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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.

You're Invited to the Rededication of Our Building on Sunday, October 5

After two years of construction, it's time to celebrate the beautifully refurbished exterior of our 92-year-old building. Our new alabaster stone work will be glistening as we dedicate the church for the years ahead. Join us on Sunday morning, Oct. 5, for a congregational photo at 10:30 a.m. in front of the building, the ribbon cutting at 10:45 a.m., and a rededication worship service at 11:00 a.m.

Reception, Open House and Guided Tours – Noon-1:00 p.m.

A reception will be held in the Social Hall beginning at noon. Docents will be available throughout the building to conduct tours and answer questions.

The dedication will be a perfect time to invite a friend. New sidewalks are in place and new landscaping is underway. Members of our Green Team are working to plant annuals and perennials to make 1,000 flowers bloom.

Please join us for this exciting celebration of the completion our multimillion dollar restoration project.

Save the date for Grace at Work on October 11

Join us on Sat., Oct. 11, for this fun-filled half-day volunteer opportunity. Your hands can put grace to work by dusting a pew, serving a bowl of soup, planting a flower, hammering a nail! Sign up to serve in the way that fits you best by stopping in the parlor, filling out a form in worship or going to the church website.

Gather at the church from 8:00-8:30 a.m. for a complimentary hot breakfast and then depart with your work crew to serve at one of the agencies in our community. Examples include:



Harvesters Community Food Network, Habitat for Humanity, Newhouse Shelter, Prison Ministry, Shepherd's Center, Hartman Elementary School, and some work teams will stay at the church to do landscaping and interior sprucing up. Some projects are designed specifically for families so bring the kids along too. Child-care available for the youngest children.

Sign up in the Parlor on September 14 and 21, or at www.cccckc.org.



Bible Studies Begin Soon. Sign Up Today!

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

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 your schedule. Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Sept. 9-Nov. 18. Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., Sept. 10-Nov. 19.

Senior Minister's Bible Study

Join Dr. Glen Miles for an engaging discussion of what the Bible really says about... homosexuality, politics, science and the environment, and other contemporary topics. The final night will be a "Preacher on the Hot Seat" with participants providing the questions for Glen to respond to during the hour. Mon., Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Creating the Covenant

How do we relate to God? This **new** class is an eight-week focus on Creating the Covenant. Combining the best of accessible Biblical scholarship and engaging dialogue, this class will appeal to all stages and ages in the spiritual journey.

Men's Class – Wed., Oct. 1-Nov. 19, 7:00-8:30 a.m. Jeff Zimmerman and Phil Love, facilitators.

Parents of Young Children – Sundays, Oct. 5-Nov. 23, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Monica Lewis and Meredith Holladay, facilitators.

Intergenerational Class – Sundays, Sept. 21- Nov. 2, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Lesley Holt and Carla Aday, facilitators



At left: One of last year's Faithbook groups. Studies and groups like Faithbook, the Senior Minister's Bible Study, or Creating the Covenant are great ways to get connected with other members of the church while you expand your understanding of the Bible.

Welcome Reception for Dr. Meredith Holladay and Rev. Joe Walker

Join us in the Parlor on Sun., Sept. 14, at noon to welcome Dr. Meredith Holladay and Rev. Joe Walker.



Meredith joined the staff on Aug. 1 as Minister of Membership Development. She is working with young adults, prospective members, Stephen Ministry and systems of

care for existing members.

Joe serves as Minister of Congregational Care and works with homebound, hospitalized and bereavement and supporting folks in life transitions.



Please take a moment to stop by and welcome Joe and Meredith to our faith community.

Church Branding Project Seeks Your Input

Deadline is September 15

The Congregational Board is gathering your comments and ideas about the mission, vision and identity of Country Club Christian Church. You can participate by filling out a Branding Project worksheet, available in the Parlor or online at cccckc.org, by Sept. 15.

You are asked for suggestions for new ways to use our current name through a slogan or a "nickname" OR suggestions for a new church name. To date, a committee has developed objectives for this project and conducted initial research and input was gathered from the congregation at the Town Hall meeting. From that input, the committee developed key messages and criteria for any potential new name, which were adopted in July by the Congregational Board. This phase of the project will continue with market research and strategy development, as well as a second Town Hall meeting to review options.



Creating Sacred Space

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Five hundred years before the time of Christ a Hebrew poet wrote:

*Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise.*

*For the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all generations.*

I thought of these verses from Psalm 100 this morning as I walked around our campus, reviewing the work of the various construction crews. They have done a wonderful job of creating sacred and holy space. Their efforts remind me that architecture and construction can communicate our faith as easily as words, sometimes even better.

