



VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 14

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.*

Surf Shack VBS Shares God’s Amazing Love

More than 100 children and over 50 students and adult volunteers became surfers at the Surf Shack June 20-23. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make VBS a great experience for the children. We celebrated the culmination of the week with a Family Fun Day on Sun., June 26.

Children learned that God sends, God loves, God helps, God calms, God creates.



more photos on page 6



New Members

Welcomed June 19



Ashlee and Aaron Yager



Allison Larsons and Reed Nuss

New Staff Member Announced

We are thrilled to announce that Barbara George will join the church staff on July 1 as our Director of Membership Development. Her duties will include reaching out to new and potential members, engaging current members in programs and ministries that match their needs, and the creation or revitalization of teams related to greeters, new member hosts, small group recruitment and more. Barb is a past president of the Congregational Board and an Elder. She brings both a wealth of experience in the church and in business leadership to this new job. The next time you see her in worship or in the hallways, congratulate her!



Barbara George

Worship on the Lawn



Outdoor worship on the front lawn during the 9:00 a.m. hour continues through July. We are meeting on the sidewalk in front of the steps with our building as the background view for worshippers. The service is simple, with gospel style music, a message of hope and grace, and an invitation to share in the Supper of our Lord. Please dress casually. If you are heading to a Royals game or a day of shopping on The Plaza, this is a great way for you to start your Sunday!

Upcoming Guest Lunch

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend the luncheon from 12:15-1:30 p.m. on Sun., July 24 to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and church. Lunch will be served in the Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information or to RSVP, contact Barbara George at 816-333-4917.

New Member Sunday July 31

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is July 31. Contact Barbara George at 816-333-4917 for more information.

Virginia Reed Food Drive

Our Virginia Reed Food Drive is collecting cold cereal for the hot month of July. There are three



- ways to donate:
 - Bring a box of cereal to our donation points in the parlor and chapel any Sunday.
 - Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org). On July 17, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation.
 - 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.



Baseball, History, Fiction and Theology

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



Julie and I are looking forward to a couple of weeks off beginning next week. Vacation means extra time for reading! Here are some of the books I'll be enjoying this summer.

How to Survive a Shipwreck, by Johnathan Martin. This book is getting a lot of buzz among my clergy friends. One reviewer notes, "Drawing from the rich imagery of scripture and speaking transparently from his own experience, Martin offers a series of reflections on surviving loss, failure, and change with your faith and humanity intact." I can't wait to dive in to this one!

Jesus' Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed, by John Cobb. Professor Cobb is well-known among theological students for his work in the field of process theology. His latest book (authored at the age of 91!) presents a common sense understanding of the God Jesus introduced to the world.

I've decided to get back into reading fiction more regularly. Many of you have mentioned Anthony Doerr's novel, *All the Light We Cannot See*, as a must read. It's already packed into my carry-on for reading on the plane.

My favorite book of all time is *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving. Because of my love for that book, I tend to grab Irving's novels as soon as they hit the stores but I missed last year's release, *Avenue of Mysteries*. Irving is one of America's best and quirkiest writers. This one will no doubt be another wild ride.

The summer would not be complete without a book about baseball. Jane Leavy's biography about Mickey Mantle, *The Last Boy*, promises to be a joyous yet poignant read. I saw Mickey play a game against the California Angels in 1968, his last season in the majors. He limped up to the batter's box but you could see, even at the end of his career, that he was one of the best there ever was.

David McCullough's acclaimed work, *The Wright Brothers*, was on my list last year but I never got around to reading it. Every time I read McCullough (*1776*, *John Adams* and others) I feel like I've just completed one of the best history classes ever offered.

There is my list. What about yours? I'd love to know what you'll be reading this summer. Send me a note and let me know (glenm@cccckc.org).

Grace and peace to you,

New Sermon Series: Unlovable

Dr. Glen Miles begins a new series, "Unlovable: Loving the Worst in the World, Your Community, Your Family and You," on July 24.



Worship with us!

