



VOLUME 89 · NUMBER 17

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.*

Join Us for Festival Sunday on September 13

We will celebrate Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth and adults, on Sun., Sept. 13.

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

- Dr. R. Glen Miles will preach the sermon, "Takin' It to the Streets."
- 3rd grade Bible presentations at the 11:00 a.m. service.
- Children and youth will advance to the next Sunday School grade level.
- Pick up children and youth packets and calendars.

Picnic Lunch – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m

- Picnic lunch. (\$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.

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



Backpack Blessing

August 16, 11:00 a.m. worship service

Bless us as we begin a new year of learning, teaching, growing, and serving...



Children (preschool-5th grade) and students (6th-12th grade) are invited to wear red or yellow shirts and bring their backpacks with them to worship this Sunday, Aug. 16. Meet in the Parlor at 10:45 a.m. Children and students will process with the ministers and choir to the front of the sanctuary so that Glen and the congregation can pray for you and your upcoming school year.



Pathways to Learning: Early Childhood – Caring For Our Future



Every child is a wondrous sign of God's love expressed in and through humanity; a gift to all of us, entrusted to our love and care.

As individuals, a congregation and a society we reverently accept the responsibility of caring for God's children, be they

our own family, our neighbors or little ones in faraway places. From both experience and science we know that the care – or lack thereof – a child receives in the earliest years directly impacts lifelong health, well-being, and ability to engage fruitfully in society.

On Sun., Sept. 20 and 27 we will offer a two-part Pathways to Learning on "Early Childhood: Caring for Our Future." The presentations will be 10:00-10:50 a.m. in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge for the sessions.

The Sept. 20 session will explore how access to health care, nutritional food, educational stimulation, and a safe, stable environment nurture essential emotional, physical and social development. We will also hear from a Head Start director about

the day-to-day experiences of local early childhood caregivers.

In the Sept. 27 session we will hear from our outreach and mission partners about ways they are providing for the care and nurture of young children. They will describe programs we are already supporting through our stewardship and share other ways that we can volunteer and provide resources toward our goal of loving care for every child.



Luke Lopatosky helped children at Della Lamb's preschool with tactile skills during our middle school mission trip in July.

This two-part series serves as a helpful introduction to the upcoming KCPT special "The Raising of America" (raisingofamerica.org) and panel discussion that airs Oct. 9.

For more information call our office 816-333-4917 or email care@cccckc.org.

Christian Community Camp in Colorado

More than 90 members and friends of Country Club Christian Church gathered in Estes Park, CO, at the YMCA of the Rockies Aug. 1-8 led by Rev. Carla Aday. Upcoming camp dates: July 30-Aug. 1, 2016; June 3-10, 2017.



Sunday worship at the top of the mountain on the theme "Hiking with the Saints."



Cole Keller, Ben Walker, Grant Bough enjoy an afternoon treat.



Megan Mudrick and her daughters, Emilia and Lila on a hike.



Good Books on the Good Book

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Many times people say to me, “I don’t know a lot about the Bible. Is there a good book I can read that will help me understand it better?” The answer is yes and here are my top three books on the Good Book.

Making Sense of the Bible, by Adam Hamilton. This book is one of the best you can read about the Bible. Adam has combined a pastor’s heart with a scholar’s background and delivered a terrific guide to many of the complex and difficult questions that surround its contents. In the first section of the book, he takes on topics like inspiration,

how and why the books of the Bible were chosen (and why others were not included), and the nature of scripture. In the second part he deals with contemporary issues like science, suffering, homosexuality and violence. For my money this is the best book available for the person in the pew on how to read and make sense of the sacred and holy word.

An older but still very worthwhile volume is Peter Gomes’ book, *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind*. Professor Gomes is in the resurrection now but during his lifetime he was named as one of the top ten preachers in the USA. Some of you may recall that he delivered a series of lectures and a sermon here at Country Club Christian Church several years ago. Gomes takes on issues and concerns similar to Hamilton’s but with a slightly different approach. If you’ve ever heard Peter preach you’ll no doubt hear his voice as you read chapters with titles like, “The Bible in America,” “The Bible and Race,” and “The Bible and Mystery.”

Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most, by Marcus Borg, focuses on the question, “What does it mean to be Christian and American today?” As you can see the book is not about the Bible but it does delve into matters centered around concerns that are raised about the Bible. For example, chapter five, “Jesus is the Norm of the Bible,” is a very practical guide to reading the Bible through the viewpoint of Jesus (and it is similar to an idea proposed in Adam’s book above). Another chapter, “The Bible is Political,” demonstrates that the Bible often took on political issues of the day.

All three of these volumes are worth your time to read. I am certain your faith will be enriched. If you read any or all, please let me know your thoughts. I’d love to be in conversation with you about these good books on the Good Book!

Grace and peace to you,

Save the date for Grace at Work on October 10

Join us at the annual Grace at Work event on Sat., Oct. 10, 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. Complimentary hot breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.