This psalm invites us to worship, to come ready to praise God for God's enduring love. The newly opened sidewalks and gathering spaces in front of our sanctuary do something similar. The circular area right in front of our main doors is a way of saying that everyone from every point of the compass is welcome in this place.

There is more than just theological openness being created though. The outside of our building and the message of Psalm 100 says, "Come on in, sit down, find a seat, all are welcome." But they also imply that when we do come in, we should be ready for something to happen to us. Gathering for worship and praise is a wonderful thing. However, when we hear this message of God's love and grace, we are also being challenged to live our lives in a way that reflects the same love we receive here to those we encounter beyond. When worship is done well, we will be both comforted and challenged. Annie Dillard says that, "Instead of bulletins the ushers ought to hand out crash helmets because this is going to be one heck of a ride."

The purpose of worship is to remind us of what Marcus Borg says is the Heart of Christianity: You are created by God. You are a child of God. You are beloved by God. You are accepted by God. Now here is the hard part: Borg says, "That what is true about us is also true about everybody else."

We've done a wonderful job of creating sacred space. Now the fun (and sometimes difficult) work of sharing the good news of God's love is before us.

Y'all come on in, find a seat and bring your crash helmet because we are in for one heck of a ride!

Virginia Reed Food Drive on September 14

On Sun., Sept. 14, 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."

Worship with us!

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

**Sermon Series:
Soul Searching: Finding the You
God Created You to Be**

Sept. 14
Lost Souls
Matthew 19:16-22

Sept. 21
Your Original Soul
Genesis 1:26-31a

Sept. 28
The Future of Your Soul
John 16:17-24

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Dave Helling to Speak at Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Dave Helling, columnist for *The Kansas City Star*, kicks off the Lunch and Learn series with his unique perspectives on local issues on Tues., Sept. 16, at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Helling's years of local experience and journalistic excellence will offer keen insights on regional issues and leadership. He is the multimedia reporter for *The Kansas City Star* and a frequent panelist on KCPT's *Kansas City Week in Review*. Raised in Overland Park, Dave is a 1973 graduate of Shawnee Mission West High School and a 1977 graduate of Creighton University. Among other recognitions, Dave has received the Freedom of the Press Award and three Emmy nominations. Dave returned home to Kansas City in 1984 as an anchor/reporter for WDAF-TV and later became an anchor/reporter for KCTV-5.

Cost for the lunch and presentation is \$10 per person. RSVP to Mary Margaret at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917. Lunch and Learn is a monthly lunch program with inspiring and informative presentations ranging from personal topics to current and historical events. Everyone is welcome.

Nicaragua Mission Information Meeting

A mission team from Country Club Christian Church will travel to Nicaragua Feb. 21-Mar. 1, 2015. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, attend a meeting on Sun., Sept. 14, at 12:15 p.m. in Rm. 201. Our team will partner with the poorest of the poor to conduct medical clinics and assist with construction projects in a rural community.

Pathways to Learning



Pathways to Learning is a series of elective offerings open to everyone focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. Visitors welcome. 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.

Sept. 28 and Oct. 12 – Windows on Faith. A look at the stories in our

newly restored stained glass windows. Dr. George Gordon will lead the conversation on Sept. 28 and Rev. David Diebold and Dr. Meredith Holladay on Oct. 12.

Oct. 5 – Before and After. Bill Thomas and Dylan Walters of C&M Restoration will show slides and talk about the transformation of this 90-year-old sacred structure.

Nov. 2 and 9 – When Faith Meets Politics. Steve Kraske of *The Kansas City Star* will speak on Nov. 2 and the Honorable Kay Barnes, former Kansas City mayor, will speak on Nov. 9.

Bring your cars to Trunk or Treat!

Join Country Club Christian Church as we welcome children to trick-or-treat on our campus by decorating your vehicle in a festive Halloween theme!

We would love to fill our parking lot with fun and exciting vehicles decorated for Halloween. A simple Google or Pinterest search of "Trunk or Treat" will give you lots of ideas!

There will be awards for the best decorated vehicles. The competition is on! Challenge your Sunday School class or ministry team to bring their decorated vehicles.

Vehicles will be parked in designated parking spots in the chapel lot beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sun., Oct. 12. Park your vehicle to expose your trunk so that children can trick-or treat you. Costumes, themes, and fun decorations are encouraged! Please provide candy for 100 children. If you need help providing candy, contact Lindsay Howes lindsayh@cccckc.org or Monica Lewis monical@cccckc.org.

You can sign up online at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45a9ae2ba2f94-trunkortreat>
Or you may sign up in the Parlor.



