



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.

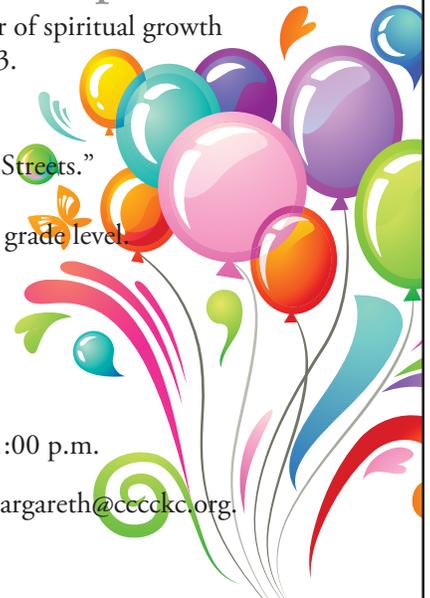
Worship at 9:00, 10:00 or 11:00 a.m.

- 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!



Pathways to Learning: Early Childhood – Caring For Our Future

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. 10:00 a.m., Social Hall. Everyone welcome.

Sun., Sept. 20 – How access to health care, nutrition, educational stimulation, and a safe, stable environment nurturing emotional, physical and social development.

Sun., Sept. 27 – Outreach and mission partners will discuss ways they are providing for the care and nurture of young children through programs we are already supporting and share ways we can volunteer and provide resources toward our goal of loving care for every child.



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.



Music Ministry Search Committee Seeks Feedback

As Country Club Christian Church begins its search for a permanent Director of Music Ministry, the search committee is gathering input and feedback about the Music Ministry from members of the congregation. Music serves an important role in the worship experience and is integral to spiritual development for many. With that in mind, we want to know what Country Club Christian Church's Music Ministry means to you. You can pick up a hard copy of the feedback form in the Parlor starting this Sunday, or fill out the feedback form online at cccckc.org (<http://tinyurl.com/cccckcmusic>). The deadline for feedback is Sept. 30.

September Collection Connection: LEGO Bricks

We are collecting used LEGO® bricks to be recycled and created into sets for child advocacy programs through The Giving Brick, a Kansas City non-profit organization collecting used LEGO® bricks to give to kids in need. They will take LEGO bricks in any condition. Check out their website – www.thegivingbrick.com – for more information. Please place your LEGO in the basket in the parlor.



Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Sept. 20. 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 Sept. 20 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.

Elder and Deacon Spiritual Leadership Event

All Elders and Deacons are invited to this event on Sat., Sept. 12, from 8:30-11:45 a.m. in the Social Hall. Donuts and coffee will be served. The agenda includes a presentation on New Wine for a New Day (see Matthew 9:16-17), How to Thrive as an Elder or Deacon and a worship service training opportunity. RSVP to Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Thank You from David Diebold

Dear Friends,

I want to once again say a heart-felt thank you to each of you for your part in making my final days at the church so meaningful. Your generous love gift is most appreciated and I am also thrilled with the season tickets to the symphony. Thank you all for these and all of the wonderful memories.

I look forward to the time when we will see each other again.

Fondly,
David



The Last Best Word

by Dr. R. Glen Miles

While Glen's away on vacation this week, we are reprinting this column from September, 2011. Glen will be back with a new column in the next issue on Sept. 11.

The Last Best Word is the one that God wants the whole world to hear and know.

Paul wrote about this to the church in Corinth: "The love of Christ urges us on...Therefore we regard no one from a human point of view."

When we see the world through eyes of God we see the world through the eyes of love. When we are able to see people with a love-filled vision the church becomes a reflection of God's grace and love.

Love, the last best word. Through the love that we have encountered and seen revealed in Jesus we can now see each other, and in fact every person we meet, through the eyes of God.

H. Richard Niebuhr, a remarkable theologian, said, "The great Christian revolutions come not by the discovery of something that was not known before. They happen when somebody takes radically something that was always there." The love of God has been there since the beginning of time. It is there today. It illuminates a pathway that is waiting to be followed.

Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ there is a whole new world." The Corinthians might not have liked hearing this word from their founding pastor. They were well known for their great culture, their high intelligence and thoughtful intellect. Corinth was wealthy and strong. But Paul wanted them to see that in Christ the world was being transformed and reformed.

