



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.*

Join Us for Festival Sunday on August 18!

We will celebrate Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth and adults, on Sun., Aug. 18.

Picnic Lunch Served – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m

- Picnic lunch served. (\$8 per person, maximum \$30 per family. Guests and visitors complimentary.)
- Hamburgers and hot dogs served by Two Guys and a Grill from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Bounce house, games and prizes, food and live music!



Worship at 9:00, 10:00 or 11:00 a.m.

- Dr. R. Glen Miles will preach the sermon *God's Will is for Life*.
- 3rd grade Bible presentations at the 11:00 a.m. service.
- Pick up a Fall 2013 Ministries and Events Guide.
- Children and youth will advance to the next Sunday School grade level.

Reservations appreciated. Call 816-333-4917 or email marymargareth@cccckc.org. Walk-ins welcome!

Faith Formation Groups and Bible Studies Begin in September

Opportunities for both ongoing and short-term studies are available. This year a fall, winter and spring session of short-term offerings will augment the traditional ongoing studies. See page 2 for detailed descriptions.

Short-term Faith Tracks

- **Faith Academy:** Faith Academy involves reading an academic text and discussing it in class with a clergy person or professor as mentor and guide. Mondays, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- **Reel Faith:** Watch a movie, enjoy pizza and then discuss the movie to see what images of faith are captured by the film. Led by Phil and Patty Love, on Sun., Sept. 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Ongoing Studies

- **Disciple Bible Study I: Option 1** – Meets weekly on Thursdays beginning Sept. 5 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Participants commit to weekly attendance and homework. Led by Rev. Carla Aday and Lesley Holt. **Option 2** – This class will meet every other week beginning Mon., Oct. 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Led by Randy Irey and Greg Lear.
- **Faithbook** – Explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey through a brief Bible presentation and discussion in guided small groups. For women ages 25-65. The group meets Tuesday evening OR Wednesday morning, beginning Sept. 10/11.
- **Christian Believer** – Open to all who have completed Disciple Bible Study I, this class meets over two years to explore basic ideas of Christian theology. Led by Rev. Chuck Murphy. Beginning Sept. 4, 6:30-8:00 p.m.



Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

Childcare will be available for all classes with advance reservation. To register or for information about a specific class, call 816-333-4917.

Ongoing Bible Study

For persons interested in a long-term Bible study, the following options will continue through the year.

Faithbook – Women ages 25-66 explore the scriptures and share in friendship and the spirit does the rest! If you don't have time for homework between your work, your family and your volunteering, then this is the class for you. Led by Rev. Carla Aday. The group meets Tuesday evening OR Wednesday morning. Pick the time frame that fits for your schedule. Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Sept. 10-Nov. 19, Jan. 7-Apr. 22 Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., Sept. 11-Nov. 20, Jan. 8-Apr. 2.

Disciple Bible Study I Option 1 – The goal is not to learn about the Bible, although you will learn all about it from Genesis to Revelation. More importantly you will grow in your journey as a Disciple. Participants commit to weekly attendance and homework. Materials cost \$35. Led by Rev. Carla Aday and Lesley Holt. Thursdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Sept. 5-May 29.
Option 2 – for those who don't want to make the commitment of every week or don't have time for the homework. This class meets every other week instead of every week for two years to cover the entire Bible. Led by Randy Irey and Greg Lear. Every other Monday, Oct. 7-May 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Christian Believer – Open to all who have completed Disciple Bible Study I, this 30-week class meeting over two years explores the basic ideas of Christian theology. Participants will read primary sources from history, discuss scriptural themes and watch a short

video from a leading modern theologian. Led by Rev. Chuck Murphy. First and third Wednesdays of the month, beginning Sept. 4, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Senior Adult Bible Study – Designed for senior adults. Meets every Wednesday morning to study the Bible in an effort to create a deeper understanding through lecture and discussion. This year's subject is the Gospel of Mark. Led by Rev. Chuck Murphy. Begins Sept. 4 at 9:00 a.m., Rm. 206.

Short-term Faith Tracks

Persons who would like different faith studies throughout the year can choose from among the following short-term offerings, selecting difference ones in fall, winter and spring. Fall Term: Sept. 8-Oct. 18.

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! Fall session led by Dr. Glen Miles. Book is *Saved from Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross* by Mark Heim, available in The Well. Mon., Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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. Films to be announced. Limit: 14

people. Led Phil and Patty Love. Sun., Sept. 15, 6:00 p.m.

