

# The Connection

Country Club  
United Methodist Church  
September 2015

## Coming Events

Thurs., Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 – 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Mon., Sept. 7 – LABOR DAY.  
OFFICE CLOSED

Thurs., Sept. 10 – 6:30-8:00 pm  
Centering Prayer Workshop

Sat., Sept. 12 – DeFeet Hunger 5K  
Race and Day of Service

Sun., Sept. 13 -- 12 noon  
"Meet and Greet the Choir"  
"Meet the Pastor"

Thurs., Sept. 17 -- **NEW! 6:00 – 7:15 pm Fast Track Disciple Bible Study**

Fri., Sept. 18, 25 – 7:30-8:15 am  
Centering Prayer & Breakfast

Sun., Sept. 20 – Sunday PM  
Worship 5:00-6:15 Fellow.Hall

-----  
Tues., Oct. 6 -- 6:30 pm Circle of  
Friends at Mehl's

Sat., Dec. 5 – 7:30 pm Rezound!  
Bell Choir Concert

## DeFEET HUNGER & SERVE!

The third annual 5K Run and Walk, followed by a city-wide service project, is coming up **Sept. 12**, and if you have not registered yet, please do so today. CCUMC's church goal is to have 40 runners, walkers and/or volunteers from our church. Registration fee is \$25. Go to [www.defeethunger.com](http://www.defeethunger.com) to sign up.

All proceeds go to the purchase of food for snack packs, feeding hungry youth of Jackson County. The goal is to pack up 10,000 of these lunch sacks. They will be available to middle and high school students, to aid in disaster relief in the region, and available to Harvesters food pantries.



## Grace...

A sermon series for September. God's Grace is the Christian ideal. How can you receive it? When should you give it to others? What does it mean to Grow Together in Grace? Come to worship at Country Club UMC Sundays, 10:45 am and find out!

*Reaching, Growing, Caring, Sharing  
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*



*Just after her baptism Sun., Aug. 1, Zoie Goodman was introduced to the congregation. Pastor Jenn Klein officiated. Zoie is the daughter of Marjie and Brady Goodman.  
Photo courtesy of Lisa Duncan.*

### **What is "Rezound!" ??**

Founded in 2001, Rezound! is a community handbell choir in Kansas City. Ringers audition to participate, and are known for their excellence in playing and quality of music. They have played with the Kansas City Symphony and in concert halls around the country. They will perform at CCUMC on **Sat., Dec. 5 at 7:30 pm**. There is no charge but a freewill offering will be taken. To hear Rezound! in concert at home, go to "Rezound Handbells" on YouTube.

### **Come for Centering Prayer**

"Centering Prayer" is a quiet, reflective way to pray in a guided format. Want to learn more? Come to a Workshop on **Thurs., Sept. 10** at 6:30 -8:00 pm. See Pastor Jenn for details.

Then on Friday mornings 7:30 to 8:15 a.m., starting **Sept. 18**, join the pastor for Centering Prayer before you start your busy day. Light breakfast will be served during fellowship for those who can stay.

### **Sunday PM Service: Piety & Mercy**

Last week, Pastor Jenn led an alternative worship service Sunday evening from 5:00-6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Starting with a light snack, the worship led to singing, sharing of joys and concerns, a brief message and communion. It was followed by participation in an act of ministry.

Worshippers packed "blessing bags" to be distributed to homeless individuals along Emmanuel Cleaver Blvd. and elsewhere in the community. The bags included small containers of deodorant, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste/ toothbrushes, and non-perishable food, all packed in 2-gallon Ziplock bags.

The next Sunday PM will be **Sept. 20**. Stay tuned for details.



*William Randolph Dalton was baptized Aug. 9, 2015. Will is the son of Annie and Mark Dalton, and little brother of Greta.*



### **Meet Joe Wilkerson**

Joe is an accomplished organist and pianist who officially joined our Music Ministry on Sun., Aug. 9, 2015.

He is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College, in Berea, Ohio.

Joe's day job is as the registrar for a local high school. But he is also on the staff of the Community of Christ in Independence, where he frequently presents recitals on both the Auditorium and Temple organs.

Joe has served as organist for several local churches and was, for many years, Chapel Organist at Unity Village. He is a member of the board of Kansas City AGO, the American Guild of Organists.

Introduce yourself to Joe. He says he is pleased to be joining the staff at CCUMC and feels very welcome, appreciating how friendly the congregation has been to him already.

### **Get On the Fast Track with Disciple Bible Study**

For over 20 years the Disciple Bible Study program has enlightened and inspired United Methodists. Now the extensive Bible Study offers a shortened version that is being offered to a limited number of churches – including CCUMC.

