



VOLUME 87 · NUMBER 23

COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

by John Clemmer
≈≈≈
page 5

by Justin Zeigler
≈≈≈
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.*

Kay Barnes Will Be Speaker at Thanksgiving Dinner



The Honorable Kay Barnes, former Kansas City mayor, will speak on “The Gift of Gratitude” at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall on Thur., Nov. 21, for a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings.

The theme for this year’s dinner is “We Gather Together.”

Cost is \$17 for adults and \$8 for children. Sign up in the Parlor on Sun., Nov. 10, or RSVP to Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Save the Date: Churchwide Caroling Party

Here we come a-caroling! Get into the spirit of the Christmas season by joining us to spread musical cheer throughout our church neighborhood. This year the entire congregation is invited to join in the fun.

Who: You, your family, and friends! Invite anyone who loves Christmas carols.

When: Sun., Dec. 8, 5:00 p.m.

Where: Meet in the Social Hall, then divide into teams to carol in the neighborhoods surrounding the church.



Dave the coffee guy will be on hand with his cart of fancy coffees and hot chocolate to warm you up. Chili and cornbread dinner served in the Social Hall after caroling.

Sign up in the Parlor on Sundays, Nov. 17, 24 and Dec. 1. RSVP appreciated but not necessary.



Don't Be Afraid to Share Your Church

The number one reason people visit a church is because someone invited them. And the number one reason most of us don't invite someone is fear – fear of rejection, fear of feeling awkward, fear of change. Read how simple our own Kevin Briggs makes it to share the Country Club Christian Church experience.

Q. How did you first find your way to Country Club Christian? **A.** *JJ and I were looking for a church that had more to offer than the church we went to previously. JJ grew up in the Disciple faith and wanted to look at a Disciples of Christ church. I was open to the idea. He mentioned Country Club Christian Church. Originally, I was opposed to the church based on the name and location. I didn't see a fit for us. But from the first Sunday we went, we experienced the hospitality and everything Country Club Christian Church has to offer.*



Q. How long have you been attending the church? **A.** *Three years*

Q. What was one thing that surprised you about the church? **A.** *The hospitality and warmth and Christian mission of the church.*

Q. You both seem to have guests with you on Sundays on a regular basis. How does this happen? **A.** *Talking about our faith and our church is part of who we are. It is a natural part of our conversations. Occasionally, people glean an interest in what we are discussing. Sometimes that conversation progresses to an invitation to church, to volunteer at Micah Ministries.*

Q. How do you describe the church to people who are unfamiliar with Country Club Christian Church? **A.** *Mission focused, active in the community locally, nationally and internationally. Hospitable, friendly and warm. Traditional. Intellectual, questioning, helping, caring.*

Q. Why do you invite folks to events and worship with you? **A.** *Because, I want them to experience Christ in the way that I have.*

Q. What advice would you offer to other church folks who say they are uncomfortable talking about their church? **A.** *You don't have to be a bible scholar to talk about the bible or Jesus. You just have to talk about your thoughts, feelings, beliefs and experiences and why they are important to you. I find that I do talk about my faith, but I also listen to others about their thoughts, feelings, beliefs and experiences. I have listened to agnostics and asked them questions to genuinely understand them. One of my favorite stories is a night when I was younger. I was at a bar and had a Jesus T-shirt on. A guy came up and started telling me why he didn't like Christians. I am sure you can fill in the blanks. I listened to him for quite a while. And then I explained to him my faith. He listened intently. I invited him to my church anniversary party. He actually came and brought a friend. I don't know that he has changed all his beliefs. But I do think that he saw Christ in me and I think I planted a seed. I do hope that others will find the strength, peace and presence of Christ that I know. I also hope that others can experience the sense of community and church that I have experienced at Country Club Christian Church.*

Lunch Bunch Features KC Honor Flight

Honor Flight, a group that takes retired military to Washington, DC, will be the speakers at The Lunch Bunch on Tues., Nov. 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Honor Flight KC is the regional hub of the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit organization created for the sole purpose of thanking and honoring America's veterans for their sacrifices by flying these heroes to Washington to visit and reflect at their memorials. Veterans travel absolutely free. Top priority is given to the senior veterans; WWII survivors, along with those veterans that may be terminally ill. Volunteers pay their own expense and assist the veterans on the Honor Flight KC trips.

