



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Preaching Critiques
By Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

The Game Is On!
by Michael Patch
≈≈≈
page 5

Good Bye, Shelby
by Meredith Holladay
≈≈≈
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.*

Easter Offering to Missionary Team in Asia

This year the Outreach Council has designated a missionary couple working in East Timor as the recipient of the 2016 Easter offering. Global Ministries, the combined Disciples/UCC international effort, requested support for Tom and Monica Liddle in their work.



Tom and Monica have worked in East Timor since 2003. Tom is an ordained UCC minister, and Monica is a naturopathic physician and midwife. Tom will be helping develop pastoral leaders for rural congregations and assisting with the management of two health clinics and a vocational school. Monica will work as a doctor at one of the clinics and provide training to the clinic staff. Both are fluent in Tetum, the language of East Timor. Monica will participate in worship at Country Club Christian Church on Mar. 20. Don't miss this opportunity to meet her.

You may remember that in past years we provided missionary support to Jon and Dawn Barnes while they worked in South Africa and Mozambique, and prior to that, missionaries who worked in the Middle East. Country Club Christian Church has had a long history of supporting missionary work, but in recent years has not been able to do as much due to

limited funds available for international missions. This year's Easter Offering is an opportunity to again provide substantial support for Global Ministries' missionary work.

Please support the Easter Offering with a generous gift. The love and dedication of missionaries like Tom and Monica Liddle help transform the lives of those they serve. Your gift to support them will help transform lives as well. Mark your gift "Easter Offering" and mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday – March 20. Families are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service. Dr. Glen Miles preaching, "Last Words: Commend," Luke 23:46.

Maundy Thursday – Mar. 24, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion.

Good Friday – Mar. 25, 12:15 p.m. (organ prelude begins at noon) Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar with worship, readings, hymns and solos. Dr. Glen Miles preaching, "Last Words: Finished," John 19:30

Easter Sunday – March 27, Services at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Complimentary breakfast: continental breakfast in the Parlor 7:30-8:00 a.m.; hot breakfast in Social Hall 8:30-9:30 a.m.



Via Spiritual Renewal Retreat Set for April For Men – Apr. 1-3 at Tall Oaks Conference Center

Glen Miles and Joe Walker will lead this retreat as you relax, renew and reconnect. Cost is \$125, which includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials.

This retreat is the initial session of Country Club Christian Church's new Via spiritual renewal retreats for men and women. Each year there will be a men's retreat in the spring and a women's retreat in the fall (Oct. 21-23, 2016). Life gets busy and it is easy to drift away from the journey of faith. The retreats are designed to build friendships, provide personal reflection time, and have fun while also reconnecting with the Spirit of God. Participants will learn new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, enjoy the beauty of nature, and have time to relax and play. The retreats will be identical and led by members of the church staff. Each retreat will be limited to the first 75 participants.

Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-retreat> or pick up a form in the Parlor and return it to Mary Margaret House.



Grace at Work Is April 16

Grace at Work on Sat., Apr. 16 is under the direction of Ryan and Quinn Jones this year.

"Quinn and I couldn't be more excited to lead such a great team of volunteers and project



champions," Ryan said. "We are chomping at the bit to go out in to the city and reflect God's love through service projects with our partners."

Grace at Work is both an opportunity to express care in our community and to serve alongside church members and friends.

"We've been happily attending Country Club Christian Church for 2+ years now (we're 9:00ers)," Ryan explained. "We knew we wanted to take our involvement in the church family to a new level. Coordinating the 2016 Grace at Work project is an exciting opportunity for us to begin to give back to the church that has meant so much to us and our marriage. We look forward to meeting more people and getting to know them personally."

Grace at Work begins with a hot breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in our Social Hall, then continues at partner sites in the community until about noon. Hands-on projects range from light yard and maintenance work to less physically demanding tasks such as gift wrapping books for literacy programs.

On-line registration for projects will be available soon. For more information, you can contact Ryan and Quinn at graceatwork@cccckc.org.