William Willimon points out that "one of the peculiarities of the New Testament is that it so rarely tells us what to do. Mostly, it tells us what to see." It is as though Jesus decides that what we need are a bunch of stories and parables that will help us find a new angle of vision on the world. Even Jesus' life and the way he lived it is a sort of parable on how to be a person of faith.

When we choose to follow God as revealed in Jesus Christ we are saying that we will no longer see the world through the artificial human barriers that we have constructed. Instead, we will see things from heaven's point of view. Love will change our vision, transform our lives and renew our spirits. Love is the last best word.

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. 30

Spiritual Forgetfulness

James 1:17-27

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Sept. 6

Cross Walk

Mark 8:31-38

Sermon Series: Takin It to the Streets

Sept. 13

Part 1: Go

Matthew 28:16-18

Sept. 20

Part 2: The Unknown God

Acts 17:22-31

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Isaiah: Living Faith Bible Study

Join us for study and lively discussion with the book of Isaiah on Wednesday mornings beginning Sept. 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will explore Isaiah's spiritual, historical, and literary content and how it echoes down through the centuries to our hearts today. Everyone is welcome. Textbook: \$10. For information, contact Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org.

Disciples Bible Study: History and Future

Explore the history and future of our denomination as rooted in the Bible and the belief that there can be unity in diversity when we give our all in service to following Jesus Christ. Wednesday Evening Disciples Bible Study begins Sept. 16 and meets the first and third Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Room 201. Everyone welcome. Text \$20. For information contact Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org.

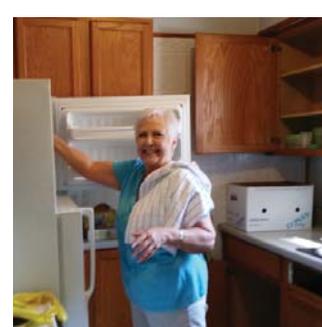
Stephen Ministry Training Begins This Fall

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.



Helping 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. On Tues., Aug. 25, a team of four volunteers worked to prepare a three-bedroom home for a family of five (a mother and four adults sons) who will arrive at the end of August. The team vacuumed, made beds, cleaned the kitchen and other work as needed. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kathy Buckley, the point person for our congregation, at majorbuckley@aol.com. No heavy lifting or furniture moving required!



From left, Shirley Hansell (team leader), Suzanne Gordon, Ruth Bradshaw and Jackie Cunningham prepared the home.



Connect with Us

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



As a lifelong sports fan, basketball and football have always been my first loves. So imagine my surprise at suddenly finding myself completely sucked into baseball. I know it's predictable; the team is winning. I'm a fair weather fan. But what's most surprising to me is how much attention I've been paying to a sport that never interested me before.

I have watched so much baseball on television, even announcer Rex Hudler has begun to grow on me. I follow baseball writers on Twitter. I check the *Kansas*

City Star's coverage daily. I scan the schedule, I listen to sports radio, and I follow Salvador Perez on Instagram. There are lots of ways to get my baseball fix, and I use them all. I like knowing what's going on.

While the church might not be as ubiquitous as the Royals, I know you like knowing what's going on here, too. So I want to remind you that there are also lots of ways for you to keep up with us, just like you keep up with your favorite sports teams.

If you're reading this column, you know that our newsletter is packed with information about events, recaps and photos, reflective columns and service opportunities. I encourage you to read each issue from cover to cover to have the most up-to-date information about church.

But there are many other ways to get information from us. The church and our clergy members are active on Facebook. If you have not liked our page, please do, and if you are not friends with Glen, Carla, Monica, Joe or Meredith, send them friend requests. You can also follow us on Twitter: @cccckc is our main church feed and @cccckc_students is our Student Ministry feed.

Our web site is large and full of information, including event details, board meeting minutes and sermon audio files. The web site is also in the process of getting a makeover (stay tuned). Glen sends a weekly email on Fridays; if you do not receive it, please contact Sally at sallyh@cccckc.org. Our Children and Student Ministries send weekly emails on Wednesdays. (Contact Jason at jasona@cccckc.org to be added to those lists.)

