

INSIDE

We Are on a Mission from God
by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

Building the Circle
by Lara Schopp
≈≈≈
page 5

Connections
by Phil Love
≈≈≈
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.

Students Span Out to Serve

High School Mission Team

Rev. Monica Lewis led a mission team of high school students for a week of service and fun in Chicago June 14-20. Participating were Clayton Forsee, Wynn Reddin, Jackson Berry, Lita Lockhart, Margo Hunter, Sam Berry, Ben Crocker, Scott Holt, and chaperones Hannah Fenley and Emily Ferbezar.



Middle School Mission Team



Rev. Monica Lewis led a mission team of middle school students who served in Kansas City June 22 and 23. Participating were l to r, Lauren Reddin, Breck McGuire, Duncan Bennett, Cindy Irely, Cate Nearmyer, Kurt Zschietzschmann, Elizabeth Corcker, Caroline Schopp, Monica Lewis, Cameron Davis (kneeling), Aislinn Sullivan, Alliea Doty, Aneesa Housel.

More photos on page 6.

New Members Joined on June 28



Mary Walker and Lyle Paczkowski
New Member Hosts: Cynthia and Howard Petrie



Ross Paczkowski
New Member Host: Kurt Zschietzschmann



Sara Engber
New Member Host: Erin Parkinson



Abe Van Dyke and Emilee Rice
New Member Hosts: Amy and James Guthrey

Ministry Connections

Sunday, July 12, 12:15 p.m., Social Hall

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. This is one of four annual congregational meetings for the year.

Charleston Prayer Service



We were one in the spirit on Wed., June 24, in Combs Chapel for a silent prayer hour for our sisters and brothers in Charleston, SC, following the mass shooting on June 17 at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston.



We Are on a Mission from God

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



One of my all-time favorite movies is “The Blues Brothers,” starring John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd. They are ex-convicts who have put together a blues band in order to raise money for an orphanage. They are total losers. They seem to mess up at every opportunity. Any time anyone asks them what they are doing they say, “We are on a mission from God.” That line is repeated throughout the film. These are the two least likely people to go on a mission from God.

John Ortberg reminds us that is the central message of the Bible. God chooses the least likely persons, like you and me, to go out into the world with the good news of God’s unconditional love for all. We may not be as messed up as the Blues Brothers but if we’re honest we will have to admit – all of us – that we’ve got something that isn’t quite right. And yet, God looks at you and me and says, “I need your help to get the word on love out to everyone.”

A few years ago we hosted a conference for the senior ministers of the 40 largest churches in our denomination. One of them, a great preacher, told us a story. During his second year of seminary he got a C- on a mid-term exam in his toughest course. He was overwhelmed by the class. It seemed over his head. Dejected, he went to the professor and said, “I’m ready to quit. I just don’t get it. I need to drop out.” The professor practically jumped out of his chair, and shouted, “NO! Don’t you realize that you have a gift? Every member of this faculty who has had you in class has commented on your gift for preaching and your clear and obvious calling for ministry. We’ll help you with the academics, don’t worry about that. It is our job, but don’t you dare run away from your call!”

I resonate with that story. Maybe you do too. One of the biggest fears every preacher faces, and maybe all of us face, is the fear of being discovered as far less than perfect. Some folks spend their whole lives trying to keep that fact hidden. It’s pointless, really, because the good news of the Bible demands that we give our whole selves to God, even the ugly and less than perfect stuff, so that God can transform us into agents of grace and hope.

I bought a black “Blues Brothers” style suit the other day. I need a hat and some sunglasses. I’m ready to keep going on this great mission before us. We’ve got good news to share. You don’t have to be a preacher, you don’t have to be a writer, you don’t even have to be perfect (thank God!). All you need is the willingness to trust in the simple truth that God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, loves you and everybody else.

Grace and peace to you,

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.

Worship with us!

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

Summer Sermon Series
The Pursuit of Happiness

July 5

Part 4: Following the Road
Named Kindness
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (The Message)

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Reel Faith

The next session of Reel Faith is Sun., July 19. 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. 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for movie title or to sign up.