Christian Hospital Mungeli Presentation

The Outreach and Mission Trip Team will host a presentation about Christian Hospital Mungeli at 10:00 a.m. on Sun., Mar. 13 in the Social Hall. Gayatri Ganesh, Director of Development at CHM, will talk about the greatest challenges rural India faces in health and education and about how those at Christian Hospital Mungeli are trying to tackle those problems.



Gayatri Ganesh (left), Director of Development at CHM, with Amrita Lahiri, traditional Indian dancer, and Dr. Anil Henry, Medical Director at CHM.



Preaching Critiques

Dr. R. Glen Miles



The most common criticism I hear about preaching is this: it is offered as though nothing is at stake. Sermons are delivered as though nothing really matters.

I asked folks a few years ago to explain why they were not church goers. One said, "Church is nice but it is not for me." A girl I had a crush on in the tenth grade told me, "You are nice but..." She smiled as her words trailed off. I was nice but boring.

Another person complained saying, "I attended a church for a while but all they did was criticize other denominations. It was a complete waste of time. I would have liked it better if the preacher had criticized me and some of my weaknesses. I might have been uncomfortable but at least it would have mattered!"

Sue Armentrout is an Episcopalian priest. She found a website where people shared their thoughts about the season of Lent. She was amazed at the quality of their musings.

One person, commenting on the church's mission to call us toward something holier than ourselves, wrote: "The more that is demanded of people, the more they want to give. The church's tough rules on (confession and repentance of sin) made one even tougher on one self (and) more generous to sacrifice. Lent has been trickling away. The less the church asks of us, the less we give."

We may want to quibble with some of that anonymous poster's commentary but the final comment bears repeating: "The less the church asks of us, the less we give." Apply that comment to any aspect of our lives – spiritual, social, financial, emotional – and we will have to admit that it is true: the less we are asked, the less we give.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he asks us to do something that I tend to shy away from. He says it loud and clear: "Be reconciled to God." In other words, admit that you need God. In return, God will call on us to practice honesty and openness, love and forgiveness, justice and welcome to all. Those are high aspirations but in a world full of low level demands and simplistic solutions, it is time for the church to realize what we do matters.

Grace and peace to you,

Leadership Nominations

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2016-2017 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. We need members who are energetic, dedicated and motivated to serve. The Nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions: Congregational Board: Chairperson-Elect, treasurer, secretary, and Board members; Personnel Committee at-large member; Endowment trustees; Elders; Deacons; youth Elders; youth Deacons.

The deadline for all nominations is Feb. 29. Nomination forms are available in the church office or at <http://tinyurl.com/2016nominations>.

Worship with us!

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

Lenten Series: Last Words

Feb. 28

Behold

John 19: 25b-27

Mar. 6

My God

Mark 15: 33-38

Mar. 13

Thirst

John 19: 28-29

Mar. 20, Palm Sunday

Commend

Luke 23: 44-49

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Pathways to Learning: Everybody Hurts ... Sometimes

We all experience pain in our lives – physical, emotional, mental. Sometimes it feels excruciating, but most often, we deal with more “ordinary” pain – hurt feelings, a cold, feeling lonely. We’ll explore the realities of pain in our culture, and learn about how we can work through our pain and be a healing and helpful presence for others.

Sun., Apr. 10 – Politics of Pain. Myra Christopher, Center for Practical Bioethics

Sun., Apr. 17 – Being Helpful: When Children Hurt.

Dr. Rochelle Harris, Clinical Psychologist with Children’s Mercy; Julia Harkleroad, LMFT Licensed Play Therapist; Dr. Allison Hettinger, pediatrician (and church member).

Sun., Apr. 24– The Compassionate Response – panel of chaplains. Rev. Beth Sonnevile, chaplain at Children’s Mercy Hospital; Rev. Lee Franklin, chaplain at North Kansas City Hospital; Rev. Chuck Murphy, Chaplain, Armour Oaks Senior Living.

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

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Mar. 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 Mar. 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.

