

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own
by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

Spring Musical Important for All
by Michael Patch
≈≈≈
page 5

Live Wastefully
by David Diebold
≈≈≈
page 7

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 18

Harvesters, Newhouse, Sheffield Place, Hartman Elementary School, Della Lamb...these are just a few of the agencies with whom we are partnering for Grace at Work on April 18. Choose from among 10 different volunteer opportunities, some on our campus, 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.



ing out to our assigned destinations and beginning work on the projects.



For those who want to work on our campus, we have several opportunities including cleaning out our attic, painting, and dusting and cleaning pews.

We will gather at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall for breakfast before head-



Sign up in the Parlor or register online at www.cccckc.org.

Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction

The 6th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction will be held on Sat., Apr. 25, at The Roasterie Bean Hangar, 1204 W. 27th Street, Kansas City, MO. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this fun event!



Help ensure this year's event is a success by becoming a benefactor at one of six levels starting at \$250 or purchasing tickets to the event. Purchase your tickets in the Parlor or online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc2015auction>.

The dinner and auction 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.

Auction Items – Do you have auction items you'd like to donate? Contact contact Lisa Schmidt at 816-210-6335 or lisachmidt@gmail.com. Visit www.cccckc.org/stay-informed for more information.



Pastors' Class Participants Baptized

Members of the 2015 Pastors' Class, led by Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families, made formal statements of their faith and were baptized during the 11:00 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, Mar. 29. Pictured are Dr. Glen Miles, Samuel Gregory Steinlicht, Aislinn Tess Sullivan and Rev. Lewis. Aislinn's mentor was Kevin Briggs and Sam's was Randy Irely.



Family Night for Children, Students and Their Families



April 12, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Let's celebrate the week after Easter like Jesus' disciples, with fun and a meal! Music, fun activities, breakfast for dinner, getting to know other families.

Upcoming Faith Formation Groups

Church Words

This class will help you unpack some of the daunting "churchy" words and understand and deepen your faith along the way. Taught by Dr. Meredith Holladay. Sundays, Apr. 19-May 17, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Rm. 302.

Apr. 19: "Narthex is not a disease: Worship Words"

Apr. 26: "Don't talk about sin at the dinner table: Sin & Grace"

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. Dr. Mike Graves, Professor of Preaching at St. Paul School of Theology, will lead a class on Biblical interpretation and sermon writing. The class will meet two evenings (Apr. 20 and 27) to begin the process. Then Mike will preach the sermon on Sun., May 3. The class will then meet for a third session to debrief on May 4. Call 816-333-4917 to sign up.

2015 Stewardship Campaign Kicks Off

JJ Jones will chair this year's Stewardship Campaign, "For the love of . . ." JJ will be assisted by a team of leaders: Andy Berry, Carl Bolte, Ashley Bough, Jane White Brown, Kathy Buckley, Amy Carter, John Cockle, Jeff Gibbs, Milburn Hobson, Stuart Hoffman, Peter Holt, Kay Moffat, Maureen McGinty, Tamara Morris, Erin Parkinson, Mareta Smith, John Trewolla and Betsy Wilson with assistance from staff members Carla Aday, Glen Miles and Lara Schopp.



Key Dates for the Campaign include:

Ministry Fair – Sun., Apr. 19 in the Parlor from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pick up your passport to ministry and then tour the various booths to sign up to serve with your time and talent in the church and community.

Coffee with Glen – Sun., May 3 in the Social Hall at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m. and noon. Attend the coffee that fits best with your worship schedule and enjoy a moment with your pastor.

Commitment Sunday – May 10 in all three worship services including a special musical thank you.

Did you know?

- The basic utility bill at the church is \$111,599 a year (or \$9,299 a month or \$305 a day).
- When the church helps a family grieve by conducting a funeral to honor a loved one, this ministry costs the church \$1,029 or more.
- When a biblical scholar, community leader, art historian or theologian speaks at Pathways to Learning, the average cost is \$150.



Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



A few years ago I woke early after a sleepless night. I was worried about a serious decision. Feeling the need to rejuvenate my spirit, I grabbed a U2 CD on my way out the door and plugged it into my car's sound system. I pushed the random button on the player so that the songs would not follow the album's preset order. The song that came up was, "Sometimes you can't make it on your own." The lyrics spoke directly to me:

*Tough, you think you've got the stuff
You're telling me and anyone
You're hard enough...
Sometimes you can't make it on your own.*

I needed that word more than I realized. I prayed out loud as I was driving, "Lord, I can't make it on my own. I need you. Our church needs you. Guide us, lead us, help us."

