



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.

People Get Ready

Festival Sunday, September 11

Join us on Festival Sunday, the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults. It's a great opportunity to introduce a friend to the grace-filled community that is Country Club Christian Church!

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

- Dr. R. Glen Miles will preach the sermon *People Get Ready*.
- 3rd grade Bible presentations at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Picnic Lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

- Picnic lunch served. (\$8 per person, maximum \$30 per family. Guests complimentary; pay with cash or credit card.) Hamburgers and hot dogs served by Two Guys and a Grill.
- Bounce house, games and prizes, food and music!

Special music at all three services
Bluegrass Trio at 9:00
Brian Rood, trumpet, at 10:00
Kansas City Brass at 11:00



Blessing of the Backpacks on August 21

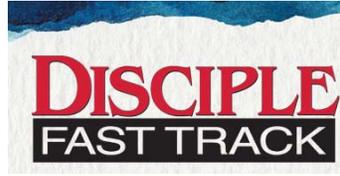


Children and students brought their backpacks to the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Aug. 21 to have them blessed for the upcoming school year.



Disciples Bible Study Fast Track to Begin

Fast Track is an adaptation of the original Disciples Bible Study (DBS). There are no prerequisites to this class. Everyone is welcome. Class begins Sept. 7. It includes a 12-week study of the Old Testament in the fall and a 12-week study of the New Testament in the spring.



The group will meet for 90 minutes each week of the 24 weeks. The classes are led by Jennifer Austenfeld and Lesley Holt in their homes at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Preparation for each lesson includes reading the Bible and workbook as well as prayer and reflection. Purchase a workbook from Anne Haraughty, Ministries Coordinator. Cost is \$30. A NRSV Study Bible is also recommended for participants. Contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org for more information.

Help Welcome Guests and Members on Sunday Mornings

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” — Matthew 10:40

Greeting guests and other members on Sunday morning is one of the most important ministries that each of us can participate in at Country Club Christian Church. The primary role is to make people feel welcome and comfortable. By remembering that every worship service is someone’s first experience, and by providing unforgettable hospitality, we help people experience just a taste of God’s love for them.

A schedule for October 2016 through July 2017 is being created that includes greeters at every door prior to each service and in the Parlor after each service. Long-time members, new members, families, individuals, couples, guests, and all ages are invited! Here’s how to become involved:

- Sign up for one month or multiple months spaced out that suit your schedule.
- Sign up to greet at a door prior to the service you attend.
- Sign up for the Parlor after the service you attend.
- And, watch for more information about a Greeter Seminar in September. All are welcome!

To sign up for months that fit your schedule, contact Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Calling All Runners!

Running Group starts September 6

Runners of all abilities are invited to join the church’s new running group. Starting the week after Labor Day, Glen Miles and Lara Schopp will lead weekly group runs. Lara will lead a Tuesday morning group, starting from the south parking lot at the church at 6:00 a.m. Glen will lead a Wednesday afternoon run, leaving from the church at 5:30 p.m. After a brief word of scripture, prayer or devotion, each group will run approximately three miles.

Whether you’re hitting the pavement daily or it’s been a while since you laced up your running shoes, this group is for you! Fast or slow, marathon veteran or aspiring 5K-er, runners (and even walkers) of all abilities are welcome.

Email Laras@cccckc.org to be added to a running group email for more information.

Volunteer After School at Hartman Elementary

After-school hours provide children time to enjoy organized physical activity and explore extracurricular activities. Through a partnership with our Metro Missions Ministry and Hartman Elementary and the LINC after-school program, we are able to offer volunteer opportunities where we can help students play and learn. All of these listed activities take place between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. weekdays at the school. If you would like to volunteer, contact Randy Irey, Randyirey@gmail.com or 816-304-9805.

Tuesdays – T Ball

Tuesdays – Volleyball

Wednesdays and Fridays – Flag Football

Thursday – Soccer

Thursday – Chess



An Athlete, a Hero and an Atheist

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



On a recent flight, I lucked out and got an exit row seat with extra leg room. I'd had a busy couple of days. I was worn out, looking forward to a nap.

