



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.*

Capital Campaign Update

We are happy to report that in the last three months, the church has received pledges and gifts of more than \$1 million as part of our updated Capital Campaign, bringing the campaign total to approximately \$3 million. As you know, because of a dramatic increase in the estimated cost of the exterior repair of the church, the goal of the Capital Campaign was increased from \$3.3 million to \$4.9 million.

Work on the exterior is proceeding on schedule, and we anticipate that all of the work will be completed in the fall of 2013. The renovation of the organ will begin after Easter and



will be completed before Advent.

If you wish to make a new pledge or increase your existing pledge to the campaign, pledge cards are available in the church office. Many members have chosen to simply extend their existing pledges by one, two or three years. You can, of course, make a cash gift to the campaign by sending a check to the church marked "Capital Campaign" or an online gift by visiting cccckc.org and clicking the "Give" tab. However you choose to give, your gift will be appreciated.



Celebrating Glen's 10th Anniversary

Can you believe it? Ten years ago this month, Glen preached his first sermon at Country Club Christian Church as its new Senior Minister. The Search Committee was thrilled when Glen said yes to our call and he has been everything we had hoped he would be – strong preacher, caring pastor, and effective administrator. His leadership these past 10 years, both for our congregation and nationally within our denomination, has been outstanding. Please take a minute, in conversation, note or email, to express to Glen your gratitude for his service to our church.



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. 31, at 6:30 p.m., in the Social Hall. Tickets will be available in the Parlor and at Combs Chapel on Sunday for \$12 per person. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report.



Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

Pathways to Learning in January



Jeremiah and Jesus: Understanding the Biblical Roots of Christ's Message, Ministry, and Passion

Dr. Harold Washington, Professor of Hebrew Bible, Saint Paul School of Theology.

Jan. 20, 27, Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall

Coming later this spring:

Spirituality: Creative and Sustaining

Dr. Molly Marshall, President of Central Baptist Seminary.

Mar. 3 — The Spirit Constructs Incarnation

Mar. 10 — The Spirit Sustains through Death

Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Mondays, Feb. 4-25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Lauren Weinhold at laurenw@cccckc.org or call the church at 816-333-4917.

The Psalms

This 10 week study explores the joy, faith, uncertainty, sorrow of the human journey in the company of God as expressed in the book of Psalms. Form a deeper connection to the scriptures, each other and God during this study which is based in the best of biblical scholarship. Facilitator is Kathryn Holtze. Cost is \$12 for materials. Tuesdays, Feb. 12-Apr. 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

The Last Week

This class, based on a book by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, looks at the events that unfolded in the life of Jesus during Holy week. Come grow in your knowledge and faith as we retrace the steps of Jesus. Led by Greg Lear. Mondays, Feb. 18 and 25, Mar. 4 and 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Five Practices of Fruitful Living

Lenten groups will read and discuss this book, which will accompany the Lenten sermons. Watch for dates and times.

Save the Date!

4th Annual Celebration Dinner

In continued recognition of our past and as we move forward with a greater vision of who we are as a church, we are proud to announce that the 2013 Annual Dinner and Auction will be held on Sat., May 4, 2013, at The Museums at 18th and Vine. The Museums are located at 1616 East 18th Street, not far from the historic roots of our congregation at Independence Boulevard Christian Church where so many of our members volunteer regularly.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this annual event, which 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.

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.

January Sermon Series: That's Not in the Bible!

January 20 and 27

The Bible gets blamed for a lot of bad theology. Many of these weak ideas are heard in statements like, "It's all part of God's plan" or "God never gives you anything you can't handle." This series will point out several things that are NOT in the Bible, while paying attention to what can be found on the pages of scripture.



Bring a Friend

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Last Sunday 23 visitors gathered in the Solarium up on the third floor of our main building to learn about our church and the many ministries we offer. The next day 15 of our newer members were welcomed into the church during a dessert gathering at my house. Almost all of them had one thing in common. When asked how they found our congregation, whether through the website or our radio program or a radio ad or a mailer or while driving by or something else, almost every person at both gatherings said, “A friend in the church invited me.”

This information is incredibly helpful. It tells us that the single most effective way for us to grow the church is through you, our members and friends. Of course, we will continue to provide a website. Sunday’s services will be aired every week at 8:30 a.m. on 1660AM as we seek to spread the good news of God’s all inclusive message for all. We’ll give out sugar cookies, with an invite to Christmas Eve services, to all of the attendees at the Kansas City Brass Christmas Concert. And we’ll do many other creative and innovative things to get the word out about our church on Facebook and Twitter.

All of that matters and is very important to our multi-layered communications approach but YOU are still the most effective piece in the puzzle that is often labeled church growth. For example, last December we had “a bring a friend Sunday.” We had our largest Sunday attendance since Festival Sunday that day. Our Christmas Eve services were very well attended. Many of the first-time visitors were invited by a friend and many of those have returned to worship this month.