Later that day I stopped by the hospital to see Letha Bash. She was the widow of Lawrence Bash, the great pastor of this congregation from 1961-1978. At 94 years of age she was quite frail. She was fighting the flu and was in the hospital to help her fight a little harder. Because she was so ill she had been unable to attend worship for a long time. That bothered her a lot. She deeply loved this church. As we talked she said, "I pray everyday. I pray for the the world. I pray for Country Club Christian." And then she took my hand and said, "Glen, I pray for you. I pray for you every day." Tears formed in my eyes. There were tears in her eyes too. It was a sacred and unexpected moment.

As I sat beside her in that hospital room, it felt like the Spirit of God was there. I knew I was in the presence of someone holy. And, I was sure that the song playing in my car early that day was a word from the Lord: "Sometimes you can't make it on your own."

Letha's love and prayers were a powerful reminder of the way God works in the world through the most unexpected persons. I had been certain, like the opening words of the song, that I was tough enough to take on whatever the world might throw at me but what I really needed, and still do, was a serious dose of the grace of God and the simple, but true reminder that none of us can make it on our own. We need God. We need each other.

Grace and peace to you,

General Board of Disciples of Christ to Worship with Us



Dr. Sharon Watkins

On Sun., Apr. 12, at the 11:00 a.m. service, we will be joined by the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which is meeting in Kansas City. Glen is moderator of the group.

Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the denomination, will lead worship at the communion table. Donna Rose-Heim, Intentional Interim Regional Minister of the Kansas City region, will also lead worship.

Worship with us!

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

Apr. 12

Locked Behind Open Doors
John 20: 19-29

For the Love of ...

Apr. 19

Part 1: For the Love of Church
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Apr. 26

Part 2: For the Love of God
Ephesians 2:1-10

May 3

For the Love of the Widow
Luke 21:1-6
Rev. Mike Graves, preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

April Collection Connection: Cross-Lines Community Assistance Program

The Cross-Lines Community Annex and Emergency Assistance Closet needs donations of full-sized toiletries to help support its shower program for families, seniors and individuals seeking assistance. Their current (or urgent) need is for toothbrushes, full-sized shampoos, and full-sized lotions of any kind.

The Holy Land – In the Footsteps of Jesus

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller as they travel to the Holy Land Oct. 28-Nov. 6, 2015. Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. Stops include Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Contact Lauren Weinhold at weinhold.lauren@gmail.com for more information.

Save the Date: Blood Drive on May 3

The Community Blood Center will be in our Social Hall on Sun., May 3, from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. to receive donations. We appreciate Chris Niedner and our Monday evening Disciple Bible Study who are taking the lead on organizing the blood drive.

Sign Up for 2015 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2015 camp will be Aug. 1-8. 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, Colorado. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge with lovely mountain views. A private room costs \$1,650 or a bunk room is \$350, plus each participant pays a \$80 food and activity fee. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/camp2015>.

Forum on Programs and Ministries

Sunday, July 12, 12:15 Social Hall

Save the date! Everyone is welcome to this gathering to learn more about the wide variety of ministries and programs of the church. There will also be time for questions and comments.

2015 General Assembly Is Coming!

The 2015 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

is set for July 18-22 in Columbus, OH and planning is well underway.

If you've been before, you'll find a bounty of new worship experiences and learning tracks. If you've

never been, there is a website with a wealth of information, including a page just for you. Go to

ga.disciples.org to see the schedule, workshop offerings and register online. See you in Columbus!



Mission Teams to Mungeli, India

In January 2016, two teams from Country Club Christian Church will head to Mungeli, India to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli.

The first will go from about January 4-17,

and the second from about January 13-26. Each team will work at the Mungeli Christian Hospital complex for about nine days. No special qualifications are needed—there is something for everyone to do! During the time the teams overlap, they will tour Delhi and the Taj Mahal and perhaps take a safari to Kanha National Park. There will be an informational meeting on Sun., May 17, at 12:15 p.m.





Spring Musical Important for All

By Michael Patch, Director of Children and Student Music



Today is a beautiful spring day. The drizzle is making everything damp and the clouds are covering the blue sky. I stepped in mud as I got into my car. And, I spilled my coffee as I slammed on my breaks in rush hour traffic. What a beautiful day.