Somalian Refugee Family Welcomed to New Home



The Della Lamb Refugee Resettlement Program welcomed a family of eight Somalians (mother, father, 3 girls, 3 boys, ages 18 months-12 years) on Feb. 10. The family had been in a refugee camp in Ethiopia for several years. Linda Rives and Kathy Buckley from Country Club Christian Church helped meet the family at KCI and take them to their new home, prepared by our volunteers. The family came with two suitcases and a plastic bag – all their worldly possessions – and had been traveling for over 24 hours. Three of the children will be in school in Kansas City next week. The children and parents had light jackets and cheap white tennis shoes. Karen (the caseworker) brought them heavier coats. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kathy Buckley, the point person for our congregation, at majorbuckley@aol.com to be placed on a list for the next opportunity.



The Game Is On!

By Michael Patch, Director of Children's and Student Music



Every year our team prepares tirelessly for all the great events that spring forth during this time of year. If my office wasn't so full of fun teaching stuff, you might even catch me doing pushups! *Cue the Rocky soundtrack!

For me, this time is all about the spring musical. This year is quite exciting! All children, K-5th grade are learning the musical, *The Big Fish*, during the Sunday School hour. And let me tell you, it is very exciting to see a musical program with so many children

participating. They sound great, they are excited, and the music is a lot of fun! In addition to all of the children singing in the chorus, many children auditioned for speaking and singing roles. Those parts have been selected. Congratulations to:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Vada Doty | Andrew Bennett |
| Jack Pipia | Garay Sullivan |
| Gabe Wallace | Miles Grisell |
| Jack Bartlett | Macy Grisell |
| Jake Bartlett | Olivia Smith |
| Kent Petrie | Russell Smith |
| Blake Petrie | Thomas Sweeney |
| Liam Petrie | |

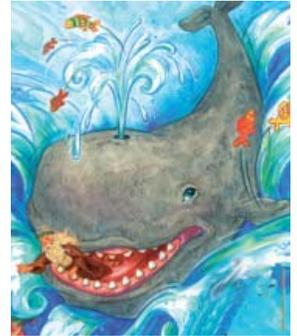
Over the next month, all children will learn the music while also practicing at home with their take-home CDs and song sheets. Those with lines will have additional speaking rehearsals. We will build and paint the set. The musicians will get to work preparing the accompaniment for the performance. And, we will be calling on volunteers to help with many aspects of the show. Please stay tuned for ways that you and your family will have the opportunity to participate.

Meanwhile, save the date for the performance – Sun., Apr. 24, 12:15 p.m., in the Social Hall.

Spring Program and 5th Grade Celebration

Sun., Apr. 24, 12:15 p.m., Social Hall

Save the date for *The Big Fish: Jonah's Whale Of A Tale*, an undersea "film noir" detective investigation of Jonah's mysterious disappearance into the belly of the whale. ... think trench coats, dark sunglasses, dark and stormy nights, and a hint of SpongeBob. This musical is sure to have everyone swimming with joy!



ALL children will be learning songs in Sunday School and encouraged to participate in the program!

Important Rehearsal Dates:
Apr. 17 – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Social Hall
Apr. 23 – 10:00-11:30 a.m., Social Hall

Troop 84 to Celebrate New Eagle Scouts

Sunday afternoon, Feb. 28, at 2:00 p.m., Troop 84 will conduct a special Court of Honor to award Scouting's highest rank – Eagle Scout – to five Scouts. Family, friends and members of the congregation are invited. The ceremony will be held in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Social Hall. Displays of their Scouting careers and accomplishments will be set up and their names will be added to the board honoring the 498 Scouts in Troop 84 who have earned this distinguished rank.



Standing in front of the Eagle Scout Tribute Fountain at 39th and Gillham Road are Troop 84's newest Eagle Scouts. (L-R) Jacob Stockton, Drake Rebman, Nick Darling, Andrew Melland and Eric Leimer.

Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8)

June 17-19, 2016. Middle School students will engage in mission in North-east Kansas City in cooperation with Country Club Christian Church's Part-NerShip. This will be an opportunity to learn about the needs of our own city, build memories and lasting relationships with other students, and invest in our community. They will learn about the Northeast's rich cultural diversity, share meals at small area restaurants, and finish up the nights enjoying fellowship in our church building. For more information, contact Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org.

PowerPlay for Students Grades 9-12

April 3, noon-3:00 p.m. at PowerPlay Family Entertainment Center. Bring \$20 for food and fun.