Poised for Another Look

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



A few weeks back, I was out for a run headed south on Ward Parkway from 55th Street. I have run this stretch for years and am familiar with every incline, stoplight and intersection, so imagine my surprise when out of the blue I encountered something I'd never seen before: a 25-foot tall bird peering at me from the corner of Ward Parkway and Huntington.

Poised is a sculpture of a great blue heron made of branches and wire. It was part of an exhibit in Boston before being purchased by a private collector here in Kansas City. Its artists produce sculptures based around the “mystical relationship between human beings and the animal kingdom.”

Poised is grand but graceful, standing tall and ghostlike amidst the camouflage of trees. As I ran on, I wondered how long she had been standing on that corner without me noticing her. In some ways her sheer size makes her hard to miss, but she is so artfully placed it's easy to mistake her for common timber.

A few blocks later something else caught my eye: the four newly restored spires atop the tower at Country Club Christian Church. On this lovely late summer day, with the sun shining brightly and the flawless blue sky as a backdrop, those spires nearly took my breath away. Though I have been driving by this church for nearly 20 years, and coming here regularly as a member and on staff for more than 10, it was as if I was seeing that tower for the first time that day.

I wonder how often folks drive by our church without noticing us. We're a little hard to miss, but still, I wonder. And even more, I wonder if folks know we're here, but know nothing about who we are or what we stand for. I wonder if we fade into the neighborhood like the bird sculpture.

I hope that now that our beautiful building is nearly restored, our neighbors near and far will take note, not only of our lovely façade, or our new landscaping and exterior lighting. I hope that they will take the time to really look, and see us again for the first time.

Praying for Church Leaders

As we prepare to celebrate the physical renovation of our church building on Oct. 5, we are also mindful of the importance of on-going renewal for the spirit of “the church” – the People of God. As one expression of our unity with the universal church we will all be invited to pray for leaders in our denomination in the week leading up to our re-dedication.

On Sun., Sept. 28, you will receive a pre-printed postcard with the name and address of a church leader in our denomination. Each postcard will be unique, pre-addressed to someone in our global church, a regional office, or a ministry or mission. You are invited to add a brief personal note to the postcard and then to stamp and mail the card to the church leader. Then, in whatever your daily prayer rituals might be, you are encouraged to lift up that person that they may be blessed and sustained with the gifts necessary to “build the church” – in this case, the communities of disciples seeking to live as the Body of Christ.

Imagine what a wonderful surprise it will be for your church leader when your postcard arrives completely unexpected and unannounced. This seemingly humble piece of mail will bear Good News to your leader, brightening their day and lifting their spirit as they guide and support our churches and ministries here and around the world.

New Sunday Schedule for Children and Students

Beginning Sun., Sept. 14

5:00-5:30 p.m. – Snack Supper, Grades 3-12

5:30-7:00 p.m. – Club Kids, Grades 3-5

5:30-7:00 p.m. – Student Group, Grades 6-12

Music Schedule

Beginning Sun., Sept. 14, our Sunday morning music schedule will be as follows:

9:30-10:00: a.m. – Children’s Music, Grades 1-5

During 10:00 a.m. Sunday School – Grow Choir, 2 years-Kindergarten

11:00-11:30 a.m. – Student Music, Grades 6-12

For more information, please contact Rev. Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org, Lindsay Howes at lindsayh@cccckc.org, or Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Student Events

Sun., Sept. 14 – Water Fun Night. 5:00-7:00 p.m. Get out your swim wear and get ready for some end-of-the-summer fun. We will play wet and messy games before we fall into fall.

Sun., Sept. 21 – High School BBQ Tour. Noon-3:00 p.m. High School students get out your bibs and wet wipes! We are going on a Kansas City BBQ tour. Get your taste buds ready. The cost is \$10 per student. Please email Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org or Jason Ashley at jasona@cccckc.org so we may make arrangements. RSVP by Sat., Sept. 13.

Sun., Sept. 21 – 7th Grade Gathering. 4:00-5:00 p.m. We would love your input on where to go enjoy some ice cream. Please email Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org with your suggestions.

Sun., Oct. 19 - 8th Grade Gathering. 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 26 - Worlds of Fun.

Nov. 14-15 – Middle School Lock-in. 7:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.

Sun., Nov. 16 - Pastor’s Class Information Meeting. 12:15 p.m. Join us at this informational session for youth interested in Pastors’ Class and their parents.

Family Night at Micah

Student families are invited to serve together at Independence Boulevard Christian Church’s Micah Ministry on Mon., Oct. 13. Meet at Independence Boulevard Christian Church at 5:00 p.m.