Though it may not appear to be a good morning, I can't help but whistle a tune from the upcoming children's musical. Rehearsals are in full swing and I am having a blast working with all of the kids as they

learn their music and lines.

The show, *iAm, An App for All That*, is about the one thing that surpasses even the most exciting and innovative products in our lives: God. To trust in God and to spread the love of Christ trumps Angry Birds any day.

I'm not going to say that putting together a children's musical is easy, but I have wonderful volunteers and families to work with. We have our lines. We have our music. We have our stage and lights and sound. The children's musical is only a small part of the programs that are offered to our children, students and families. As we build our sets and learn our lines, children and student ministries are building programs that will hit deep into the hearts and minds of our youth. They don't have a book of lines or a musical CD, or song and dance. Instead they have amazing leadership in Monica Lewis and the extremely capable and discerning Renovation team. This church knows the importance of everyone connecting with and supporting our families.

This show is not just for the families of the children and students, it is for everyone who knows the importance of supporting those in our church who are developing a relationship with God. Please show your support and join this amazing cast: Caroline Schopp, Liam Petrie, Elizabeth Crocker, Russell Smith, Aneesa Housel, Blake Petrie, Macy Grisell and Andrew Bennett on **Sun., Apr. 26, at 12:15 p.m.** in the Social Hall. Lunch provided!

As with anything, there are gray skies and muggy mornings. The process of putting on a show is riddled with challenges that can cloud even the brightest of shows. But the message is clear, The beauty of children coming together with the common goal of spreading the word and love of God can firm up any muddy foundation, part the thickest of cloud covers, and even make the spilled coffee in rush hour traffic disappear.

Easter Offering

You still have time to contribute to the special 2015 Easter offering. This year the Outreach Council designated the Christian Hospital in Mungeli, India as the recipient of our Easter Offering.

While the hospital was founded in 1896, it had fallen on hard times and by 2002 had a staff of only 26 people, and the payroll for this staff was only about \$1,000 per month in total. There was poor morale and little hope for the future. Drs. Anil and Teresa Henry arrived at the hospital in 2003 and they provided the leadership to make the hospital one of the great success stories of Global Ministries work.

Today, the hospital provides over 30,000 treatments a year. Those treated are often in the later stages of illness, because villagers often come to the hospital only after going to local unlicensed practitioners in their villages. The hospital delivers over 700 babies a year, but again the pregnant women are brought to the hospital only after they have suffered long periods of labor resulting in the need for many Caesarean sections.

The hospital also houses a school for nurses and an English school for village children.

We invite you to generously give to the Easter Offering so that we can share in the wonderful work being done at the Christian Hospital. Mark your gift "Easter Offering" and mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Upcoming Student Events

Senior Brunch

Sun., May 3, 12:15 p.m., Youth Center. Please send 10 of your high school senior's favorite childhood photos including one senior photo along with your student's plans after graduation to Jason Ashley at jasona@cccckc.org.

Pastors' Class Reunion Breakfast

Sun., May 3, 9:30 a.m. If you have been a member of a Pastors' Class from 2009 to 2015, please join us for breakfast.

High School Mission Trip

June 14-20. We are going to Chicago. Current high school students are invited to join in a week of fun, fellowship and mission work. Cost is \$500 per person. Scholarships are available upon request. Please contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org if interested in attending.

Middle School Mission Trip

June 22-23. Students in grades 6-8 will engage in ministry opportunities as part of our PartNERship in Northeast Kansas City. This is a free experience for students. Please contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 for more information.

Service Hours Opportunity

Sun., Apr. 19 - Green Team Assist - 2:00-4:00 p.m. Middle and High School students will be helping the Green Team create a picnic area on the east lawn, and getting some sun. Snacks will be provided.

Spring Musical

Mark your calendars for the spring musical, *iAm, An App for All That*, on Apr. 26 at noon in the Social Hall. *iAM: The Real Life App for All That* is a children's musical designed to teach kids that even with all of our distractions and entertainment, the most exciting thing in life is getting to know the God who made us. Join super app-designer Solomon and the amazing creative team at the App Factory, where you not only play the games, but you get into the game, and discover the real life app for all that.

Important Information

Rehearsals – Every Sunday, 11:00-11:30 a.m.

Set Building Workshop – Sat., Apr. 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Final Rehearsal Schedule:

Tech Rehearsal – Fri., Apr. 24, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal – Sat., Apr. 25, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Michael Patch, Director of Children and Student Music, at michaelp@cccckc.org.