Cost for the luncheon is \$8.50 per person (\$5 without lunch). RSVP to Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



The Presence of God

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Many years ago a friend asked me, “Where is God? Everything in my life is falling apart; my marriage, my family, my career, everything. I’ve done all that I should, too. I’ve worshipped every week, tithed every year, served whenever I could and more. Now, in my time of need it feels like God has abandoned me.”

Have you ever felt like that? Life is moving along swimmingly and then out of nowhere you’re slammed hard with a setback?

The Bible is full of stories about folks who’ve been hit hard by life. Sometimes it’s their own dumb behavior that makes it happen. For many, stuff just happens and they are left wondering, “Where is God?” The book of Job is a profound example of one who was holy and blameless yet suffered great loss.

In my office you will find a framed print of the words of the 139th Psalm. The poet is praying: “If I ascend to the highest heaven, God, you are there. If I descend into the darkest pit of Sheol – that is the place of death, hell – you are there also.” The promise is clear. God is present in the worst of times, the worst of places.

When I was a child I loved the story in the Bible of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to renounce their faith in God. The story says the fire was so hot that the men who threw the three heroic Jews into the fire died from the flames. After a few moments, the ones who were watching this happen were amazed to see that the fire had not consumed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They were walking around in the fire. They sent a messenger to the king with this news: “Great King! The three we threw in have not been consumed and, in fact, there is a fourth walking with them. He appears to be a very Son of God.”

The great truth here is this: God does not promise that we will not face our trials by fire. God does not promise that we will get a free pass from all of the sorrow and pain that life can toss at us. God does promise that we will never walk alone, that we will never be abandoned to hell. God promises that the Christ, the son of the living God, the one who was crucified and buried, will also descend with us into whatever hell we face until we are brought to new life and new hope.

Grace and peace to you,

Advent Sermon Series: A Christmas Carol

This four-part series will be inspired by the classic Charles Dickens novel, *A Christmas Carol*. We’ll explore Christmas Past, Present and Future and take a look at the gifts waiting for all of God’s children in the story of the Christ Child. Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Worship with us!

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

**Upcoming Sermon Series
Unstoppable: Following in the
Footsteps of Paul**

Nov. 10

Part 4: Ephesus
Ephesians 5:1-2

Nov. 17

Part 5: Ephesus
Ephesians 6:10-10

Nov. 24

Part 6: Thessalonica,
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Virginia Reed Food Drive on November 17

On Sun., Nov. 17, 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."

Pumpkin Pies for Micah Ministry

Each year, Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church serves Thanksgiving dinner to hundreds of hungry individuals. Help make this dinner a success by baking a pumpkin pie to go along with all the traditional fixings that will be served. Pies need to be dropped off at the church kitchen on Nov. 17. We need approximately 100 pies as we will serve 600 people. Sign up in the Parlor on Sunday.

Have you visited the Northeast Yet?

Please take a moment to visit our web site, www.cccckc.org, to learn more about PartNerShip, an initiative by Country Club Christian Church focused on developing relationships in the Northeast Kansas City community and working collaboratively to make an impact. Find out how you can participate.



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.



Espresso Service

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

This Sunday, stick around after worship and join Glen and the other clergy in the Parlor for a cup of coffee and fellowship. Dave, the coffee guy, will be back by popular demand several times this fall. Watch for Dave, his cart and his fancy coffee supplies to be here on Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. He also be making one other special holiday appearance at the caroling party on Dec. 8.



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.



I Am Thankful

by Lisa McCleish, Director of Early Childhood Programs



As you can imagine, Oct. 31 was a little crazy around here; there were costumes and candy galore. The older classes trick or treated for their lunch, parents brought treats, and children paraded all over the building.

Just four days later, on Monday, two children came in the door telling me what they wanted for Christmas. With Christmas decorations in the stores and toy ads coming out already, it is not surprising.