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

July 3

When You Step Into the Darkness
the Light Will Turn On
Psalm 30

July 10

Rev. Joe Walker preaching

July 17

Dr. Michael Graves preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Collection Connection: School Supplies

We are collecting school supplies for Della Lamb Community Services charter school. We are collecting spiral notebooks and 3-hole loose leaf paper, and 3-ring plastic binders. Della Lamb Charter School is located in the Northeast Kansas City area. The K-8 school serves about 600 students; 97 percent at the poverty level. Of these 600 students, 70 percent are English Language Learners using 19 languages beyond English.

Faith and Grief Lunch

At this month's Faith and Grief Lunch on Tues., July 5, guest speaker Beth Heidler will share her story and pose the question: To whom can you "pour out your heart" when grieving?



Our monthly Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. The meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m., making it accessible for those who work. Lunches are offered the first Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome – those of all faiths as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. The lunch is free, provided by the sponsoring churches. A free will offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry.

The lunch is a collaboration of five churches, St. Andrew's Episcopal, St. John's United Methodist, Second Presbyterian, Village Presbyterian, and Country Club. Lunches are hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village.

For information: Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org. To register: (469) 251-9612 or <http://www.faithandgrief.org/events/kansas-prairie-village-2016-07-05/>

Chess University Opportunity

Teaching children to play chess helps them learn a variety of academic and life-skills: patience, self-quieting, decision-making, courtesy, confidence, mathematics, and more. Our Hartman Elementary School outreach, one of our Metro Missions ministries, would like to be able to add chess to our service opportunities at the school.



The LINC Before and After School program trains volunteers to teach chess to students through Chess University. This summer's Chess University is set for July 11-21, Mon.-Thur., 8:00 a.m.-noon at Chouteau Elementary. The LINC Chess University is free and available to any adult who wants to learn the LINC Chess method for teaching chess and nurturing young lives. Background screening required. For more information, contact Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org or visit [facebook.com/LINCchess](https://www.facebook.com/LINCchess).

Via Retreat for Women

Early Registration Savings

Early registration savings. Register by Aug. 1 for Women's Via spiritual renewal retreat Oct. 21-23 for the discount price of \$110 (regular cost \$125). Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccckc-women>. The women's retreat at Tall Oaks Conference Center is designed to foster renewal, relaxation and reconnection. Cost includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials. It's not too early to register.





God Sends

By Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, Co-Director of Music



I spent the week of June 20-24 in Houston, Texas. Having never been there before, I noted the vitality of the city – evidenced by the amount of construction visible from my hotel window – and the livability, as seen in the downtown bike lanes and numbers of rental bikes available on many street corners. I was also impressed by the fact that Houston’s temperatures were lower than those of the Kansas City metro over the same span of time. Granted, that may have been a bit of an aberration

While there, I attended the American Guild of Organists national convention. Our hosts in Houston were sincere, friendly and helpful. We heard and participated in much wonderful music-making and witnessed many beautiful churches and instruments. It’s also a great opportunity to build our network and reconnect with old friends. In one wonderfully spontaneous conversation held on a bus traveling between a final evening concert and the convention hotel, my seat mate, upon learning that I was from the Kansas City area, asked me about David Diebold. I was as pleased to tell him about David as he was to hear that I was at Country Club Christian Church. What a small world!

Fast forward then to this past Sunday, when we celebrated VBS during the 11:00 a.m. service. The children were lively and exuberant, ready to publicly share the music they learned through the week with Paul and Vicki Tucker. On Sunday morning, with Paul at the piano, and some enthusiastic help out front from Andy Berry, the children witnessed to us.

As I was a new visitor to Houston, it made me think about how we welcome people to our worship, how we incorporate their gifts, and find ways to develop meaningful worship for all. These are ongoing topics your clergy and church program staff have in formal weekly meetings and impromptu hallway discussions. With set goals for a revitalization of worship and an increase in small group activity, we’re looking at all of our musical offerings – current and potential – to find outlets for people of all ages and abilities to engage and worship.

In the end, we want to remember the message impressed upon us through VBS and the children’s message on Sunday:

God Sends!

