-18, 2014, representatives from Ministry Architects will be here to visit with groups from a broad spectrum of parents, volunteers, staff and people who just love our young people. The visit will culminate in a report including our assets, challenges, and how we compare to children’s ministries around the country, as well as specific recommendations for how to move forward. If you would like to be part of this process and have your voice heard, please contact Monica Lewis at 816-333-4917 or monical@cccckc.org. Watch for more information about specific dates and time to participate.

Youth and Children’s Musical

In 2014, the annual musical will include both youth and children. The musical is “Happily Forever After (A Musical for Kids about the Kingdom of God).” The performance will be Sunday, Mar. 9, 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Auditions will be Sun., Jan. 19, at 12:15 p.m.

This story has knights, castles, princesses and dragons. This story is not just an excuse to brandish swords and wear tiaras. It’s a captivating and gospel-rich musical that tells the story of Princess Pride, Sir Brags-a-lot, and their curious band on an amazing trek in a very faraway land. When the Carpenter from another kingdom brings the troubling news that their castle is actually built on sand and will not withstand the coming story, they hesitantly choose to follow him as he has promised to show them a better kingdom. Assuring them that he’ll take them all the way and will never leave them, they encounter troubles, temptations, and some very funny characters.

Mark your calendars:

Auditions for lead/supporting parts: Jan. 19, 12:15 p.m.

Practices: Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 11:00 a.m.; Mar. 1, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Mar. 2, 11:00 a.m.

Dress rehearsal: Mar. 8, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Final rehearsal/lunch: Mar. 9, 11:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Michael Patch, Director of Children’s and Youth Choirs, at michaelp@cccckc.org.



Shared Ministry

by Rev. Joe Walker, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



My wife, Susan, and I celebrated the birth of our first granddaughter, Lucina, mid-December. As you can imagine, we are pretty excited and really enjoying being grandparents. Perhaps, we have even been a tad obnoxious, showing people “adorable” pictures of Lucina. I am grateful to our friends – and the occasional stranger – who have indulged us in our revelry. I am reminded of a wise old maxim: “We share our joy to prolong it; we share our pain to endure it.” Central to the familiar ritual of parents and grandparents sharing photos of their children or grandchildren is the desire to re-live the initial excitement of a birth and, later, the pride of growth and accomplishments. We give a great gift when we are attentive to another and delight with them in life’s celebratory moments.

In the same way, we offer blessed consolation when we take time to check in with a sister or brother who is laboring under one of life’s inevitable burdens. To walk alongside a suffering, lonely, worried or grieving person may help them endure the challenge they are facing and find some ray of hope or grace in whatever outcome awaits. Of course, such “accompanying” ministry is more difficult and uncomfortable than sharing in joyous news.

One function of the church is to encourage us in, and equip us for, serving as the Body of Christ, that is, our shared ministry of presence to both the joyful and the broken-hearted. As Paul instructed the Romans, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (12:15) For some of us, our discipleship leads us to participation in a formal ministry with training and support. Most of us, though, exercise our discipleship in simple gestures or a welcoming countenance that invites relationship and sharing.

In your informal, day-to-day interactions, you may have wondered about the appropriate thing to do or say (or, not do or say). Here’s a thought: if you will share your question(s), we can provide resources to address some common situations. Resources could be in the form of a one-time “101” class or a blog (or, you let us know the best way to get information to you). To share your question or experience, send me an email (joew@cccckc.org), give me a call (816-333-4917, ext. 226), or catch me after church someday. I look forward to hearing from you.

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith (grades 1-5)

Jan. 5-Feb. 2 — The Kingdom Parables Children participate in a rotation style program on Sunday mornings. The rotation takes seriously the spiritual development of children, utilizing a consistent structure while providing creative activities that engage children in new ways with God.

First Steps of Faithfulness

Sun., Jan. 5, 2014, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Rm. 215. Parents with children under 3 are invited to join other families on the first Sunday of the month as we explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness.

Fireside Chat

Sun., Jan. 12

As we reIMAGINE our Children’s Ministry, we want to hear from you. Join us to talk with other youth and children’s families and staff about what we are doing well and what we can improve. This month’s focus will be the children’s musical and youth mission trips. We will meet from 12:15-1:00 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Preschool and Parents’ Day Out Open House

Jan. 28-30, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Prospective families can visit the program while currently enrolled families can see the room their child will go to next year. Parent Board members will give tours. Registration for currently enrolled families for preschool, transition and PDO siblings will be Mon., Feb. 3, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. PDO families will enroll Tues., Feb. 4, 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Registration will be open to the general public for preschool, transition and PDO on Thurs., Feb. 6, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

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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

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Virginia Reed Food Drive on January 19

On Sun., Jan. 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."

Memorials

Don Buell

Hank & Joan Riffe
John & Erma Hess

Zelda Crum

Byron & Bette McDaniel

Betty Jean Merrill

Mary Shaw Branton
Pat Martin
Virginia & Dick Smith
KGI W NA
Deborah & Bill Quirk
Hank & Joan Riffe
Bob & Linda Walsh
June Turley
John & Erma Hess
Kenneth & Mary Wolfe
Jill Reynolds
Homesteaders Class

Ivan & Maggie Risley

Byron & Bette McDaniel

Wilbur Spalding

Lee & Jarene Stanford
James & Bettye Pierce

Tom Tompkins

Byron & Bette McDaniel
June Turley
Marge & Don Bonner
Kathy & Al Rankin

Paul & Virginia Jordan

Dorothy O'Sullivan

Honors

Mr. & Mrs. Bob King

By Lauren Mace in honor of Bob's 95th birthday, Alyce's 90th birthday, and their 70th wedding anniversary.