Admittedly, I do love Christmas (and I have been known to start playing Christmas music on Nov. 1), but this year I have decided to focus on Thanksgiving as an equally important holiday, not just as a day off between Halloween and Christmas.

I am thankful for...

...the opportunity to serve as Interim Director of Children's Ministries last summer and early fall. I met new families, worked with members of the church staff (in a different role) and really had a chance to see the Sunday School programs from the inside.

...all of the volunteers who taught and supported me through those months.

...Country Club Christian Church, which welcomes me as a staff member and a member of the church family.

...the families who choose to send their children to the Parents' Day Out and preschool programs. I am so grateful that you share your children with us each day.

...the staff who take care of those children. You teach them and help them grow, but more importantly, you love them.

...the children who come through the doors each day and fill my heart with joy and laughter. I learn from you, revel in watching your growth and go home each night thankful that you are part of my Country Club Christian Church family.

As you go through this day, look for tiny treasures strategically placed along the way.

Lisa

Sign Up for 2014 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2014 camp will be Aug. 2-9. For many years, families and individuals from our congregation have gathered for a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge with lovely mountain views and enjoys the home cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. If you don't like to camp but you love the mountains, this is the place for you. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable desposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,550 for a private room (\$1,450 if paid in full by Dec. 1); \$350 for a bunk room (\$300 if paid in full by Dec. 1). Food and activity fee of \$80 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Unstoppable: Following in the Footsteps of Paul

If Paul was anything, he was unstoppable. He was relentless in his desire to preach the good news of God's love as it was revealed in the life and teaching of Jesus. He was beaten, left for dead and imprisoned but nothing could keep him from the work he was called to perform. Paul was a creative and free thinker for his day. His insights continue to ring true even now. Join us for this six-part series, featuring insights from Dr. Glen Miles' recent trip to Greece in the footsteps of Paul.

Nov. 10 – Part 4: Ephesus,

Ephesians 5:1-2

Nov. 17 –Part 5: Ephesus,

Ephesians 6:10-20

Nov. 24 – Part 6: Thessalonica,

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Youth News

Pastors' Class Informational Meeting

Parents of current 6th graders are invited to an informational meeting about Pastors' Class on Sun., Nov. 17, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the Social Hall. Parents are invited to join their children for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Pastors' Class prepares the youth for baptism and/or church membership. Questions? Contact Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Youth Events

Sun., Nov. 10 - Discussion Night with the Senior Minister! 5:30-7:30 p.m. Glen will join us for a conversation about CHANGE. How is your faith affected when change comes your way? How can faith change throughout our journey? Where is faith in the midst of change?

Sun., Nov. 17, 12:15 p.m. – Fireside Chat with Rev. Monica Lewis. Families of children and youth are invited to join Rev. Monica Lewis at 12:15 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205) for conversation about the future of Children, Youth and Families Ministries. Ask questions and hear about what's coming in the weeks and months ahead. A light lunch will be provided.

Sun., Nov. 17 – Discussion Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Chi Rho will do an I AM collage activity. CYF will discuss twerking. Yes, you read that correctly, twerking.

Sun., Nov. 24 – Advent in Advance, 11:00 a.m., Social Hall. We will participate in the Advent in Advance event in place of Youth Group. No Youth Group on this evening.

Sun., Dec. 1 – No Youth Group. Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

Stockings for Micah Ministry

Make Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of socks from the church at a cost of \$9/12 pack or .75 per pair, then purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Alexis Blackmon at alexisb@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917. Each stocking should be filled with items that can be used by either men or women such as small sized toiletries including shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, washcloth, and hard candy. Filled stockings should be delivered to church no later than Sun., Dec. 22.



Breakfast with Santa

Sat., Dec. 7 – 10:00 a.m.-noon

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m.-noon. **Bring your camera and take your child's picture with Santa.** Breakfast is served until 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$7 for adults and children 2 years and older. Tickets are available Sunday mornings in the Parlor, and during the week at the reception desk or in the preschool office.



Infant Dedication



Charles Bret Knighton with his parents, Erin and Bret Knighton, and sister, Olivia Knighton, was dedicated on Nov. 3.