Fast Track 24-week classes are scheduled to meet Thursday evenings beginning **Sept. 17** from 6:00-7:15 pm. Lessons on the Old Testament will be taught by Rusty and Jenn Klein. For details see Jenn or contact her at [pastorjenniferklein@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjenniferklein@gmail.com)



### **Circle Makes Fall Plans**

Circle of Friends, the monthly women's potluck group, has announced the following events for this fall:

**Tues., Oct. 6** – 6:30 pm

Hostess: Carole Mehl

Program: Sydney Ann Atkins, "The Greater Journey" by David McCullough

**Tues., Nov. 3** – 6:30 pm

Hostess: Jan Ahern

Program: What's in a Name?

**Tues., Dec. 1** – 6:30 pm

Hostess: Lettie Bautista

Program: to be announced

Call Jan Ahern for reservations.

### **Two Bucks Go to Needy Person**

*Several weeks ago, Pastor Jenn gave worshipers a \$2 bill to use for a good cause and asked for feedback as to how the money was spent. Here is Phyllis Walter's response:*

Dear PJ [Pastor Jenn],

We had not found anyone in need until last Wed. I took Buckey for a hair cut. After getting him into the shop, returned to car to do some reading. When he returned to the car, I got out of car to go in and make his next appointment. A lady had just pulled in next to us.....had her window down and said, "Pardon me, would you happen to have two dollars I could have? I am about out of gas, my son isn't answering his phone, and I don't have any money with me. "

I told her what you did at church giving out the \$1 and \$2 dollar bills and we were to help someone in need. I didn't happen to have the \$4 with me, but I did have a \$5 and I would be happy to give it to her. I told her that God does provide, and I was thankful she gave me the opportunity to help her. She said if I am ever in need, she hoped someone would be there to help me. God is great! He brought the one in need to me. Thanks be to God and You!

Your Sister in Christ..... Phyllis

## Church Camps to Close

After much contemplation and a final decision from the 2015 Annual Conference, three Missouri church campgrounds are about to be sold. Financial and maintenance problems were deciding factors. However, camping and retreat ministries are still a United Methodist priority and have been re-structured for today's lifestyles.

The camping and retreat board has announced the dates for the decommissioning services, prior to the sale of the properties. (The land was originally commissioned as United Methodist property to be used for spiritual purpose. )

All are invited to share in these services of thanksgiving, healing and hope. Each service will include prayers and music as well as the release of the property for possible secular use. In addition to the short worship service, each campground will be open to guests 30 minutes before the service, and for personal reflection and prayer after. If you would like to share remembrances and/or photos in a special way, please indicate the campground name as your subject and email by Sept. 25 to:

[campstories@moumethodist.org](mailto:campstories@moumethodist.org). Selected stories and photos will then be taken and compiled into a scrapbook that will be at each event for you to view. For questions about the coming services, please contact Jon Spalding at [jon@kwumc.com](mailto:jon@kwumc.com).

Decommissioning Services:

- Sat., Oct. 3, Wilderness Retreat and Dev. Center, Lawson – 10 a.m., leader: Rev. Jennifer Weekes-Klein
- Sat., Oct. 10, Camp Galilee, El Dorado Springs – 10 a.m., worship leader: Rev. Melissa Dodd
- Sun., Oct. 11, Blue Mountain Camp, Fredricktown – 3:30 p.m., worship leader: Rev. Kent Wilfong

## MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

*By Jack Schmid*

Now that the church's exterior stonework has been completed, plans are ready to begin the CCUMC memorial garden. Rethinking use of the south lawn at 57<sup>th</sup> Street for the memorial garden has led to the decision to break the project into two phases.

- Phase I will create the in-ground niches, on the south side of the sanctuary, where the Wheatley Garden has been. With the approval of the Wheatleys, the area will be transformed into a small garden with two sections of 24 niches similar to this photo; two granite cremation benches ; and new landscaping.



Work involving bush removal, soil preparation and creation of foundations for the niches and benches will begin in September.

- Phase II, involving a scattering garden for cremains, is being reworked. Two alternatives are presently being evaluated. One is on the east side of the sanctuary on Wornall Road where large bushes have been removed during stone/ exterior renovation. The other alternative is on the west side of the church. An idea of combining a scattering garden and a labyrinth for the west side is being considered.

The placement of the scattering garden on either side of the church has some challenges, but design, landscaping and construction/ maintenance costs are being worked on. A recommendation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century priority team is planned for Sept. or Oct. In an ideal world, a decision can be made in early fall to take advantage of the fall planting season for site preparation and initial planting.

**How do you feel about the name? Should it be Memorial Garden or Memory Garden? Send *The Connection* your vote on the name by emailing [connection@CCUMC.org](mailto:connection@CCUMC.org).**



## New Teachers Add to Ministry

Earlier in August, two young women were hired to work with Tayler Klein-Shepard in the church nursery. They do more than just child care.