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. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Materials cost is \$37. Saturdays, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5.

Soul Mates – If you are recently engaged or recently married, we invite you to participate in Soul Mates, a class designed specifically for you. Each class will be led by experienced facilitators and will focus on cultivating your relationship and discussing topics that are relevant to you. Sundays, Oct. 27-Nov. 24.

New Member



Jacqueline Cyphers with husband, Stan.
New Member Host: Bobbie Vanice



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



When we proclaim a word of grace to a world dying for love, dying for hope, dying to be received for who they are, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus.

When we allow grace to become the driving force in our congregation, we are becoming more like the church that God calls us to be.

When grace is at work in our homes, our offices, our schools and our playgrounds, we are living out the very gospel.

Grace is amazing but it is not an easy thing to understand. I was teaching a Bible study on Romans many years ago in another church. We came to chapter 8 and that marvelous section that reminds us “that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, NOR ANYTHING else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.”

I suggested to the class that the implication here was quite clear: God will do everything possible to bring us under the loving care of heaven. God will never run out of patience with us. God, in this life or in the next, will do everything possible to bring all of us to the place named home, to the place where we finally will be loved.

A man in the class asked to speak to me afterward. “I’ve lived my whole life doing the right thing, practicing morality, making the right choices. Now you’re telling me it didn’t matter, that God loves everybody anyway. Why should I bother with living a good life when grace is there?” The central issue? He didn’t think he needed grace.

I understand what he is getting at but look at Jesus in the gospel stories. He is kind and compassionate to the lost, the least, the little, the sinners, the ones who knew that they needed grace. He saved his harshest words for the super religious ones who thought they didn’t need grace.

In the book, *If Grace is True*, the authors write, “God has loved us from the very beginning...God did not wait to see if we were lovable. God did not require us to earn God’s love. God did not reserve his love for some and deny it to others. God has loved all of us from the very beginning.” Amazing and true.

Grace and peace to you,

Annual Elder and Deacon Seminar

If you are an Elder or a Deacon, please plan to attend the annual Elder and Deacon Seminar on Sat., Aug. 24, from 8:30 a.m.-noon in the Social Hall. Please contact Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org to RSVP.

Worship with us!

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

**Festival Sunday
Aug. 18**

God’s Will is for Life
Matthew 18: 10-14

Aug. 25
Set Free
Luke 13:10-17

**September Sermon Series
Finding Jesus in Church
Sept. 8**

Part 1: Substance Over Style

Sept. 15
Part 2: Culture Wars

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

The Lunch Bunch

Monthly luncheons with entertaining programs and speakers open to senior adults interested in spirituality, current events and fellowship will kick off at 11:30 a.m. on Tues., Sept. 17, in the Social Hall. Charles Gusewelle will be the guest speaker. The luncheons will continue on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Chuck Murphy, 816-333-4917 or chuckm@cccckc.org for more information.

Women's Book Group Will Meet August 22


The Women's Book Group will meet on Thur., Aug. 22, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss *By the River Piedra* by Paul Cohela. Contact Marianne See, 816-331-3726, for more information. You can begin reading the September selection, *The World As We Know It* by Joseph Monninger, in preparation for the book discussion on Sept. 26.

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.

Espresso Service Continues into Fall

9:00-9:45 a.m. Sundays

The Summer Espresso Service has been so much fun over the last couple months, we're extending this service format into the fall. This Sunday, stick around after worship and join Glen and the other clergy in the Parlor for a cup of gourmet coffee and fellowship.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on August 18

On Sun., Aug. 18, 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."

Follow Us on Facebook

Are you a fan of Country Club Christian Church on Facebook? The church's Facebook page includes photos, information and an option for you to leave messages. You can sign up to be a follower if you have a Facebook account. If you don't have an account, you can create a free one. The church already has more than 500 people following us on Facebook. Join the fun. Just go to www.facebook.com.





Back to Church

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



My niece's chin quivered. Her expressive blue eyes welled with tears and her brow furrowed. She gulped back a sob as she whispered, "But I won't know anyone. None of my friends will be there."

No amount of reassurance, by way of hugs, encouragement, or promise of special treats, comforted her. She was convinced that the next day was going to be the absolute worst day of her 6-year-old life: the first day of First Grade.