Our Sunday bulletin insert is full of information. There are informational posters all around the building. If you attend a Sunday School class, you can scan the "clipboard letter." Our Ministry Guide, located in the pew pockets, is a handy reference to all of our ministry areas.

There are so many ways to keep up. I invite you to connect with us in as many ways as possible, so you will have all the information you need to fully

Lara

Nicaragua Mission Information Session

Learn more about our adult Nicaragua mission trips at a special information session on Sun., Sept. 27, at 12:15 p.m. in Rm. 201. Church members who have previously served in this ministry will provide personal stories and photos will bring to life our long-standing relationship with the people of Nicaragua and our mission partner there, CEPAD. If you are interested in joining our February 2016 mission trip or donating towards trip scholarships or medical clinic resources, plan to join us. Everyone is welcome. For more information please contact Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org.

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.

Upcoming Student Events

New Sunday School Schedule

Our Student Ministry Team has been working hard over the last 18 months to reinforce the foundation of our entire Student Ministry. We have engaged in retreats, met for several hours each month, and have carefully chosen curriculum that achieves our spiritual formation goals. We are so excited that it's finally time to share the new schedule for Sunday mornings.

Sun., Sept. 13, 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Middle School Sunday School, Room 202

High School Sunday School Introduction, Youth Center

Beginning Sun., Sept. 20:

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Youth Center

12:00-12:45 p.m.: High School Sunday School, Youth Center

6th Grade Welcome

Sun., Sept. 13 - 2:00-3:00 p.m., Youth Center. Welcome to Student Ministry to 6th graders! We would like to spend some time with you and your family letting you know about upcoming activities – Pastors' Class, mission trips, youth group gatherings, service projects.

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.

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: Family Mission

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

Blessing of the Backpacks on August 16



Children and students brought their backpacks to the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Aug. 16 to have them blessed for the upcoming school year.



Promotion Sunday

by Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families



It's that bittersweet time of year when we send our children off to begin a new school year. One of the things that makes our Ministry to Children, Students and Families unique is the diversity in the schools our kiddos attend. Our children represent 34 elementary schools and our students represent 21 junior and senior high schools! For us, that means 55 different school schedules to think about as we plan our ministries – choir competitions, football games, soccer games, softball games, robotics competitions, plays...you get the picture!

There is A LOT of energy among our staff, volunteers and families around our new fall schedule. We kicked off our volunteer training with a Leadership Launch recently. Each of our volunteers was trained on our Policies and Procedures for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and our Sunday School teachers were trained on the curriculum for his/her classroom.

Our Children's Ministry kicks off on Festival Sunday, Sept. 13! On that day, children will advance to their current grade level, our third graders will receive their Bibles, and we will launch a new curriculum, Deep Blue! Take a moment to download the app and check out the website: <http://www.deepbluekids.com/>. Families can use all of the games, videos, songs and information on the website and app to reinforce learnings from Sundays and to practice faith at home. My daughter already loves the app and is so excited to see the same characters that are in the Deep Blue Kids Bible. Remember that Sunday School is from 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Our Student Ministry kicks off too! On Festival Sunday, our middle school students will meet in Room 202 from 9:55-10:55 a.m. and our high school students will meet in the Youth Center from 9:55-10:55 for a welcome back reception.

On Sun., Sept. 20, we will begin our new student Sunday School schedule and take our high school students on their 2nd annual BBQ tour! Here's what the normal Sunday School schedule will be:

Middle School Sunday School – 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Youth Center. Check out their curriculum at <http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/reform/>

High School Sunday School – noon-12:45 p.m. in the Youth Center. Chris Howard will guide them as they build upon the sermon text and engage in age appropriate discussions to strengthen their faith.

We are excited for the journey we are about to begin with our children and students! Mark your calendars for Trunk or Treat – Sat., Oct. 24 4:00-6:00

Monica

Children and Families

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 Mom, contact Rachel Wymore at rla08@hotmail.com. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

Infant Dedications



Ian Patrick Holkins and Sean McGarry Holkins were dedicated on Aug. 24. Parents are John and Sheila Holkins.

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Our Church Family

Memorials

Barbara Williams

Anonymous

Faithbook Begins September 22/23

Women 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 your schedule. Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., beginning Sept. 22. Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., beginning Sept. 23. Youth Center (Rm. 205).

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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