2016 Nicaragua Mission Trip

Our adult mission trip to Nicaragua is scheduled for Feb. 20-28, 2016. The mission team commissioning will be on Sun., Feb. 14. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rev. Joe Walker at joew@cccckc.org. We will keep you up-to-date as information becomes available. If you will not be able to participate but want to help provide scholarships for adults or for the high school student mission to Nicaragua (Summer 2016), please contact Joe.

Book Retirement Sale

On Sun, July 12 there will be a book retirement sale from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the parlor. Children's and adult books from the library will be on sale. Some books are new and in good condition; some are classics from the early days of our church. All books \$1-2. Proceeds will go towards making the library more technologically savvy.

Pre-need Funeral Planning

Have you considered pre-planning your funeral and final arrangements? In addition to advance health care directives and funeral home plans it will be helpful for your loved ones if you provide some guidance for your memorial service. Think how convenient it will be for your family to open a paper or electronic file and easily find your preferences for a Scripture or hymn, a draft obituary, and other background materials. To aid your planning process we have compiled a free packet with popular Scriptures and hymns, sample service outlines, and a columbarium and rose garden brochure. You can choose to set an appointment for a conversation about pre-planning your service or simply request a packet be mailed to you. For more information call Rev. Joe Walker, 816-333-4917, ext. 224 or email care@cccckc.org.

Painting at Della Lamb Charter School

Volunteers enthusiastically responded to Della Lamb's request for help painting classrooms and hallways in their school building – 28 volunteers, 5 days, 15 classrooms, 2 hallways completed! Della Lamb Community Services and Charter School serve low-income and immigrant families in our historic Northeast neighborhoods. We are pleased to help brighten the educational experience of these children and their teachers. If you would like to know more about our ministry partners and the ways we serve in our community and the world, please call the church office.



With Larry, a representative of Della Lamb, are (l to r) Barbara George, Nancy Lear, Ruth Bradshaw, Jackie Cunningham, Lauren Reddin



Nancy Ralston, Lance Jessee



Building the Circle

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



If you were in worship on June 28, you heard Dr. Glen Miles talking about the number of folks living in a five-mile radius of Country Club Christian Church who aren't currently attending church regularly. It's a pretty big number – around 53,000.

Some might view that number as a downer, especially in light of recent studies suggesting that church membership nationwide is down. In a recent column, Dr. Meredith Holladay reported that according to the Pew Research Center, since 2007 the number of U.S. adults who self-identify as Christian has decreased from 78.4 percent to 70.6 percent. In contrast, the number of “unaffiliated” adults has risen by almost the same percentage – from 16.1 percent to 22.8 percent.

I, probably like you, have friends and family who fall into the unaffiliated category, and I know from asking them that they have all sorts of reasons for not affiliating with a church these days, some of which we as the church can control, and some of which we can't.

But Glen got pretty fired up during this part of that sermon, and I walked away not being depressed, but inspired about the opportunities before us to tell Country Club Christian Church's story. I hope you were inspired, too.

I started to imagine 6101 Ward Parkway on a map with a number of concentric circles moving out around it, not unlike a bull's eye. Let's say the first circle represents a one-block radius from the church. What could we do to share our story with the folks inside that first circle? What could you do to share your church experiences with that group? What about the circle that represents a half a mile from the church? Maybe you have a friend who lives in that area you could invite. What about the circle that represents two and a half miles out from the church? How could we, as a community of faith, reach out to our brothers and sisters on Kansas City's east side? How could we tell them that we preach all means all? How could we share our message of God's grace offered to a world in need of hope?

As I make plans for sharing our story outside our walls over the next year, I'm going to think about these circles, and the ways we can reach the folks inside (and, heck, even outside of) them. I hope you'll do the same.

Have ideas about how we can do this together? Shoot me an email at laras@cccckc.org. I'd love your input.

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., July 19. 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 July 19 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.

Upcoming Student Events

Movies on the Lawn

Middle School. Sun., July 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m., East lawn. Movie for the 6th-8th graders.