No such luck. The man next to me wanted to talk. I tried to politely signal that I wanted to sleep, to no avail. He talked about the leg room in this row. He mentioned the weather. Then he said, "I'm going to see my friend who is dying. This is a tough journey." I asked, "What happened to your friend?" He said, "We served in the United States Army together. We were both injured in a fight in Fallujah. We should've died but a group of Marines got us out. But my buddy's

body is breaking down and he's not got much time left." I said, "I'm so sorry about your friend. I admire your willingness to go see him. Not everyone is able to make this journey."

He told me his own story. An injury ended his University of Kentucky football career after two years. He enlisted and served in Desert Storm. In 2003, he was in the Reserves when he was called to serve. A year or two later he was in the fight that led to his injuries.

He's married now. Four kids; two adopted from a home where drug abuse overwhelmed the parents. He and his wife are giving the two kids a new start. They live in a small town in Eastern Kentucky. When I told him I'm a pastor, he immediately said, "No offense sir but I'm an atheist." I told him I wasn't offended, and asked how he arrived at his atheism. He talked about the horrific things he had seen. They were the root of his unbelief. He also talked about the Bible and many of the contradictions. He knew scripture well. I assured him there were plenty of churches, like the one I serve, where thoughtful inquiry was welcomed.

He told me about his wife and the work they do in their community. He told me how much he loves his country, his family and his neighbors, even the church folks in his home town who don't know what to do about him. As we landed I saw tears in his eyes. "You OK, Brother?" I asked. "I'm thinking about my friend. He's too young, you know?"

As we parted, I shook his hand. I said, "I deeply admire your service to country, your love of family and your loyalty to your friend. You are the kind of person Jesus calls us to be." And then I said, "Sorry, I started to preach!" He smiled and said, "Pastor, it's been a pleasure. I am in Kansas City often. Maybe I'll come visit your church." I said, "Come see us anytime. We will be proud to welcome you."

I said once in a sermon, "God prefers loving atheists to mean and judgmental Christians." I've met the man who is the image of that comment: a soft spoken atheist who has served his country, loves his family and cares for his neighbor. I'm certain Jesus will say to him some day, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Grace and peace to you,

Glen

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., Sept. 18 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 barbarag@cccckc.org.

New Member Sunday

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is Sept. 25. Contact Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org for more information.

Worship with us!

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

August 28

RSVP

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Rev. Joe Walker preaching

September 4

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

September 11

Festival Sunday

People Get Ready

Mark 9:14-27

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Prayer Ministry News

Changes in Day and Time

Beginning Thur., Sept. 8, our Prayer Ministry moves from Fridays to its new date and time – Thursday, 10:30 a.m., Room 202. Everyone is welcome to join us for a quiet prayer time in which we lift up the joys and concerns of our congregation and our world. If you cannot join us in person but have something you would like for us to hold in confidential prayer, complete one of the prayer cards found in the pews on Sunday or email joew@cccckc.org.

Prayer Ministry on the Road: Claridge Court in September

Our Prayer Ministry will be on the road Thur., Sept. 15, 10:30 a.m. at Claridge Court Senior Living Community (8101 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208). Everyone is welcome to join us for prayer, a simple service with communion, and fellowship. We will gather with Claridge Court's residents in their "Pub" from 10:30-11:00 a.m.



Prayer Ministry on the Road at Foxwood on Aug. 18

For information, contact joew@cccckc.org.

Via Retreat for Women

Register for the Women's Via spiritual renewal retreat Oct. 21-23 online at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-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. Cost is \$125.



The women's retreat will follow the same curriculum as the April 2016 men's retreat, opportunity for personal reflection and reconnecting with the Spirit of God while also connecting with new friends, learning new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, and enjoying the beauty of nature.

Contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org for more information.

Faith and Grief Luncheon

Our next Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry is Tues., Sept. 6, at Village Presbyterian Church. Our 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. on 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 freewill offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry. The ministry is a collaboration of five churches. For information: Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org. To register: 469-251-9612 or <http://www.faithandgrief.org/>

Getting a Grip on Grief

Our new grief support group, facilitated by Rev. Mary Linda McDonnell, meets the third Tuesday evening of each month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Our next meeting is Tues., Sept. 20, Room 202. The group is free and open to the community. We deal primarily with personal loss due to the death of a loved one or unemployment, divorce, or diminished health. For information, contact care@cccckc.org.

