



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

In Between Time
By Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

Simplicity and
Holidays
by Dina Pannabecker
Evans
≈≈≈
page 5

Go Confidently,
Go Together
by Joe Walker
≈≈≈
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.*

New Faithbook Session Begins in January

Women 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.

- Tues., 7:00-8:00 p.m., Jan. 3-Apr. 4.
- Wed., 9:00-10:00 a.m., Jan. 4-Apr. 5.

Topics:

Women in the Gospels

- Tuesdays – Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- Wednesdays – Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1

Jesus and Muhammed: Let's Talk

- Tuesdays – Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28
- Wednesdays – Feb. 8, 15, 22, Mar. 1

Paul's Invitation

- Tuesdays – Mar. 7, 21, 28, Apr. 4
- Wednesdays - Mar. 8, 22, 29, Apr. 5

Sights of Christmas at Our Church



Update from Personnel Committee Chair

By Jen Parker

The Personnel Committee met Dec. 13 to review existing church procedures, consider past experiences, and determine the process for recruiting the new Senior Minister. The group agreed as an immediate next step to form a discernment committee who will engage in conversation with the congregation during the month of January. The discernment committee will determine when and where these conversations take place ensuring everyone has an opportunity to participate. These conversations will focus on one key objective: to gather input from our members regarding the desired profile for our next Senior Minister.

I am pleased to share that the following members have agreed to serve in this capacity, and who the Personnel Committee feels represent the diversity of our congregation:

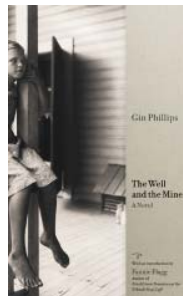
- Elvin Knight - Chair, Elder
- Mary Dibble – Elder, At large
- Dan Jensen – Elder, At large
- Amy Rose – Elder, Board
- Matt Moeder - At large
- Amy Holmes – Elder, Personnel Committee
- Betsy Wilson – Elder, Personnel Committee, Board, past Elder chair

Also for your knowledge, an interim Senior Minister is not being pursued at this time and Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister, will continue to supervise the staff upon Glen's departure. Additionally, guest preacher(s) will be arranged for the next few months to ensure the congregation continues to receive the high quality message they are accustomed to on Sunday mornings.

BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK

2017 Book: *The Well and the Mine* by Gin Phillips

This church-wide book read begins with book groups meeting in April followed by an appearance by the author on Thur., May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. If you are in a book group, invite your group to read this wonderful novel and plan to come hear the author. The event is free and open to the public. All members and friends are welcome to participate in a one-time book discussion group in homes and coffee shops this spring. The book is available for purchase in The Well. Stop by and pick up a copy. Randy Irey and Melanie Thompson are co-chairing the event.



Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed on Jan. 2. If you need to speak to a pastor in the event of a death or hospitalization, please call 816-853-5875.

State of the Church

Join Dr. Glen Miles and lay leaders as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future on Sun., Jan. 29, at 12:15 p.m., in the Social Hall. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report.



Save the Date! 2017 Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the 8th Annual Celebration Dinner and



Auction, Fri., Apr. 7, 2017 at the College Basketball Experience (1401 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106). Sunday School classes are encouraged to include this event on your schedule as your April social event.

New This Year – Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join in the fun at an event designed just for them on the first floor of the College Basketball Experience. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend for an evening of games, food and fun!

Tickets are available for purchase in The Well.



In Between Time

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



The week between Christmas Day and the beginning of the New Year has always felt like a quiet, slow time when not much gets done. This used to bother me. Even though I'd often be on vacation I would feel like I should be getting ready for the next sermon series or working on some long-range plans or, well, something!

I've learned to savor these days. They can provide an opportunity to rest, relax and renew. This week has already given me time to read thoughtfully, exercise thoroughly and find time to spend with my family.

The in between time has also allowed my brain to find space for creativity. In my quiet reading at least three sermon ideas have popped into my head. While enjoying time with my son earlier this week (we went shopping at IKEA) I recognized that he has become a really cool young adult. Here at the church this open ended time has provided space for long conversations with church members around a host of topics, many of them pastoral. The extra free time these last few days has reopened my eyes to the many gifts that are already an ongoing part of my life.

I tend to like being busy. I find comfort in a long to do list. The more active my work and play and family life, the more I feel like I'm getting stuff done. This week, however, I've rediscovered the joy of an empty calendar and a very brief to do list. Too often in my life busyness forces out the work of the Spirit.