New Member



Makeda and Robbie Hawk, with Joan Newby

New Member Host: Katie Cronin



A Beautiful Sight to Behold

by Rev. Chuck Murphy, Minister of Congregational Care



I have just returned from a wonderful vacation in Europe with my family where we visited many places and sights I had seen over 35 years ago when my dad was stationed in Germany. Majestic cathedrals towered over the city. Each one was immaculately filled with religious icons created with the richest of materials. There were sacred spaces in each where I was moved to prayer, to remember those in need.

But, I must confess, my experience this time also had a twist. Being in a different place as I continue to grow in my faith, I saw cathedrals constructed by the hands of slaves and the impoverished. Lavish riches in a holy place only conflicted with the needs of the diseased and the suffering of many. Power given to Christian churches in Europe throughout the centuries appeared to have been severely misappropriated when the needs of so many were neglected.

Walking through European cities, I was also reminded of what I enjoyed about living in Europe. Tasty treats from vendors, local foods along with the beautiful architecture. But this time, I saw the beauty of its culture and the strength of its peoples. There was no wasted space; all was used for the good of the people. Recreated structures portrayed the history of overcoming tyranny and the horrors of war. Good public transportation was readily available for the safety of all. Many traveled via bicycles or small cars to benefit the environment. Gays and lesbians were able to be in public places without being scrutinized. People conversed in multiple languages to the respect of the traditions of others. We even benefited from the ease of the health care system that does not discriminate, even against us, as aliens in a foreign land.

On vacation, I saw the church in Europe more in the culture of the people than in the houses of worship. As I returned home, I reflected on our church and our place in culture. I value our church because it contains both of what I saw – the beauty of our structure and people who care deeply for others. Our church has been created and recreated by the time, talents and treasures of our members. And, it is our ongoing devotion to service for the wellbeing of our neighborhood and our world, whether in our missions to communities locally and abroad or in our compassion and care for others, we continue our proclamation of God's grace in our hearts and in our deeds. Whether viewed from the inside or from a continent on the other side of an ocean, Country Club Christian Church is a beautiful sight to behold!

Chuck

Children and Families Fireseat Chat with Rev. Monica Lewis

Families of children and youth are invited to join Rev. Monica Lewis on Sun., Nov. 17 at noon in the Youth Center (Rm 205) for conversation about the future of Children, Youth and Families Ministries. Ask questions and hear about what's coming in the weeks and months ahead. A light lunch will be provided.

Upcoming Club Kids (grades 3-5)

Sun., Nov. 10 - 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

Sun., Nov. 24 - Sky Zone, 6495 Quivira Rd Shawnee, KS 66216. Phone: (913) 213-5900. Stay tuned for more details.

Sun., Dec. 8 - Church-wide Caroling Party. See page 2 for more information.

Fountains of Faith (grades 1-5)

People of the Covenant: Noah

A covenant is a promise of a relationship. God continually seeks to have a relationship with humankind. In the story of Noah we will learn how God calls on Noah and how Noah remained faithful to serving God. The rainbow is a symbol of the covenant. It reminds all of us that even as we are surrounded by a storm, there will be an end to it and the sun will come out again. 1st-5th grade, 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Save the Dates!

Sun., Nov. 24 – Advent in Advance, 11:00 a.m., Social Hall.

Mon., Dec. 9 – Mom's Group. Watch for details.

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Our Church Family

Congratulations

KARLY PRICKETT and JORDAN WEATHERLY were married in the Sanctuary on Nov. 2. Dr. Glen Miles officiated.

Memorials

Wilber Spalding

Beth Ingram
John & Erma Hess
Terry Snyder
Calvin Engelmann
The Bell Family
Jill Reynolds
Donald Hall
A. Overton & Sue Durrett
Daniel Fuhrman
Ann Smith
Bob & Alyce King
Lora Hopkins

Zelda Crum

Martha Jo Strickler

Benedict Sigfusson

Nancy Ralston

Capital Campaign Organ Restoration Fund

Maggie Risley

Bob & Kay Moffat

Capital Campaign Building Fund

Ivan Risley

1947 Class of RC High School

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. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Youth and Families	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Chuck Murphy Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. John D. Clemmer Business Administrator	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth

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