Sign Up for Your Church

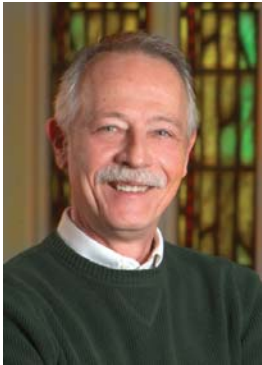
Directory Photo

Don't miss your chance to be included in the next church directory! LifeTouch photographers will be here Apr. 28-May 2 to take photographs in the Social Hall. You may sign up on Sunday morning in the Parlor or online by visiting www.cccckc.org.



Live Wastefully

By Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music



I love this time of year. One day, the world is stark and barren, and then, it seems almost overnight, our city is blessed with stunning arrays of spring color. It happens every year, and yet, my reaction is always one of joy at spring's extravagance. In our garden is a plant that has been there over 20 years. It is called Lenten Rose. The foliage is not particularly beautiful. In fact, throughout the year its leaves are generally tinged with brown. It almost always looks to be on the verge of death. But late every winter, regardless of the weather, it puts out beautiful pink blooms. I looked at the sad, bedraggled foliage some

time back and thought it had finally died. It looked dreadful. But, much to my delight, not two weeks ago, the pink blooms were back, and the Lenten Rose had come back to life.

This time of year always reminds me that even in the bleakest of times, God will do something new and rejuvenate our world. Like the Lenten Rose, life's moments of newness can be small or large. Whether it is the rebirth of the flowers and trees in spring, that moment of forgiveness after an argument with a loved one or friend, or even that negative pathology report, life constantly is giving us a new future. We can then either live into that future or continue on the same familiar path we have walked before, unchanged.

I am reminded of a portion of an Advent text by Susan Palo Cherwien: "... shine your future in this place; enlighten every guest; that through us shines your holiness." I think that, we humans tend to wait out our more mundane moments in life for some epic event to change things, often missing the life-changing possibilities laid out all around us. Perhaps, it is those small everyday moments that actually transform our lives.

I am reminded of Jesus' words "...for those with ears to hear and eyes to see." With the echoes of Easter hallelujahs still fresh in our ears, my hope is that we might all see God's future in not only the extravagance of the spring season, but also in little things around us.

David

Children and Families

First Steps

Apr. 12 – 10:00 a.m. in Room 215. For families of children birth to 2-years-old.

Club Kids (34d-5th Grade)

May 3 – 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bible scavenger hunt at church.

Vacation Bible School



June 5-7 – At G-Force VBS, kids explore how to put their faith into action. In our mission-focused VBS, kids experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move in and through life with God. Country Club Christian Church will come alive with movement and images of all sorts of kid-friendly transportation, such as skateboards, running shoes, roller blades, and more! We will watch the G-Force meter climb illustrating how God is at work around the world and how God's people are on the move. For more information, contact Lindsay Howes at lindsayh@cccckc.org.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Rev. Carla Aday
Executive Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

Dr. Meredith Holladay
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Monica Lewis
Minister to Children,
Students and Families

Rev. Joe Walker
Minister of Congregational Care

Mr. Jason Ashley
Director of Building and Grounds

Ms. Rachel Clement
Director of Finance

Mr. Paul Cutelli
Director of Technology and
Administrative Services

Ms. Allie Cobb
Director of Student Ministries

Ms. Dina Pannabecker Evans
Associate Organist

Ms. Lindsay Howes
Director of Children's Ministries

Ms. Sally Huggins
Assistant Director of Communications

Ms. Lisa McCleish
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Mr. Michael Patch
Director of Children's and Youth
Choirs

Ms. Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

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

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Apr. 12. We have three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community:

1. Bring canned goods to our donation points in the parlor and the chapel, and at the doors any time. Please do not bring anything in a glass container. Cans, boxes and plastic containers all work well and are not accidentally broken as easily as glass.
2. Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org). We will have a computer in the parlor on Apr. 12 for you to make your online contribution.
3. Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope "food drive." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship.

Your gifts support the five area food pantries that our church supports: Community Christian Church, Alta Vista Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services and Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

Our Church Family Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the families and friends of:

Donald Hersh
Carolyn Sue Young
Judy Foster Mansfield
Anna Calbert Webster
James Hastings

Memorials

Norma Gorsuch
Ann Brabson
Marjorie Hagstrom
Deborah Williamson
Shirley Prather
Emil & Shirley Schutzel
Carolyn Young
John & Erma Hess
Greg & Nancy Lear