Improv Night Brings Out Talent and Laughter

Students gathered on Sun., Feb. 21 in the Youth Center for an improv workshop led by Trish Berrong, Director of Education at Comedy City. She led middle and high school students in an evening of fun and games. Trish leads Comedy City's high school program.





Good Bye, Shelby

by Dr. Meredith Holladay, Minister of Spiritual Formation



We are saying goodbye to an old friend in a few days. Her name is Shelby. For years she has housed demographic information, attendance records, important calendar items and room set-up information. For quite some time she has caused many of us to grab our computer screens, tempted to have an *Office Space* moment with the machines. Most of us around the office halls have little sympathy for her departure.

If you pay attention to such things, you might have noticed we've been changing some of our technology systems at the church. Though any major change comes with hiccups and headaches, hopefully it hasn't caused you any major hindrances. I know that often too much tech-speak can seem a little boring, or just plain jargon-y. At the risk of doing just that, I'd like to celebrate all the work that has been done and what the transition means for us.

Our old friend Shelby was only helpful to us as long as we were in the building. We could not access directory or calendar information remotely – from our phones or from our laptops at home. Now, with our new database, Fellowship One, and calendar, ServiceU, we can access all of that information from anywhere we can get online. I have an app on my phone so I can look up phone numbers or email addresses anywhere.

Rachel Wymore, our wedding coordinator, has two small children, Ben who is 2 and Nora, who is almost 7 months. She sent me a text the other day so excited that she could work on scheduling weddings from home, during nap time. I heard from Randy Irey that he had already registered for the men's VIA retreat. He registered through Fellowship One, and remarked at how simple and seamless the process was. This leap forward into the 21st century is a major game-changer. And it isn't just a shiny new form of tech; it is a major help in the ways we can do ministry together.

This kind of change doesn't happen without major commitment and hard work. An enormous depth of gratitude goes to staff members who have worked tirelessly to get us up to speed – Mary Margaret House and Lara Schopp have worked to manually transfer our calendar information, and Lara has been working to integrate the new calendar with the (coming soon) new website. Rachel Clement has done an incredible amount of work to get your financial records synched. We wouldn't be where we are without Paul Cutelli who has been the mastermind of our tech transition and has patiently worked with us to get us comfortable with the new system. Most of all, thanks to you, the generous congregation for believing in the importance of good technology to do great ministry.

Meredith

Children and Families

Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

The Collection Connection is gathering filled Easter eggs to be used during our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Mar. 20. Empty eggs may be picked up in the Parlor. Eggs should be returned filled with pre-packaged candy, small stickers/toys, or coins before Mar. 20.

Club Kids (3rd-5th Grade)

Mar. 6 – Service Project, noon-2:00 p.m. in the Youth Center.

Apr. 2-3 – Overnight at Kansas City Zoo.

May 1 – Foot Golf/End of Year Party.

Kansas City Zoo Overnight

Sat., Apr. 2–Sun., Apr. 3

All 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us for an overnight in the “wild.” We will participate in an after-hours program at the Kansas City Zoo then spend the night there. We will conclude our program with a brief Sunday morning worship time. Watch for registration information.

MOPS Group

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The next meeting is Mar. 9. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

Sunday School

Deep Blue curriculum is inspired by the verse, “In the depths of who I am, I rejoice in God my Savior”. (Luke 1:47 CEB). The children will discover what it means to be a disciple of Christ today through science experiments, art and crafts, animated videos and active games; making the Bible stories, characters and verses part of their lives. Parents, please check out the site, www.deepbluekids.com.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:

June Florence Irey, born to Holly and Peter Irey.

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans
Co-interim Director of Music

Rev. Carla Aday
Executive Minister

Ms. Lindsay Howes
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Meredith Holladay
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Ms. Sally Huggins
Assistant Director of Communications

Rev. Monica Lewis
Minister to Children,
Students and Families

Ms. Lisa McCleish
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Rev. Joe Walker
Minister of Congregational Care

Mr. Michael Patch
Director of Children's and Youth
Choirs

Mr. Jason Ashley
Director of Building and Grounds

Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf
Interim Student Ministries Assistant

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

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538
email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org