My singular New Year's resolution is this: To find time every day for the opportunity to be grateful for the love and the life I have received. This week has been a strong reminder of the way the Spirit can work when I am willing to open myself up to the sacred gift of time.

Grace and peace to you,

Upcoming Guest Lunch

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend this luncheon from 12:15-1:30 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 15 to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and church. Lunch will be served in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). 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 Jan. 22. Contact Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org for more information.

Worship with us!

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

Jan. 1 – 10:30 a.m. only

Glory

John 1: 1-18

Dr. Glen Miles preaching

Jan. 8

9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.

Matthew 3:13-17

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Christian Community Camp Registration

Registration opens Jan. 15 for the 2017 camp June 3-10. A \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. 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. Cost is \$1,700 (\$1,600 if paid in full by Feb. 1, 2017) for a private room; \$375 (\$275 if paid in full by Feb. 1, 2017) for the women's bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$85 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Souper Bowl of Caring

In January our Virginia Reed Food Drive will feature the annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Sun., Jan. 29. Our middle and high school students will be at the church doors as you leave each worship service to receive cash and check donations. We will also be available to help you bring canned soup and other grocery items in from your car.



You may also make a financial contribution to our Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org). On Jan. 29, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation. To contribute through the church, please mark your check or giving envelope "food drive." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship. For more information: joew@cccckc.org

Faith and Grief Luncheon

Our Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. The next lunch is Tues., Jan. 3, at Village Presbyterian Church (6641 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208). The meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. 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.

Via Spiritual Renewal Retreats in 2017

Save the dates for men's and women's spiritual retreats at Tall Oaks Conference Center in 2017.

Men: Mar. 31-Apr. 2

Women: Oct. 20-22



These retreats will be the same as those offered in 2016. If you missed out, this is your chance to experience the renewal provided to all participants. 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.

Cost is \$125 per person. Early registration is \$110 by Jan. 15 for men's retreat and by Aug. 15 for women's retreat.



Women's retreat in 2016.

Prayer Ministry on the Road

Our Prayer Ministry on the Road travels Thur., Jan. 19, 10:00 a.m. to Bishop Spencer Place. Everyone is welcome to join us for prayer, a simple service with communion, and fellowship. We will gather with residents in their beautiful Chapel. Bishop Spencer Place is a senior living community located at 4301 Madison Ave, Kansas City, MO 64111. For information, joew@cccckc.org.



Simplicity and Holidays

By Dina Pannabecker Evans, Co-Director of Music



With all of the comings and goings of the season, I find that my driving time gives me an opportunity to consider those things which are most important.

So here – in no particular order – are the ways in which we reflect and unwind at my house:

- Candlelight
- Quiet . . . occasionally punctuated by classically-based seasonal music or ESPN
- Simple, homemade meals including fresh-baked bread
- A recounting of the things for which we are grateful
- Some kind of special, planned outing that all will enjoy
- Chocolate in a variety of forms

At this writing, we are anticipating three wonderful Christmas Eve services followed by a joyful Christmas Day service. Each time I walk into the sanctuary, I'm amazed by the beauty, grandeur and reverence. I'm grateful for you and your passion for ministry, mission and outreach.

Thank you for a wonderful 2016 and I look forward to making more music together in 2017.

Collection Connection to help After-School Tutoring

More than 80 grade school students receive encouragement and skill-building tools in reading and math through free after-school tutoring at Grace United Community Ministries. Our January Collection Connection will help these students in the Historic Northeast achieve educational and social success. We will be collecting school supplies (pens, pencils, notebook paper) and beginner and “chapter” books for the literacy program.

The tutoring program is certified by the State of Missouri as a Supplemental Education Services (SES) provider. Grace United provides transportation, a nutritious snack and dedicated group leaders to serve as positive role models. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring for the students. Each tutor is equipped with a pre-planned package and goal for the day. Volunteers include retired teachers, medical students, college students, retired men and women.

You may donate items in our Parlor or contribute by writing “Collection Connection” on your envelope or check memo line. For more information: joew@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Student Events

Greater Kansas City Midwinter Retreat – Jan. 6-8, 7:00 p.m.-11:00 a.m. 9th-12th grade youth at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Students from all over Kansas City gather for fellowship, worship and fun. Cost is \$95. Contact Chuck Pickrel at chuckp@cccckc.org for more information and registration.

