



VOLUME 87 · NUMBER 1

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.*

Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

New Faithbook Session Begins January 8 and 9

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.

During the winter and spring, we will explore the following topics:

- Beginning Jan. 8/9 – Women in the Bible
- Beginning Feb. 12/13 – Lent
- Beginning April 2/3 – Who was Jesus and why does it matter?
- Beginning March 19/20 – No classes held the week of spring break
- April 30 – Closing Dinner
- May 1 – Closing Coffee

The New Testament Bible Study Begins January 10

This eight-week class uses the best of modern Biblical scholarship to explore the story of Jesus and its claim on our lives. You will learn the major themes of the New Testament and be challenged to respond to this compelling story. Cost is \$12 for materials. Led by Don Bennett. Thursdays, beginning Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 9:30-11:00 a.m. RSVP to Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org.

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 Wednesdays, Feb. 13 through March 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information or to RSVP, contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org.

See more opportunities on page 2.

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

January 13, 20, 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.



Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

Continued from page 1.

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. 13, 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, 7:00-9:00 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 Borg and 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.

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 beginning Sun., Jan. 15 in the Parlor for \$12 per person. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report.

Visitor Information Luncheon on January 13

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. 13, from 12:15-1:45 p.m. Then, if you're ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Feb. 10**. 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.



That's Not in the Bible

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



There are several popular sayings in our culture that are attributed to the Bible but are not found in the pages of that sacred and holy book. Some are relatively harmless and kind of helpful, too, like *Cleanliness is next to Godliness*. Being clean is a good thing, isn't it? Others are simply misquotes. For example, *Money is the root of all evil* most likely comes from misquoting 1 Timothy 6:10. Paul's actual advice to Pastor Tim is, "For the love of money is the root of all evil." Money in this verse is neutral. The love of it is what gets us into trouble. There is a good sermon there!

However, some of these popular sayings that are not found in the Bible are downright harmful and psychologically dangerous. During the month of January, I will examine four of these well-known "verses" in my sermon series, *That's Not In the Bible*. We will also look at what the Bible does say about each topic.

Here is a preview:

■ *Love the sinner, hate the sin.* This one seems harmless and maybe even gracious but in between the lines there is a spirit of judgmentalism at work. Many find it easy to use this statement as a way of denigrating the other while (silently) lifting their self to the status of non-sinner. Since Jesus never called anyone a sinner we should follow his example and do the same.

■ *God helps those who help themselves.* This is almost the exact opposite of the Bible's teachings on helping our neighbors, caring for the least of these and so on. This common saying has its roots in the good old fashioned American ideal of every man and woman for him/herself but it is not biblical.

■ *Everything happens for a reason.* This idea implies that everything that happens to you is sent by God. It is heard most often in the face of tragedy. This does great damage to ones caught in the turmoil of tragic circumstances.

■ *Satan tempted Eve.* This one is not so much a popular saying as it is a popular misconception. Satan was not there. A serpent was. The Genesis story doesn't even know about Satan. It will be 500 years before a biblical writer begins to even think about the idea of a devil.

I will look forward to seeing many of you in worship in January as we explore these timely topics. This would be a great series to invite a friend or neighbor to attend.

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.**

Jan. 6

Rev. Carla Aday preaching
Following Dreams
Matthew 2: 1-12

**January Sermon Series
That's Not in the Bible!
Jan. 13, 20, 27**

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

New Orleans Mission Trip

A mission team will return to New Orleans Feb. 10-16 to continue the work on housing issues. We will be doing hands-on work as well as a ministry of presence and make some attempts to discuss what the underlying, systemic issues are that New Orleans and surrounding areas have had in providing safe, affordable housing. Cost is \$525. If you are interested in participating, contact Betsy Wilson at betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com.

Collection Connection

Toothbrushes for Nicaragua

Country Club Christian Church is sending a group to Nicaragua to improve health and living conditions of rural families. This group will be leaving Feb. 23 and returning on Mar. 3. Part of this trip includes teaching families to use home health kits and providing basic supplies. You can help by donating toothbrushes (we need thousands) or by donating money to purchase other basic supplies such as vitamins and over-the-counter medicines. The money will be used to buy supplies in bulk. Bring your toothbrushes to the Parlor in January or leave a check 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.



2012 Mission Team

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.

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.



Happy NEW Year

by Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



My husband came running up the stairs. “Look out the window at the fresh new snow that is falling.” I oohed and awed at the large flakes falling out the bedroom window and then drove down Ward Parkway on my way to church, marveling at the white delicate beauty blanketing the earth. It seems like after growing up in North Dakota, that my husband would no longer get excited about a new snowfall. Why does it still have the ability to take our breath away?