Text Giving

Make a contribution to the church via text from your phone:

1. Text the word CHURCH to 816-839-9410 and include the amount you’d like to contribute. Example: Church \$100
2. You will receive a reply text. Click on the link.
3. Fill in your name, email, address and your credit or debit card. It’s fast and easy.
4. You will receive an email receipt and your gift will be applied to your giving record at the church. You must complete your transaction within 15 minutes.

Student Events

Family Movie on the Lawn for Students and Families

Fri., July 8. The movie "Sandlot" will be shown for 6th-12th graders and their families. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Snacks and drinks provided but feel free to bring whatever else you might like.

Mark Your Calendars

High School BBQ Tour. Sun., Sept. 18

Middle School Food Tour. Sun., Sept 18.

Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Rm. 202

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

High School Mission Presentation

Join our high school students on Sun., July 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall for a presentation about their experiences on their recent mission to Nicaragua.



VBS Surf Shack, *continued from page 1*





Talent: That Misunderstood Commodity

by Dr. Paul Tucker, Co-Director of Music



Recently I have found myself contemplating the idea of talents, and abilities. This topic has been on my mind especially since the recent passing of Muhammad Ali. I have heard several people surmise that if Ali had not found boxing he may have never amounted to much in this world. This kind of thinking puts all the weight of Ali's accomplishments as a boxer on some super talent he possessed for the sport, and minimizes the time he spent honing his craft. It is easy for us to recognize what we consider to be talent after it has been developed.

Ali's boxing career was successful not only because of his innate gifts in the sport, but because of his willingness to invest a great deal of time in daily practice. In fact, if Ali had a gift for boxing, alongside that gift he possessed at least an equal measure of drive and dedication to improve.

In my opinion, his desire was the more important commodity.

The individual largely responsible for all I know about music is a man named Dr. Kaestner Robertson. At the age of 12, my twin and I would travel each week to hear this man play for church. The things he did at the organ were so different from anything we had heard before, he aroused an intense curiosity in us. It was not until my brother and I were 17 years old that we had the opportunity to study with Dr. Robertson. Our years with him gave us an understanding of the discipline needed to achieve success in our chosen field. Dr. Robertson taught me how to teach myself and, by his example, how to teach others.

Too often I hear members of our church say "I wish I could sing. I would join a choir." There are many opportunities to participate in music at Country Club Christian Church. Celebration Singers, Chancel Choir, Jubilee Ringers, Orffestra, and several other small groups present wonderful choices for adults to enjoy and share music. To sing in the choir does not require exceptional musical ability. One only has to have the desire to learn and share with others. Every skill needed to be a contributing member of the choir is taught in weekly rehearsals.

If Ali had not tried boxing he never would have discovered his gift and his love. We are not called to be the greatest. We just need to be willing to engage. In the end, exceptional talent may not be the most important thing.

Join the Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir invites you to visit choir rehearsals this summer so you can see if you would be interested in joining the choir. The Chancel Choir sings each Sunday during the 11:00 a.m. service. No audition is necessary. During the summer, the choir will meet once a month – on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Guests are invited to each of those rehearsals: July 6 and Aug. 3. Weekly Wednesday rehearsals resume on Aug. 17. Contact Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans for more

Overseas Ministries Speaker



Rev. Julia Brown Karimu, President of the Division of Overseas Ministries of our denomination and the co-executive of Global Ministries, will present a program on Sun., July 24, in the Social Hall. The

Koinonia Class is hosting Julia and everyone is welcome. She will provide an update on all that Global Ministries is doing in the overseas mission work of our denomination.

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Our Church Family

Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:

Louis "Lou" Charles Guthrey, born to Amy and James Guthrey

Memorials

Memorial gifts are placed into the Church's Endowment Funds, which are used to support the church now and into the future. The Endowment Trustees disperse the funds according to the Declaration of Trust approved by the official Congregational Board.

Michael Davis, for Endowment Fund

Shirley Hansell

Sue Deweese, for the Permanent Missionary Endowment Fund

Bette McDaniel

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