High School. Sun., July 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m., East lawn. Movie for the 9th-12th graders.

High School Nicaragua Trip

We are planning a mission trip to Nicaragua for high school in 2016. If you are interested in this trip, contact Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org.

Family Worship Night

Sun., July 26 – Join us in the Social Hall for fellowship, music, and prayer as a family. All ages welcome. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner provided. Free event for the entire family.

Sunday Mornings

July 5 – Family Worship Sunday. No Sunday School 6th-12th grade.

July 12 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

July 19 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

July 26 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

Aug. 2 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

Aug. 9 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

Aug. 16 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

Aug. 23 – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 205. 6th-12th grade Sunday School.

Middle School Mission Team Serves in Kansas City

Eleven of our middle schoolers spent two days serving with four agencies in our Northeast Partnership: Della Lamb Community Services, Sheffield Place, NewHouse and Micah Ministries.



Elizabeth Crocker, Caroline Schopp, Aislinn Sullivan, Monica Lewis, Duncan Bennett and Cameron Davis.



Aislinn Sullivan, Luke Lopatofsky



Connections

By Phil Love, Chair of Congregational Board



If you are like me, when I feel I am “part of something,” it means I have a special kind of “connection” with it. We all want to have real connections in our lives — with family, friends, co-workers, the world around us, and our church. In fact, we can think of the church as a place for making connections, a place to discover, create and nourish life-giving relationships we can truly feel a part of.

What are some factors that might contribute to feeling connected, knowing that we are “part of something?” Here are three suggestions: knowing what’s going on (information), knowing how we can fit in (involvement), and knowing how we can make a difference (contribution).

Our July 12 the Ministry Connections all-church gathering will focus on each of these. This will be an energy-filled time of learning what’s happening in key ministry areas of our church life, including Children/Student/Family ministry, Spiritual Formation, Pastoral Care, and Outreach and Mission. We’ll discover how each of us can become involved in ways appropriate to our individual situations, strengths, interests and capabilities, as well as how to know our participation makes a difference. I look forward to seeing you on July 12 in the Social Hall from 12:15-1:30 p.m. for Ministry Connections, the next of our planned all-church gatherings.

I think of the coming year as an opportunity to seek out, encourage, and nurture the kind of connections that make vital congregations blossom and thrive. The recent Vital Congregations Study undertaken by a team consisting of Amy Holmes, Jason Roske, Sally Nielsen, Meredith Holladay and Joe Walker identified some categories of connection that represent opportunities for us to consider for further study and action. Each of these categories is common to the thriving congregations contacted during the study. They include a focus on community and neighborhood involvement, an emphasis on small groups, and the importance of appropriately deployed technology to enable us to maintain and improve our connections with one another as well as the broader community.

I am so very excited about our opportunities for strengthening our connections with one another, with the world around us, and with the One who has called us together that God’s will might truly be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Blessings to you and yours,

Phil

Children and Families

Family Worship Night: Listening for God

Sun., July 26 – Join us in the Social Hall for fellowship, music, and prayer as a family. All ages welcome. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Dinner provided. Free event for the entire family.

Club Kids (3rd-5th Grade)

No Club Kids in July and August. Watch for a fall kick off.

Sunday School Apps

Parents please check out the *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* app to help you reinforce our Sunday lessons.

- For iPhones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-apple> to download the app.
- For Android phones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-android>.

Through *Grow! Proclaim and Serve* your child will hear the Bible story, apply the Bible message, and then live out the message in their lives in concrete and age-appropriate ways. Go to <http://www.growproclaimserve.com/parents.html> to learn more about the curriculum.

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



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

Memorials

Frank Siler

John & Erma Hess

Robert Liveley, father of Judy Schaefer

Jill Reynolds

Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the births of:

Emery Vale Cobb, daughter of Allie and Travis Cobb

Noah Thomas Heatherman, son of Kelly and Mark Heatherman

Penelope Susan Taylor, daughter of Christian and Todd Taylor

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