Later that day my stepson, Kyle, and his wife, Carlye, welcomed a newborn baby into their arms. I anxiously await the moment when I will cradle her in my arms. I could hardly wait to receive the call that it was time for us to drive over to Shawnee Mission hospital to meet her for the first time. What is it about newborns – just a few hours old – that is so miraculous?

On January 1, we rang in a new year – 2013. Fireworks, toasts, bells, kisses and music ushered in a new year. Some of us will resolve to eat healthier or exercise more faithfully or try to improve our relationships with each other and the one who created us. What is it about this ritual of a new year that prompts us to start afresh?

New snow, new babies, new years – what is really special there? In the final pages of scripture, God says “See I am making all things new.” (Rev 21:5) So there must be something sacred about the new. God comes, in these ordinary ways, and invites us to a new life.

Happy NEW year to you and yours.

Carla

Sign Up for 2013 Christian Community Camp

Sign ups have begun for a glorious week 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



desposit 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 Jane Fletcher at janef@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on January 20

On Sun., Jan. 20, 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.”

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.

Serve – Jan. 6

Come and help clean up the church for the new year! We will be staying in and having a competition between Chi Rho and CYF with tidying up the church for the new year and playing games. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Quest – Jan. 13

CYF and Chi Rho come and spend some time thinking about "Where is God present in our world?"

CYF Mystery Trip – Jan. 20

Come for a mystery trip. Bring \$10 dollars to spend. 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!

Pastors' Class

Beginning Wed., Jan. 16, Pastors' Class for youth 6th grade and older will meet on Wednesday evenings until Palm Sunday. The class is designed to provide time, space, and tools to help students more clearly name their identity as Christians and their connection to this faith community. The sessions will help the youth identify what God is doing in the world; reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; and ex-

plore how this impacts who and how they are in the world. Students will have the opportunity to celebrate these insights and transformation through the ritual of baptism and church membership on Palm Sunday, Mar. 24. The class will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For information, contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

Chi Rho Retreat

All Chi Rho youth are invited to a retreat at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Watch for details! Fri., Jan. 18-Sun., Jan. 20. Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org

Youth Deacon and Elder Retreat

We will have an afternoon youth deacon and elder retreat the last weekend in January. Watch for more information.

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. 16-23. The cost is \$990 per person. Anyone who is interested, please contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

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.



Creating Daily Peace

by Karla Herrington,



I really had planned to not do the resolution thing this year, but realized there is an area that I would like to work on. As I was rushing around cleaning the other day, I noticed I am a keeper of quotes / spiritual signage/scripture, etc. These words of wisdom can be found on my refrigerator, sitting on shelves, stuffed in books, on bulletin boards, stuffed in the pocket of my purse, etc.

Quotes seem to be everywhere these days and I love to read them for they do bring a moment of peace. But what if I truly brought these words to the surface of my life each day? Could I deepen an inner peace, a peace that sometimes gets lost in the rush of the “to do list” of my day? It occurred to me that in many of my favorite quotes, God might just be whispering something for me to take to heart.

“Worrying does not empty today of its troubles; it empties today of strength.”

“Take time to hear the music before the song is over.”

“Faith is to believe in what we do not see.”

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen nor touched, but are felt in the heart.”

“Don’t spend so much time making a living that you forget to make a life.”

“Do not be dismayed, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my right righteous hand.”

In the New Year, I plan to read this list each day; settle my heart each morning by lifting up my worries to God and reminding myself of God’s presence within. I will choose to let go of unhealthy chattering thoughts and troubled emotions. I can then begin each day with vibrations of peace, and my thoughts and feelings can become only tiny specks that pose no threat to the deep interior stillness that God has for me (and you).

Many blessings in the New Year!

Karla

Children and Families

Club Kids

Resumes on Sun., Jan. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

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.

Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 6

Fountains of Faith Sunday School

Our 1st – 5th graders will be visited by one of the Magi and hear what it might have been like to journey to visit the Christ child. Join us from 9:55-10:55 a.m.

First Steps

Sun., Jan. 6, 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Families with children 3 and under are invited to join in this time of conversation and sharing in the Play Zone, Room 215. Bring your infant or toddler with you to play or childcare is available on the ground floor.

Mystery Trip for 1st and 2nd Graders

Sat., Jan. 12

Make plans to join us! Watch for full details in the weekly email.

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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.



Our Church Family Sympathy

HARRIET EGGESON passed away Dec. 27. Private memorial service at Mount Moriah on Dec. 31.

ROBERT (BOB) HARVEY passed away Dec. 28. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, and sons Trey and Greg. The funeral will be Fri., Jan. 4, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

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	

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

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email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org