I know it’s not easy to invite a friend. I feel kind of queasy about doing it sometimes myself. But I want you to know that I am inviting everyone I can to worship with us. I’m doing it unapologetically. I’m doing it because I trust in God’s love and I believe in you, the members and friends of this great congregation. So, invite a friend. Tell a neighbor. Put a note on your Facebook profile. Send a tweet. You might even try something old fashioned like a hand-written, self-addressed, self-stamped letter!

Grace and peace to you,

New Member Sunday February 10

We welcome new members on special New Member Sundays. The next opportunity will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Feb. 10. Email or call Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, to express your desire to join the church. Lauren will work with you to make your New Member Sunday a memorable and meaningful one. Contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Worship with us!

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

**January Sermon Series
That’s Not in the Bible!**

Jan. 20

God Helps Those Who Help
Themselves

Jan. 27

Everything Happens For a Reason

Feb. 3

Satan Tempted Eve

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

CAYA Kicks Off in 2013

CAYA (Come As You Are) began a discussion of *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus* by Robin Meyers this month. The discussions will continue Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 207. CAYA is the church's group for young adults ages 23-33.

From Jan 7 – Apr. 22, the group will discuss the Meyers book with a minister from the church or a member of the group presenting the topic. Reading the book is not required but it is available in the church's bookstore The Well. There are also two copies in the church library.

The last Monday of each month is a potluck supper and social night so bring something yummy to eat and hang out with the group. On these evenings the group will meet in the Youth Center (Rm. 205).

From May 6-27 we will discuss *What Do Other Faiths Believe?* by Paul Stroble. For a complete list of every topic, visit the church website or email CAYA at countryclubchristian.caya@gmail.com.

Donations Need for Nicaragua

A team from our church will travel to Nicaragua Feb. 23-Mar. 3 to partner with Nicaraguans to help improve health and living conditions for rural families. The trip includes teaching families to use home health kits and providing the basic supplies. You can help by making a donation to assist with the team's efforts. Right now the greatest need is for monetary donations to purchase medicines once the team arrives in Nicaragua. Toothbrushes are also still needed. Drop your toothbrushes in the Parlor or monetary donations in the church office.

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.

Christmas Offering Update


The 2012 Christmas Offering collected \$26,954.23, which will be distributed to two agencies under the theme *Feeding the Hungry*. The agencies are Global Ministries and the United Church of Christ in Mozambique's Goigoi Farm Development Project and Micah Ministries. The Goigoi project will serve as a source of food and employment for the people in Mozambique. Micah Ministries feed people in the Northeast area of Kansas City. Thank you for your generous contributions to the 2012 Christmas Offering.

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.



Like, Comment, Share

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



Like, comment, share. Three standard words in English lexicon. Yet when I used them recently in a meeting, several folks gave me blank and confused stares. I was encouraging a group of church leaders to help increase the church's presence on social media, and was discussing how to do that through "liking," "commenting," and "sharing."

Later that day, I was telling my mom about the conversation. She's pretty comfortable with modern technology— she regularly texts me from her new smart phone— but she gave me the same confused

look I'd seen earlier. "What's social media?" she asked.

So for the benefit of those of you who have no idea what I'm talking about, here's a brief tutorial.

Social media is a term broadly used to describe forms of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content.* More specifically, it refers to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, blogs, Youtube, etc. Places where people share photos and videos, comment on content other people share, and exchange information.

The church uses two of these sites as our primary social media presence, Facebook and Twitter, and you can help expand our reach. Once or twice a day, I post something to the church's Facebook page: a link to the audio file of Glen's most recent sermon, a photo of a recent event, a reminder about an upcoming Bible study class, devotional material. As you're scrolling through your Facebook news feed, you might see something the church has posted. Below the church's post you will see three words: Like, Comment, and Share. Click Like if you want to give the church a virtual thumbs up. Click Comment if there's something you'd like to say about the post. (Or just type in the box below the post.) If you click Share, you'll see a box allowing you to share the church's post with your specific set of Facebook friends.

When you click one of those options, the church's activity ripples out to your Facebook friends, extending our reach significantly. You demonstrate to your friends you care deeply about your church. It's an easy way to show others who we are and what we do.

If you have questions about Facebook or social media in general, don't hesitate to contact me. As Glen's column on page 3 suggests, your invitation or recommendation is the most effective tool we have to get people to visit.

*Merriam-Webster.com

Lara

Sign Up for 2013 Christian Community Camp

There are still a few rooms available at Christian Community Camp 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 Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 to ensure your spot

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. 13, 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.

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.

CYF Mystery Trip – Jan. 20

Come for a mystery trip. Bring \$10. 5:30 p.m.