Household Donations for Della Lamb Resettlement Program

On Sat., Sept. 13, we will be collecting household items from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Combs Chapel parking lot for Della Lamb Community Services, one of the agencies in our Northeast PartNership.

Items needed include:

- Linens – sheet sets, bath towels, dish towels, pillows
- Cooking items – pots and pans, dish sets for four, baking dishes, utensils, flatware sets
- Furniture – bed frames, tables, lamps, chairs, fans, sofa/loveseats, dresser, TV/radios

Baby Dedication



Stella Guthrey, with parents, Amy and James Guthrey, was dedicated in worship on Sun., Sept. 7.



Being Church Together

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



When friends ask me about the church I serve—Where is it? What are the people like? What kind of church is it?—I always think about two things.

When I was interviewing for my position, so many people said to me, “Country Club Christian Church does a lot of mission work. They really spend their money on good things and they spend their time on good things.” That’s amazing! In a world where so many churches are completely eliminating outreach dollars from their budgets to pay for buildings and other “business” costs,

Country Club Christian Church is known for the good they do in our city. The people who I talked to knew us for being what I think a church should be.

The other thing I think about is what I heard from ALL of you when I was going through the interview process. “We’re an intergenerational church.” And you are. You’re really the epitome of it.

When I dream about what our Ministries to Children, Students, and Families can be, I dream about the convergence of these two gifts. I dream about each of our generations coming together in service to our neighborhood. Our city. Our entire community.

We can plan and dream and put the pencil to it for months. Or we can just pull up our boots and get started! We need a little of both. But, boy oh boy, I’m ready to get started!!

I hope you’ll join me Sun., Oct. 12 in what I think could be the BEST picture of what it means to be an intergenerational church!

At 12:30 p.m. on October 12th, Country Club Christian Church will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat in the chapel parking lot. This is an event that allows children to trick-or-treat on our campus. I would love to encourage every adult in this congregation to bring their vehicles! Decorate them! Dress up! Come up with a theme! Challenge your Sunday School classes! Partner with someone else! Put together a team! Bring lots of candy!

Imagine with me dozens, even hundreds of children, dressed up in costumes, trick-or-treating in our parking lot at the vehicles of all of our generations. All of us. Serving our community. Being church together.

Monica

Children and Families

Save the Date: Trunk or Treat

Sun., Oct. 12, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Children birth-5th grade are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and join their friends gathering treats from decorated vehicles in the Combs Chapel parking lot. There will be games, contests, and prizes. Decorating your vehicle is encouraged!

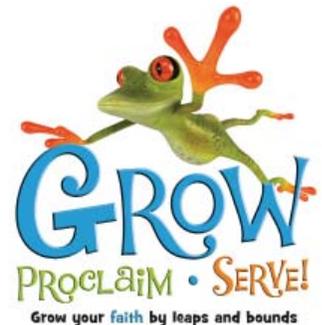
Club Kids

Sun., Sept. 14 – 5:00-7:00 p.m., Social Hall.

Sunday Morning Format

Grow, Proclaim, Serve

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. Sunday School starts off in a group worship service and then the children divide into small groups based on grade level to continue



conversation and activities. We are very excited about this format for the 1st-5th graders and the 3 to 6 year olds.

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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Mr. John D. Clemmer Business Administrator
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Ms. Allie Cobb Director of Student Ministries
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Dr. Meredith Holloway Minister of Member Development	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications

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September Collection Connection

In September, we are collecting toilet paper and deodorant for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry. Please place your donations in the basket in the parlor.

Green Team Class

Save the date! On Thurs., Oct. 16, the Green Team will present "The Land Institute – Internationally Famous and Locally Obscure" at 6:30 p.m. The Land Institute is working to reverse the antagonism between agriculture and nature. Using nature as the standard, Land Institute scientists are developing perennial mixtures that can produce food in harmony with the wild. Healthy, natural prairie ecosystems provide the information to direct our paths – information we in large part disregarded when we chose the agriculture of annual grains some 10,000 years ago. Free and open to the public. No registration required. Door prizes. For further information call 816-665-4456.



Help 1,000 Flowers Bloom On Our Newly Renovated Lawn

Join our church's Green Team for major flower planting as the last phase of our years-long project to renovate our church. Help Green Team volunteers plant annuals and perennials at 6:00 p.m. on Monday nights in September (adults and teens welcome) and on Sun., Sept. 21, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please let us know you're coming by contacting Nancy Ralston at nancy-ralston1@gmail.com or 816-590-1533. Bring a trowel to help bring beauty to our front lawn and let 1,000 flowers bloom.