Worship with us!

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

Aug. 16

How Fast They Grow Up
Luke 2:41-52

Aug. 23

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Aug. 30

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Stephen Ministry Training Begins This Fall

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained to offer high-quality, one-on-one Christian care to people facing long-term illness, the death of a loved one, loss of a job, divorce, or other life crisis. Do you feel led to explore how you might help provide confidential care to individuals who are experiencing difficulties in their lives? Stephen Ministry may be a good match for you. A new training class begins in September. The 50-hour training sessions and retreats focus on prayer and spirituality, active listening, boundaries awareness, confidentiality, referral strategies, and initiating and concluding caregiving relationships. Training runs through January 2016. To initiate a conversation about whether you may be called to serve as a Stephen Minister contact Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 ext. 224.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Help Prepare a Home to Welcome a Refugee Family

We have committed to try to provide teams of three to five people to help prepare each home in the Della Lamb Refugee Resettlement program, a part of our Northeast PartNerShip. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kathy Buckley, the point person for our congregation, at majorbuckley@aol.com. In the last 10 months, Della Lamb has established more than 60 homes for 150 plus individuals who have come to America through the program sponsored by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Della Lamb's first responsibility to these families is to provide an apartment or home.

Prison Book Ministry

We are collecting books for our Lansing Correctional Facility Library Book Ministry. Volunteers from our church go to the prison to help the librarian catalog and stock donated books. Acceptable genres include mysteries, suspense, current best sellers, history, Westerns, science fiction, Spanish language books, and Spanish-English dictionaries. We cannot accept romance novels, *Reader's Digest*, Bibles (we have plenty), or product manuals. Paperback books are preferred though hardback volumes are accepted. New this year, we are also accepting manual and electric typewriters. Donations may be placed under the table in our east entrance. For more information or to learn about volunteering in this ministry call our church office or email care@cccckc.org.

Health and Spirituality Keynote

The Congregational Care Ministry Team invites you to "There's a Burning Bush in Your Hospital Room," a keynote address by Rev. Dr. Dane Sommer, Head Chaplain at Children's Mercy Hospital, on Fri., Aug. 28, 7:00 p.m. at the Community of Christ Temple, Independence, MO. Dr. Sommer will be sharing how "a group of hospital chaplains found a new sense of mission and purpose by rediscovering the burning bush in every hospital room." Everyone is welcome to this free event which will be particularly helpful for caregivers, those who visit the sick, and our Stephen Ministers.

We are also offering the option to dine together before the keynote. We will be meeting at 5:00 p.m. at Café Verona, 206 W. Lexington, on the Historic Independence Square. Transportation is available via our church van. RVSP to Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 ext. 224.



A Solid Foundation

By Michael Patch, Director of Children and Student Music



My husband and I have been renovating a house for the past six months. In just the past few days, we can see the finish line. It has been such hard work. We have moved walls, upgraded the electrical and plumbing, and a new kitchen and bathroom. Other than some electrical, we have done every bit ourselves. The foundation is solid and we have put a lot of planning into the process. ...Not to mention the hard work. Did I mention the hard work?

This has me thinking about the children, students, and families at Country Club Christian Church. We have been thinking tirelessly about our programs: time, day of the week, classroom design, security, curriculum, fundamentals, missions, visions. It has been a lot of hard work. The foundation is solid, but this isn't a little bungalow, and it takes more than an electrician to make the programs work.

Very soon, the children and students will move up a grade to an entirely new set of experiences. Those kindergarteners who sat on the floor, singing to a CD will begin holding sheet music and singing with a piano. They will experience everything that we have worked so hard for. If the foundation is solid and our hearts are singing the praise of God, we will have more than a house. We will have a church.

Upcoming Student Events

Leadership Launch Event

Aug. 16, 12:15-2:00 p.m., Youth Center. Volunteers who will be serving in children and students ministry in any capacity during the 2015-2016 year will gather for a training session! Lots of fun and lunch will be provided.

High School BBQ Tour

Sun., Sept. 20, 1:00 p.m. 2nd Annual High School BBQ Tour, 9th-12th grade. Get out your bibs and wet wipes! Cost is \$10.00 per person. Contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org if interested in attending.

Middle School Pizza Tour

Sun., Sept. 27, 12:00- 3:00 p.m. All 6th-8th graders are invited to take a bite of some delicious Kansas City pizza. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org if interested in attending.

Family Worship Night: Family Mission

Sun., Nov. 1, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

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.

Collection Connection: Shoes and Socks to Building Blocks

Legos – those fun, little, brightly colored building blocks – will be overflowing our Collection Connection table this September. In conjunction with our Children and Families Ministry, we will be collecting new and used Legos for children in the local foster care system. The Giving Brick (thegivingbrick.com) gathers, cleans, re-packages, and re-gifts Legos to children through the CASA organization in Jackson County. Legos encourage imaginative play in children and help develop tactile skills.