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Sept. 18. Our emphasis is on cereal. We have three ways to donate:

- Bring canned goods 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. On Sept. 18, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation. (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org).
- 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.





Ghost Busting and the Final Frontier

By Chuck Pickrel, Director of Student Ministries



As a child of the 80s, a Sci-Fi fan, and self-proclaimed “Nerd,” I see a lot of movies. Some of my favorites involve time travel, space travel, and supernatural phenomena like ghosts or super powers. This summer has offered some great reboots like the all-female cast *Ghostbusters*, and the alternate timeline *Star Trek Beyond*.

As a theologian, I view movies through two mindsets: a personal one (“This is fun to watch!”), and a “How does this relate to God/Faith” view (“How does this translate to my faith?”). Pop culture is packed with material that can be interpreted in faithful ways, so I’m always looking for that next great link to the young people I work with and the stuff they enjoy.

I am particularly interested in the *Ghostbusters* reboot because A) the original films have always been favorites of mine and B) there has been a significant amount of criticism surrounding the all-female cast. While I did find the movie extremely entertaining (maybe better than the originals), Rev. Joe Walker pointed out one very upsetting thing: all of the scientists or “smart women” were white. The one strong woman of color in the film worked in a subservient role and possessed only what we call street-smarts. This gives it a bittersweet aftertaste.



We have a cinematic thrill ride in *Star Trek Beyond*. *Star Trek* has a history of bringing people of color to the front of its cast. At times in the past the show was beyond sexist, but is credited with casting a woman of color in a recurring role at a time when it was unheard of. The recent reboots of the original series have gone beyond in terms of equality of race and sex, but also in the LGBTQ community. *Star Trek Beyond* places the well-known character Sulu in a same-sex relationship – an obviously loving and committed relationship. If you’re a fan of the original series, you know that this is a nod to George Takei, the actor who first played Sulu and also happens to be gay. *Star Trek Beyond* is an excellent movie that speaks to the importance of relationships, the past, and how we interact with each other.



I hope you’ll take the time to see both of these films and formulate your own opinion. Please share your thoughts on these and other films. I always love talking about movies!

Blessings, Chuck

Join 2017 Nicaragua Mission Team

In February 2017, Country Club Christian Church will send a mission team to Nicaragua. This trip will involve both medical mission work as well as a community project.

For the past 11 years, our church has worked in partnership with CEPAD, the Protestant Council of Churches in Nicaragua. CEPAD’s vision is to serve poor communities, promoting justice, peace and solidarity with the aim of improving quality of life. CEPAD works with each community over several years to facilitate independence in areas of agriculture, education, community infrastructure (clean water, sanitation) and governance.

If you are interested in participating in this great mission opportunity or just want to learn more, join us for an informational meeting on Sun., Sept. 25, at 12:15 p.m., Room 202. Contact Joe Walker at joew@cckc.org or 816-333-4917 for more information.

Blood Drive on October 16

The Community Blood Center will be in our Social Hall on Sun., Oct. 16 from noon– 3:00 p.m. to receive donations. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://www.esavealifenow.org/PublicScheduler/Schedule/TimeSelect.aspx>

Upcoming Student Events

Leadership Launch Event

Aug. 28, 12:15-2:00 p.m. , Youth Center. Volunteers who will be serving in children and students ministry in any capacity during the 2016-2017 year will gather for a training session! Lots of fun and lunch will be provided.

High School BBQ Tour

Sun., Sept. 11. 3rd Annual High School BBQ Tour, 9th-12th grade. Get out your bibs and wet wipes!

Middle School Pizza Tour

Sun., Sept. 18, 12:00 p.m. All 6th-8th graders are invited to take a bite of some delicious Kansas City pizza.

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

Dr. Evans to Perform at French Organ Music Festival

Sunday, August 28, 2:00 p.m.



Country Club Christian Church organist and Co-Director of Music Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans will perform as part of the fourth annual French Organ Music Festival at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 416 W. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. The festival will be held on Sun., Aug. 28 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Dr. Evans is scheduled to play at 2:00 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the Kansas City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Cathedral. It is free and open to the public.

Dr. Evans' repertoire will consist of music by Charles-Marie Widor, Jean Langlais, and Olivier Messiaen. Ranging from mystically ethereal to fiery bombast, the music is all listenable and accessible. (Translation: She's not playing anything weird.) Come when you can; leave when you must – hope to see you there!