No Chi Rho meeting.

Jan. 27 – Justin's Birthday Party

(the second try)

CYF and Chi Rho come and celebrate 1984...and this time we are going to make it happen. Let's play some games, eat some food, and celebrate the '80s!

Youth Deacon and Elder Retreat

We will have an afternoon youth deacon and elder retreat on Jan. 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Jensens' home. Have you ever though, "OK, so I'm a deacon or an elder ... what the heck

does that mean?" We are going to have a day where we get together, play a few games, talk about what it means to be an elder or deacon, and have a few snacks. RSVP to Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org by Jan. 23.

Chi Rho Mission Trip

This summer the 6th-8th graders will go to Indianapolis, IN, in July 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 in July to continue working in the city with local organizations to address issues of homelessness, poverty and racial injustices. Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org.

Infant Dedication on Dec. 24



Grayson Charles Kim-Herbert with his parents, Charles Herbert and Eva Kim-Herbert, and brother, Jameson Montgomery.

Infant Dedications Will Be March 3

We will welcome babies and young children into our congregation through special recognition during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sun., Mar. 3. Families interested in having an infant dedicated can contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at catherinesc@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 for full details.

1st-2nd Grade Mystery Trip



Mattie Rhodes Art Center hosted an art session where children made painted horses and clay masks. We ended the mystery outing at Winstead's on the Plaza for sundaes! Pictured are Riley Zschoke creating her mask and Tristan Roske painting his horse.



Touching the Soul

by David Diebold, Minister of Music



Music has the capability of touching the human soul in ways that mere words or visuals cannot. Imagine watching a movie that has no musical score, or watching a ballet where there was no music. No matter how artistic, we would come away feeling that something was lacking.

It is music that can move us to touch the very core of our being in simple or profound ways. When music is coupled with a really fine text, the experience can be even deeper.

It's hard to imagine that we are already looking toward Lent and Easter. Our Christmas decorations are barely stored for another year. And yet, we are moving into a new season as the church year pushes ahead.

On the first Sunday of Lent, Feb. 17, the Chancel Choir will present special music during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The overarching title for our offerings is "Songs that Touch the Soul." That day, we will sing five pieces, each with a profoundly moving text, coupled with music that lifts the nature of each text to a higher level.

Each text has been chosen to give us a progression starting with the premise I stated in the opening sentence of this article. From there we will present two texts that take us to the darker places in life: the Holocaust and the loss we experience when someone dies at too young an age. We will end with two texts that are both very hopeful. One lists the highest attributes of human nature with the reminder that we, as human beings, have the capacity to strive to keep these attributes alive in our world. Finally, a hopeful text set by John Rutter looking to the day when the world will be free of suffering and death. Composers represented on Feb. 17 will include Daniel Gawthrop, Z. Randall Stroope, Dan Forrest, Lee Dengler, and John Rutter.

David

Children and Families Fountains of Faith Sunday School Rotation

Test of Faith: The Healing Miracles

1st-5th graders will explore Jesus' ministry in the coming weeks, focusing on what we call healing miracles. The Son of God transformed lives in ways that were visible to everyone. Through cooking, storytelling and more we will learn about this special part of Jesus' ministry. Join us on Sundays from 9:55-10:50 a.m.

Club Kids

January 20 - No Meeting

January 27 - Regular Session 5:30-7:30 p.m.,
Social Hall

Save the Date! Club Kids Tubing at Snow Creek

Sun., Feb. 10, noon to 5:00 p.m.

Club Kids and their families are invited for tubing at Snow Creek in Weston. Cost is \$35 per person which includes lunch, fees and snacks. Watch weekly email for full details.

Car Seat Parents Dinner

Sun., Jan. 27, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Parents with children 6 and under are invited to an informal dinner gathering hosted at the home of Doug Bates and Tamara Peterson (just across from the church). Make plans to join us for an evening of food, fellowship and fun. Childcare available at church. Please RSVP to Catherine at catherinesc@cccckc.org for parents and childcare.

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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Karla Herrington Director of Children's Ministries
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. 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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In the Footsteps of Paul

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller as they travel to Greece and the Greek Isles Oct. 8-18, 2013. Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. For more information, please contact Glen at glenm@cccckc.org or Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org. Registration packets are available in Lauren's office. The deadline for reservations is Feb. 1, 2013.



Flower Vases Needed

The flower ministry needs vases for flowers. If you have a vase you can donate, please leave it in the Social Hall kitchen or at the reception desk.

Our Church Family

Memorials

Paul F. Smalley
Thomas & Sharon VanDyke

Capital Campaign
John Tilton
Gloria McLerran

Stephen Ministry
Nadine Berger
Gloria McLerran

Gene Snyder
Gloria McLerran

Music Fund
John Turley
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