Month after month, the generosity of our congregation is evident as the Collection Connection table in our parlor disappears under donations for our outreach and mission partners.



Filled stockings

This past December, Sunday School classes filled 650 pair of socks with personal hygiene items for Micah Ministry. Darrell Cantrell, one of the Ministry's leaders, recounted, "I watched Jackie and volunteers from Country Club hand out the socks and the smiles that they brought to faces of the guests is something that is hard to really describe. Isn't it amazing that we



take for granted that we will have hygiene products each and every day?" We followed that up in May, collecting 112 pairs of shoes for Micah Ministry. Many of the shoes were brand new – bought and donated specifically for this collection.



Loading donated school supplies

Over the summer we have focused on helping families get ready for the new academic year. In June and July we collected school supplies for Della Lamb Community Services. Their thank you note to our church expressed their gratitude for our partnership, "Thank you for the school supplies, they were greatly needed!!! You guys always come through for us." This month we are collecting school uniforms for Hartman Elementary.

Collection Connection Schedule

October	India mission trip supplies
November	Pumpkin pies for Micah Thanksgiving dinner
December	Socks with personal hygiene items
January	Nicaragua mission trip supplies
February	Easter eggs for our Easter egg hunt
May-June	High school Nicaragua mission trip supplies

Current Collection Connection: School Uniforms

We are collecting school uniforms for Hartman Elementary School in August. We need uniforms for boys and girls. They should be



new or gently used khaki or navy pants and navy polo shirts. Sizes 6, 8, and 10 are especially needed. A sample is on display in the Parlor. You may also make a monetary contribution, noting "Hartman uniforms" on the check and turning it into the church office or placing it in the offering plate.



A Heart for Students

by Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



“I actually feel like what I am doing is making a difference and that’s a great feeling,” said Deanne Stedem, one of dozens of volunteers from our congregation who have discovered enriching opportunities through our partnership with Hartman Elementary School. Deanne spends an hour each week reading, doing math problems or playing word games with third graders. “I really don’t do very much,” she said. “The students clearly enjoy the extra bit of attention I provide, and I enjoy their excited smiles, and those little ‘ah-

ha’ moments when they learn a word, or suddenly understand a math problem.” Deanne’s sons also volunteer, tutoring math and coaching sports.



Deanne Stedem uses flash cards to help students improve their math proficiency

Kate Berkley found her niche in the kindergarten class during the summer school program. “I questioned what my role as a reading tutor would be,” she said, “amongst students who are still mastering their ABCs. Quickly, though, I found my place in the class, guiding hands holding pencils as they trace letters on Common Core worksheets, moderating disputes over who can play quarterback during recess, and explaining that ‘Imno’ is four letters and not one.” Kate, a Kansas City native, is currently a student at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME. The past three summers she has returned home to be part of the Local Investment Commission (klinc.org) summer programs in Kansas City schools. Though not a church member, Kate has worked alongside us and we have enjoyed her enthusiasm and appreciated her many gifts and talents.



Kate Berkley by LINC bulletin board

“Programs like LINC Summer School are vitally important,” Kate said, “to helping young students maintain and continue to make progress during these crucial ages of development. When students leave school for the summer, if they do not practice and continue to develop these new skills, they lose progress made during the school year, and, once a student falls behind, it can be extremely difficult to catch up again.”

Beyond encouraging students, our partnership offers myriad opportunities on-site and through church. We host occasional special events for the teachers and help with afterschool programming. Hartman is a Grace at Work site; we will be beautifying the grounds on Oct. 10. Volunteers meet at our church once a week to fill and deliver backpacks through Harvesters’ BackSnack program. Our church is a funding partner for the Take the Stage

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Children and Families

Leadership Launch Event

Aug. 16, 12:15-2:00 p.m. Youth Center
Volunteers who will be serving in children and students ministry in any capacity during the 2015-2016 year will gather for a training session. Lots of fun and lunch will be provided.

Club Kids (3rd-5th Grade)

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

MOPs Group Beginning This Fall

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) will meet the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. We are also looking for mothers of older children to serve as Mentor Moms. If you are interested in participating, have questions about MOPs, or are interested in serving as a Mentor

A Heart for Students,

continued from left

dance program that helps students develop self-discipline skills and an appreciation of excellence that positively impacts all aspects of their lives (www.takethestagekc.org). Annually our Collection Connection provides uniforms for students and we save Box Tops For Education for the school (see pg. 6).

For information on volunteer opportunities, contact Nancy Ralston at nancyralston1@gmail.com or call our church office, 816-333-4917. On-site volunteers must pass background screening and participate in training. For details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/kcschoolsvolunteers>.

Joe

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Our Church Family

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rachel and Travis Wymore on the birth of their daughter, Nora Lee Wymore.

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Allie Cobb Director of Student Ministries
Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans Co-interim Director of Music
Dr. Meredith Holladay Minister of Spiritual Formation	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communciations
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	Dr. Paul Tucker Co-interim Director of Music

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