Current Collection Connection: School Uniforms

We are collecting school uniforms for Hartman Elementary School. We need uniforms for boys and girls. They should be new or gently used khaki



or navy pants and navy polo shirts. Sizes 6, 8, and 10 are especially needed. You may also make a monetary contribution, noting "Hartman uniforms" on the check and turning it into the church office or placing it in the offering plate.

Last year our congregation generously donated a total of 162 uniform pants and 84 shirts for Hartman students facing difficult circumstances.

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.



A Real Gift

by Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



“It’s hard to put into words how much those visits helped my mother. You know how the time can drag. My mother would count the hours until the next pain medication. Jacqueline helped distract her from the pain. Jacqueline was a real gift to our family.”

That’s Bonnie Hensley talking about Jacqueline Cypfers, one of our Stephen Ministers. Jacqueline was one of our church members who visited Bonnie’s mother, Ruth Shobe. Most of us know

Bonnie as a caterer who provides many of the delicious meals we enjoy here at church. What you may not know is that her mother died last November after a long illness.

Ruth was in a hospital – then a rehabilitation center – near our church for much of her illness. Bonnie asked if we could stop in and visit occasionally, which we were eager to do in collaboration with Ruth’s home congregation, Lee’s Summit Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We made pastoral visits to Ruth and took her communion, flowers and a prayer shawl. Ruth had decorative bird houses in her room, a reminder of when she had outdoor bird houses and feeders. She and I loved to talk about how much we enjoyed watching the birds that visited our yards.



Ruth Shobe

When a loved one is sick for a long time, it wears on everyone in the family. I asked Bonnie if she would like a Stephen Minister who could check in on her regularly to see how she was doing during Ruth’s hospitalization. A Stephen Minister is specially trained to listen, to care, and to offer spiritual support and encouragement through difficult times whether it be sickness, grief, job loss or divorce. Bonnie agreed and eventually Jacqueline became Bonnie’s Stephen Minister. Jacqueline also became part of our team visiting Ruth.

“When my mother died, Jacqueline was so sweet,” Bonnie recalled. “She attended the funeral. She wrote me a note after that.”

Under normal circumstances, all Stephen Ministry relationships are strictly confidential. I greatly appreciate Bonnie and Jacqueline’s willingness to set aside that policy in this instance so that we can share this story. If you or someone you know is going through a life challenge, call or email me to discuss whether a Stephen Minister might be a helpful spiritual companion, as Jacqueline was for Bonnie.

Joe

Children and Families

Leadership Launch

Sun., Aug. 28, 12:15-2:00 p.m.

Youth Center (Rm. 205)

Did you know that in the beginning of each school year volunteers in our Children and Student Ministries gather together for training on curriculum, safety policies and procedures and to learn about our children? If you volunteer throughout the year in any capacity, we’d love for you to join us to find out more about what you’ll be doing! Contact Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org for more information.



Room 209 Open House

Our new 3rd grade classroom is complete thanks to donations through the Fund-a-Need at the 2016 Dinner and Auction. Everyone is invited to come check out the renovated classroom on the second floor Sun., Aug. 28 from 10:00 a.m.-noon.

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 Sept. 14. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

Club Kids Welcoming Lunch

Kids grades 3-5 and their parents are invited to a lunch on Sun., Sept. 18, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). Come hear plans for the upcoming year in Club Kids. Please RSVP to Elizabeth Pflazgraf, elizabethp@cccckc.org.

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Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the families and friends of:

Robert Wahlstedt
Paula L. Rinehart
Carol Eisele

Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:

Caroline Mae Jones, daughter of Quinn and Ryan Jones.

Charlie Robert Mason, son of Rachel and Brian Mason

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.

Robert Woodbury
Beth Ingram

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Anne Haraughty Ministries Coordinator
Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	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	Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans Co-Director of Music	Dr. Paul Tucker Co-Director of Music
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Sermons Available on iTunes

Sermon audio files are now available for download on iTunes. Miss a Sunday? Download the most recent sermon and listen to it on your handheld device at your convenience. To find the sermon files, go to iTunes and search Country Club Christian Church. Subscribe to ensure you never miss a sermon. And, watch for new podcast content to be available for download soon.