Though she'd sailed effortlessly through Kindergarten, charming teachers along the way, the thought of First Grade had been troubling her. Yes, the building would be familiar. Yes, she liked reading, learning and making friends. "But in First Grade you have to do HOMEWORK!" she cried. "I don't even know how to do homework!" A new teacher and a classroom without any familiar friends can sound so ominous to a sensitive child. "I'm feeling so nervous," she wept, the abundance of confidence she usually displays evaporated.

The first day came, and I was anxious and nervous for her, worried she'd be pink-faced and crying as her parents dropped her off; worried she'd be feeling sad and alone all day. Finally, word came from her parents: Once she stepped into that familiar school, it all came back to her. She flitted about hugging teachers missed over the summer. She admired her new classroom with her name on her desk. When I saw her after school, the twinkle had returned to her eyes as she told me, animatedly, that she'd had a "*Fantastic Day!*"

As children go back to school across the metro area, those of us with children in our lives are preparing to settle back into a familiar routine. For many, that routine includes a return to church after a summer spent away. And for some of us coming back to church after a lengthy time away might feel a little scary, like the first day of First Grade. Will we feel welcomed at the front door? Will worship feel unfamiliar? Will anyone remember our names?

This Sunday, Aug. 18, is Festival Sunday, a great day to come back to church. Whether you've been away for the summer, or for many years; whether you've been away from Country Club Christian Church or away from church in general, maybe this is a good Sunday to come back. I guarantee that, even if you're nervous, you are bound to be greeted by a friendly face, you're sure to hear inspirational words and music, and you might even make new friends. And we won't even make you do homework.

Join us this Sunday. It's going to be a Fantastic Day!

Lara

September Sermon Series

Finding Jesus in Church. The Millennial Generation, young adults in their early 30s and younger, have some pretty strong opinions on what they're looking for in a church. Baby Boomers, Generation Xers, and everyone else could learn a thing or two by listening to these bright young voices.

Sept. 8 – Substance Over Style

Sept. 15 – Culture Wars

Sept. 22 – Science and Faith

Sept. 29 – Stand for Something

Rose Garden Memorial Bricks Available

Honor your loved ones with an engraved memorial brick in the Rose Garden pathway. In addition to inurnment in the Columbarium or the scattering of ashes in the Rose Garden, engraved memorial bricks are available to past and present members and their immediate families. Price is \$350 each and includes brick, imprinting and placement. Contact Chuck Murphy at 816-333-4917 or chuckm@cccckc.org for more information.



Upcoming Youth Events

Sunday Night Youth Group

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. Contact Hayley Holt at hayleyh@cccckc.org for more information.

Aug. 18 – School Starts! Gather for a special back to school youth group. Dinner will be served in the Social Hall at 5:30 p.m. Then we will head up to the Youth Center until 7:30 p.m. Join us to kick off the year!

Aug. 25 – Hunger Games II and BBQ. All youth and their families are invited to play Hunger Games and have some BBQ. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

Fellowship Singers

The Fellowship Singers will meet at a new time – 10:40-11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. All youth (6th-12th grade) are invited and encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Michael Patch, michaelp@cccckc.org.

Youth Events

Chi Rho Lock-in – Planning has begun for Chi Rho Lock-in on Fri., Sept. 27. Save the date and look for more information to come.

Worlds of Fun – Our annual outing to Worlds of Fun is scheduled for Sun., Oct. 27. Mark your calendars and get ready for fun!

CYF Retreat – CYF Retreat is tentatively scheduled for Fri., Nov. 15. Keep checking for more information!

CYF Mission Team to Chicago



CYF youth (9th-12th graders) traveled to Chicago July 21 for a week of mission work and fun. Above left are: (back) Justin Zeigler, Carty Johannsen, MaKenna Lockhart, Steven Miles, Charlie Jensen, Jansen Hess, Jackson Berry, Jane Commerford; (front) Alyssa Hess, Presley Schumaker, Kellin Martiny, Michaela O'Connor, Charlotte Lower.

Above right, Jansen Hess with two of the children at the mission site.

August Collection Connection: School Uniforms

During August, we are collecting new and used school uniforms for the children at Hartman Elementary School. Suggested places to purchase the uniforms are JCPenney, Sears, Dollar General, Target, Old Navy, or you may donate cash. We need the following items for kindergarten through 6th grade girls and boys in sizes 5 to 16:

- Navy or white polo shirts – short or long sleeve
- Khaki or navy pants, skirts, or jumpers
- Short white socks

Please bring your donation to the parlor or send a check to the office marked “school uniforms.”

