



VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 4

COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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the Good in the
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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.*

2016 Celebration Dinner and Auction

The 7th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction will be Fri., Mar. 4, at Boulevard Brewery, 2501 Southwest Blvd.

Help ensure this year's event is a success by becoming a benefactor at one of six levels starting at \$250 or purchasing tickets to the event.

Plan to attend the dinner and auction, which not only has become an important source of funds for the church's operating budget, but has more importantly cultivated friendships that extend across generational lines and nurtured a sense of stewardship within our community.

Purchase tickets online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-auction> or in the Parlor on Feb. 14 and 21.

Auction – The committee is looking for Live Auction items, Super Silent items and items by category, such as sports, electronics, jewelry, restaurants, gift packages, for the event. Creative ideas for donated items by individuals, groups working together or by Sunday School class are welcome! If you have items to donate, please contact Barbara George at barbara@pmrk.com. Items donated include a week on Sanibel Island, FL; a week in Palm Desert, CA; nine course wine dinner at the Moffats; Colorado cabin getaway; dinner for eight at the Sulgrave; KC Sporting experience including tour and game; and a Tuscan dinner for six at the Boughs.



Lenten Sermon Series: Last Words

The last words from the cross demand our attention. "Forgive them," Jesus prays. Another who is being crucified calls out to Jesus, "Remember me." In pain and agony our Lord demands, "My God, why?" The last words of the cross remind us of the very human desires to be forgiven and remembered, understood and loved.

Feb. 14 – Forgive, Luke 23:24

Feb. 21 – Remember, Luke 23:43

Feb. 28 – Behold, John 19:26

Mar. 6 – My God, Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34

Mar. 13 – Thirst, John 19:28

Mar. 20, Palm Sunday – Commend, Luke 23:46

Mar. 25, Good Friday – Finished, John 19:30



The India Experience

By E.J. Becker

Stunning, terrifying, fast-paced, loud, aesthetically tumultuous and raw. All words that could describe scenes or moments in India as witnessed by 10 church members in Country Club Christian Church's first mission trip to India.

Kind, serious, humble, loving, intelligent, generous and open. Just a few of many words to describe the wonderful people (now friends) at Christian Hospital Mungeli, in the central part of the country, who welcomed us into their home.

This once deteriorating mission hospital is now a thriving medical center with its own nursing school, the first low-cost cancer treatment center in the area, a K-12 English-language school for 1,000 kids, and soon, a new birthing center. And when they welcome teams like ours, they take a different approach to mission work – asking participants to use their skills and talents instead of assigning tasks.

We taught English, produced instructional videos about blood donation, helped review medical records, produced signage for the hospital grounds, created a hospital staff directory, preached, played beautiful music and were many times simply there for them as they were for us. For almost an entire month, Country Club Christian Church members were present in this tiny, impoverished, overlooked corner of the world. Ask any of them about the trip. They'll be glad to share their stories, their favorite moments and their tips...for your trip...next year.

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.

Pathways to Learning: Love and Marriage and the Church



It's no secret questions surrounding marriage are both political and religious issues – who should get married – who gets to decide? Join the

Pathways to Learning series to learn together the ways that conversations around marriage and sexuality have evolved in our culture, and where the church has been helpful, fallen silent, or been prophetic around these issues. 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.

Feb. 14 – The role of the church and marriage in the U.S. with Rev. Brian Ellison, ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.

Feb. 21 – Conversation and question and answer with Dr. Molly Marshall, president and professor of theology and spiritual formation at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, KS.

Pathways to Learning is a series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, and more. Ideal for those who aren't involved in a Sunday School class; entire Sunday School classes are encouraged to participate as a group. Visitors welcome.

Infant Dedication

Feb. 7



Russell Edmond Atha IV. Parents are Amy and Neil Atha.



40 Days of Seeing the Good in the World

Dr. R. Glen Miles



The season of Lent for many is a time to give something up. Many folks will refrain from eating chocolate or meat. Others will not watch television. I've seen posts on Facebook from a few friends relating that they are taking a social media sabbatical in order to help them focus on the way of Christ during this season of introspection.

These practices are all worthwhile. I must admit, however, that my attempts in the past have come with mixed results. One year I gave up sweets for Lent. By the end of the 40 days the staff, after putting up with my crankiness due to lack of donuts and cake, said with one voice, "Have a cookie. Please!" I'm pretty sure that Jesus never said, "And yea verily the world will know you by your grumpiness."

This year I am going to focus on making affirmations. Every day I am going to affirm at least one person for something positive I see in the way they do their work, live their life or model what it means to be like Christ. Already today (as I type this column on Ash Wednesday morning) I have witnessed several great opportunities for affirmation. Just taking the time to look for the good in the world has reminded me that we are surrounded by amazing and beautiful people all of the time.

One a day won't be hard to accomplish. Once I set a goal I'm pretty good about going after it. I'll record the affirmations in my journal. No one else will see them but I like to assure myself that I am staying on track.

In the long run though, what I am really trying to do is reorient my life toward God. Lent is a time to reflect. It is an opportunity to take an account of our lives, our faith, our dreams, even, to see if they line up with God's desire for the world. This year's goal is simple – make sure at least one person per day knows that I appreciate something about them. I pray that this simple path will help me to reaffirm over and over again the very word of heaven spoken by God when humans were created, "God saw everything made...and indeed, it was very good."