Sermons Available on iTunes and SoundCloud

Sermon audio files are now available for download via iTunes or SoundCloud. 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 (or, if you use an iPhone or iPad, open the Podcast app) and search Country Club Christian Church. Or, download the free SoundCloud app onto your handheld device and search Country Club Christian Church. Subscribe to ensure you never miss a sermon. If you have questions about subscribing or downloading, ask a staff member on Sunday morning, or email laras@cccckc.org.

Infant Dedications on December 18



George Phillip Howes II, with parents Phil and Lindsay Howes and siblings Emeri, Noah and James.



Jackson Thomas Pfalzgraf, with parents Elizabeth and Rorric

Club Kids Christmas Party



Club Kids (grades 3rd-5th) gathered for holiday fun and service on Dec. 4.



Go Confidently, Go Together

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



“In our most relaxed moments, we sit with our friends and fantasize about how we would like things to be—but we immediately retreat from the excitement such visions generate,” observes Rabbi Michael Lerner, “because we ‘know’ that they are impossible, that no one would ever join us in doing what needs to be done to make them happen.”

Doesn't that sound like a lot of the conversations we hear, and much of what we read, in the New Year's season? One way that I avoid getting bogged down in the melancholy or the somewhat aimless “hoping” for a more compassionate, safe world is by focusing on Jesus' vision for us and how we, as disciples, are called to build (read: actualize) that vision in and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In addition to the volumes of encouragement and instruction in the Scriptures and church history, in this season I am especially mindful of two of my favorite authors, the aforementioned Lerner and Henry David Thoreau. Perhaps you find these an odd combination. I think of them as bookends – Thoreau asserts we must go forth confidently to live as we believe we are called; Lerner adds that we must engender confidence in, and connectedness with, one another to be successful in our mission as disciples.

“I learned this, at least, by my experiment, that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours,” Thoreau concluded. “He will put some things behind. . . . In proportion as he simplifies his life, the laws of the universe will appear less complex, and solitude will not be solitude, nor poverty poverty, nor weakness weakness.”

Lerner offers a slightly different but related perspective to Thoreau's recognition that one can be distinct and at the same time is always in intimate relationship with all of his/her environment. He proposes, “Alone there is very little that can be accomplished by ‘any one person.’ But together, most of this reality (poverty, discrimination, violence, etc.) could eventually be changed. True, only eventually, and then only after prolonged and intense struggle. But it could be changed. What keeps this from happening, in part, is that we can never allow ourselves to become part of this potential ‘WE’ that could transform things.”

As we gaze upon the remarkable possibilities 2017 offers, let us engage each other, and people in an ever-widening circle of relationships, in conversations about how we can more fully become the “WE” that is living Jesus' Kingdom of Peace and Justice into reality here and now.

Joe

Children and Families

Children's Collection Connection

LEGOs for India

We are collecting LEGO bricks to be recycled in sets for children at the Rambo School in Mungeli, India. Please leave your donations at the collection point on the second floor.

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 Jan. 11. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

Family Worship Night

Sun., Feb. 19, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

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

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Sara and Alex Goering Associate Directors of Music for Children and Students
Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Ms. Anne Haraughty Ministries Coordinator
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communications
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans Co-Director of Music	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Ms. Barbara George Director of Membership Development	Dr. Paul Tucker Co-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

email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org

Our Church Family

Sympathy

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

Lloyd Wilkerson

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.

Donald White, for the Stephen Ministry of Country Club Christian Church

Bette McDaniel

Donald White, for the Music Department

June Turley

Lucille Lambert

Bette McDaniel

Marianne See, for the Building Fund

Greg & Nancy Lear

Thomas See & William Bowdle

Jerry & Mary Kindig

David & Mardel Lillard

Dale & Jonna Hunter

Bette McDaniel

Bonnie Blythe & Doug Dee

Marianne See, for the Music Department

June Turley

Nola Odle

Bette McDaniel

Nola Odle, for the Music Department

June Turley

Paul A. Jordan & Virginia Tanzey Jordan, P. Roy Jordan & Mayne Jordan, and Dr. Hugh Tanzey & Eunice Tanzey

Dorothy O'Sullivan

Wayne Heady, for the Music Department

Greg & Nancy Lear

Clayton Hasser

Dale & Jonna Hunter

Milburn & Evalyn Hobson

Gregory & Linda Hall

Bette McDaniel

June Turley

Bonnie Blythe & Doug Dee