"These incredible women are helping bring us up to the next level of children's ministry," said Pastor Jenn Klein.

Bailey Kohrs (left) is a first year Masters student in Occupational Therapy at Rockhurst University. She is from St. Charles, Missouri, just outside of St. Louis. After completing her Masters, Bailey hopes to work in a pediatric unit.

Kylie Aloï (right) is a senior in high school from the Kansas City, Kansas area. Kylie hopes to graduate this December, a semester early, and then begin pursuing certification to be an EMT. Eventually, Kylie would like to be a nurse.

*Photos courtesy of Tayler Klein-Shepard*

## VBS RESPONSE

*By Tayler Klein-Shepard*

God Created... And it was Good." Vacation Bible School was a huge success this summer. The kids had an opportunity to learn about God's Earth by creating terrariums, got to know God's animals by practicing animal yoga, and by crafting clay pots, learned how each of them is especially created by God. We had three events through the course of the summer (June 13, July 11, Aug. 8) with an average of twelve children between ages three and eleven attending. Some children were from our church and others visited from other congregations. Our largest program included fifteen children.

With all the different programs and activities, the children were engaged and excited about being there.

I would like to give a huge thank you to all people who volunteered their time or services to help make VBS special for all the kids this year.

Next summer, we are exploring the possibility of having a three-consecutive day VBS instead of spreading the dates out, to help the kids see even better how our daily themes connect to teach us about God.

## WAY OF THE CHILD

*By Tayler Klein-Shepard*

Beginning **Sunday, Sept. 6**, we will start a new program during Children's Church called "Way of the Child," an experiential, station-based format of worshipping. Stations include areas for prayer, journaling, art, sand work, and reading. Each Sunday, I will gather with the children and share a Bible verse and prayer. After this, children will be encouraged to go and work at any of the stations they would like. This way of worshipping differs from traditional education techniques because it helps the children find a way of communicating with God that best suits their needs at the moment. The idea is that children can learn ways of personal spiritual experience that they can carry with them as they mature.

Periodically throughout the course of the year, I will also be offering a Sunday school class for adults so that they, too, can experience the way of the child. Jesus said that we should all believe in him with the faith of a child. All adults who are interested in these classes may attend, but I especially encourage parents to attend so they can see what their children are learning about during Children's Church. The first adult class will be during the Sunday School hour on **Sunday, Sept. 13** in the chapel. I hope to see you there!

## How Does Our Garden Grow?

*By Carole Mehl*



Our church garden is active but not thriving. Gardening in our area has been a hit and miss proposition because of abundant rain and cool temperatures at the outset, followed by sunny days and not enough water. We used city water for the first time in the third week of August. Our cucumbers are nearly finished as the growing season for them ends August 1st. We should have more green peppers. The tomatoes have suffered the weather and the squirrels. Netting has been placed over most tomatoes as squirrel prevention. The greens (kale and collards) are finished. Collards were primarily enjoyed by the insects! The women and children at Amethyst House really appreciate the organic produce we bring.

### Ushers and Greeters Needed

Hospitality is a vital ministry that we can all perform each Sunday, but our ushers and greeters usually have the first opportunity to make a good impression to guests.

Head Usher, Ken Starkey says we have a dedicated team of ushers and greeters, but more are needed. "Many of us are providing the same service multiple times each month. The goal is to have a full month's rotation of four to five persons each week, but any additions to our ranks will enhance our ministry. We will train you to fulfill either role, whenever you can serve," says Ken.

If you are interested in serving as an usher/greeter, please contact Ken Starkey at 816-691-2737 (office), 913-568-4822 (cell) or [kenneth.starkey@stinsonleonard.com](mailto:kenneth.starkey@stinsonleonard.com) (e-mail). Ken will follow up with additional information and answers to your questions. Also, feel free to ask Pastor Jenn or one of the current members of the team.

### Regular Sunday Schedule

9:15 am Fellowship – Family Foyer  
9:30 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:45 am Worship in Sanctuary

### Wednesdays

10:30 am Prayer Group  
6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

### Church Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am – 1:00 pm.

### *The Connection*

Country Club United Methodist  
Church

400 W. 57<sup>th</sup> • Kansas City MO 64113  
816-444-1616

Editor: [annmvernon@aol.com](mailto:annmvernon@aol.com)



### Mildred West Joins CCUMC

"Millie" West (right) shown here with her friend Ilsa Dupes, became a member of our congregation Sun. Aug. 16, 2015. Mildred is married, has two children and an 11 year-old grandson. She has been attending with Ilsa for several months. Introduce yourself and get to know this sweet lady.

*Photo courtesy of Nancy Smith*