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. 14

Forgive

Luke 23:24

Feb. 21

Remember

Luke 23:43

Feb. 28

Behold

John 19:26

Mar. 6

My God

Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Mission Team in Nicaragua February 20-28

Our mission team will be in the village of Juacapa, Nicaragua Feb. 20-28. Betsy Wilson, who has traveled on mission to Nicaragua before, recalls, "While it always seems as though we go to 'serve' others, I selfishly feel like I come away with much more than I give. It is such a gift to build community with not only the people of Nicaragua but also to deepen the relationships with others on the trip. To step out of my comfort zone, trust in God, and grow in both personal and spiritual ways."

Please keep our team and the new friends they are meeting in your prayers. You can follow their mission on our blog and Facebook page.

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



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

Joe Walker and Glen Miles 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. 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.

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Feb. 21. 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 Feb. 21 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.



An Adventure to Remember

By Lisa McCleish, Director of Early Childhood Programs



During a visit to the preK program a few weeks ago, I mentioned that I was going to the attic. This, of course, elicited many questions: Where is the attic? What is an attic? Is it scary?

For the sake of imagination and wonder I told the children that the attic was cold and dark; it was up more stairs from their classroom and the door was small so a person had to bend down when walking through. With just a slight hesitation, two children bravely asked if they could go along to see this mysterious place.

The walk to third floor was full of excited chatter and more questions. At the attic, I opened the door and we immediately felt the cold air; without turning on the light I said, "Okay, go ahead in." All their courage disappeared and they backed away so I flipped the switch and went in followed very closely by two nervous 4-year-olds.

Nervous hesitation turned into excited exploration as they made their way through old furniture, boxes of church history and large toys stored for later. They touched, opened, lifted, and even bravely climbed more stairs to see what was stored in the space above the attic. A cobweb sparked stories about all the creatures that must surely live in the attic and an old desk chair had them wondering if people "just sit and look at all the cool stuff up here."

Caught up in listening to their conversation and answering questions, I completely forgot why I went to the attic in the first place. It was no longer a cold place full of old and unused stuff, but an adventure in history and wonder seen through the eyes of children.

Eventually we had to go back to the classroom. The children couldn't wait to tell their friends about all the things they had seen, but also about their bravery.

As we were about to walk out of the attic, one of the children saw a framed picture of the church. He said, "I need to get one of those." The other child asked why (before I could) and he said, "That's my school. I always want to remember this place because it was fun."

Text Giving: \$5 Makes a Difference

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.
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.

Save the Date for Grace at Work on April 16

Join us on Sat., Apr. 16 for Grace at Work, a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects. Many different volunteer opportunities are available. Through your participation you will have the opportunity to experience fellowship, while assisting others in need and creating visible change in our community. Complimentary hot breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.

Souper Bowl of Caring



Students collected money at all three services on Feb. 7 for the Souper Bowl of Caring, a national effort to fight hunger. Thanks to everyone who helped them raise over \$1,000 for the Virginia Reed Food Drive. From left, Elizabeth Pfalzgraf, Sam Brumitt, Caroline Brumitt, Elizabeth Crocker, Caroline Schopp and Rev. Joe Walker.

Pastors' Class 2016



Pastors' Class 2016 kicked off on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10. Country Club Christian Church has a special bunch of 6th graders! There were so many giggles and such a connection among them. Stay tuned through the Lenten season as we highlight each of them and their Faith Mentors on our Facebook page.

Improv Workshop for Students Grades 6-12

Get your funny on! Save the date – Sun., Feb. 21, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205). Improv is hilarious. Improv helps you be hilarious. It also helps with your self-confidence. Bring friends for a fun night!

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 PartNERship. 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.

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



Dining at the Communion Table

by Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



Pratima, age 24, was the nurse assigned to welcome me to the mission hospital in India. Pratima knew where to buy Indian fabric and spices. As we meandered through the narrow muddy streets, she held my hand and pulled me close when a motorcycle, bull or rickshaw barreled past us. Like a chivalrous date, Pratima, insisted on walking on the street side with me safely on the inside.

Each member of the mission team had someone like Pratima watching over us. We began calling these nurses our guardian angels. When we suggested a dinner outing, the young nurses giggled with excitement but they also appeared hesitant. When we sat down at the long table, we asked our new friends, who could read the Hindi menu, to order some platters we could all share. Out came steaming platters of spicy noodles, stir fry vegetables and some delicious but unidentifiable delicacies. Several times we Americans at the table said “let’s order another platter of this” but each time the nurses said “oh, this is plenty, we don’t need more.” The bill astonished me. For the 16 of us to eat dinner, it cost only \$20.

I later learned that the nurses were reluctant to dine at the restaurant because they knew it was so expensive. They refused to order more food because they feared it would cost too much. In that moment, my vision shifted. Suddenly I saw \$20 not as four cups of latte at Starbucks but as a feast for a group of angels in India. Suddenly I saw the platters of food as sacred gifts of God and I didn’t want to take too much. And then, when I looked back at the nurses who were our guardian angels, I realized that because of their humility and gracious hospitality, I had truly dined at the communion table.

Carla

Children and Families

Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

During February, the Collection Connection will be 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 may be returned filled with pre-packaged candy, small stickers/toys, or coins.

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 in the Penguin Pavilion. 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.

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Our Church Family Sympathy

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

Louise Crider
Russell Atha

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.

Lucille Lambert
Martha Jo Strickler

Lucille Lambert, for Congregational Care
Paula Lane
Maureen McGinty

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 Communciations
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

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