Country Club Christian Church is beginning its fourth school year partnering with Hartman School in the Kansas City, Missouri School District. The majority of students at Hartman receive free or reduced price lunches and many come to school without uniforms because their parents cannot afford to buy them.



An Unforgettable Moment

by Rev. Janet Weiblen, Interim Pastoral Associate



I hang out in prisons. It's a "God thing." I'm not sure why God decided to send me into prisons, it just happened. And I could no more have ignored that call than I could have turned my back on God. I've come to see it as a way to give back, as a way to bring compassion and healing into a place where brokenness is the norm. The men and women in prison are among the most forsaken people in the world. I've been into prisons now for more than 20 years, and I'm still amazed at some of the things I hear and learn--especially about lost childhoods. Yet these individuals rarely understand the loss; it's a norm for them. They simply endure it, unaware of how much it mangles their souls.

I've learned a great deal in prison: how much a touch on the arm or a handshake can mean to someone who never feels the warmth of a kind touch. It's seems small and insignificant, but to them, it's caring and comfort. It's love.

I've seen tough, initially shy and awkward men learn to laugh—at me, but mostly "with me." They think it's great fun to steal my favorite positive thoughts: "Be the change you want to see in the world" or "Change is inevitable; growth is optional." We begin a meeting with each person sharing a positive thought and they come up with ways to foil me. One might use my quote; another might say: "Your quotes have been banned." It might seem silly, but silliness isn't something that happens in prison. In many ways, it's relief, relief from the nastiness they encounter on a routine basis. It may well be the only time all week when they can laugh at someone and not be ridiculed for it. And I'm glad they've become comfortable enough to do it with me.

Lots of people think I'm nuts to go into prison. Maybe I am. But I've seen incredible transformations happen—not because we talk about God or anything religious, but because this has become a place where they can share their feelings and even sometimes bare their souls. This is a place where someone will listen and not condemn; it's a place where they're respected as human beings, regardless of their brokenness. Prison can be a "God place."

Anytime you want to join me for an evening, let me know. I'd be delighted to introduce you to my friends.

Janet

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith

Opening Rotation - Aug. 25-Sept. 15

The first rotation of the year for 1st-5th graders will have a focus by grade level to help children gain some basic tools to enhance their growing faithfulness.

1st grade – Worship Basics

2nd grade – Faith Practices

3rd grade – Know Your Bible

4th grade – The Church Year

5th grade – Into the World

First Steps to Faithfulness

Sunday, Sept. 8

Parents with children under 3 are invited to join other families on Sun., Sept. 8 from 10:00-10:45 a.m. We will explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness. Join us for informal fellowship in the Play Zone, Room 215.

Club Kids

Beginning Sept. 8, 3rd-5th graders are invited to come for fellowship, fun and food from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. each Sunday evening. Community building games and activities will be the focus of this informal and fun gathering. We will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.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. Chuck Murphy Minister of Congregational Care	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Janet Weiblen Interim Pastoral Associate	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. John D. Clemmer Business Administrator	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth

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

Our Church Family

Sympathy

JORGE VIZCARRA passed away on July 2. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, Teresa Clune, Dan Vizcarra, Anna Vizcarra, Christina Vizcarra and Natalie Heying. His service was July 8 in Leawood.

RICHARD "DICK" CRAY passed away on July 23. He is survived by his wife, Laura. His service was July 27 in the Sanctuary.

MARILYN NAIRN passed away on July 28. She is survived by her daughters, Denise Barnard and Dienna Boley. Her service was July 29 in Overland Park.

TRAVIS DANIEL REICHMAN passed away in July. She is survived by her husband, George Reichman, Jr.

Memorials

Marilyn Nairn

Jeff & Carolyn Loeb & Andi
Forestine Wayland
Dr. Andria Arvan
Ray & Mary Alderson
Don & Marlene Toner
Polly Gallant
John & Erma Hess
Tri C's Sunday School Class
Norma Tilton
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wissel

Dick Cray

John & Erma Hess

Capital Campaign Building Fund

Ivan Risley

Kurt Von Achen
Lee & Jarene Stanford
June Turley

Virginia Reed Food Drive

Lou Kurz

Bette & Byron McDaniel
Laurel & Bill Mace

Congregational Care

Marilyn Nairn

Jeanne & Perry Cockayne