



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.

Mission Team Experiences Mungeli, India

Two mission teams from Country Club Christian Church are serving at Christian Hospital Mungeli in India. The first team arrived on Jan. 4. Team members have followed doctors on rounds at the hospital and visited a new mobile clinic that goes out twice a week to two villages, that, with people coming from surrounding areas, serves 46 villages. Karen Cook and Susan Thorne also observed several surgeries. Team members have visited the Rambo School, reading and singing with classes. Dr. Anil Henry, director of the hospital, led a tour of the campus and the new construction. Susan Garner has taught yoga to 7th graders and Susan Thorne delivered the message at morning chapel. A second team will arrive next week.



Farewell to Dr. Miles – One Service at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 5

Dr. Glen Miles' last Sunday at Country Club Christian Church will be Sun., Feb. 5. There will be only one service that day, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Social Hall. Please join us in wishing Glen well as he departs for his new position as Senior Minister at First Community Church in Columbus, OH.



Discernment Committee Seeks Your Input

By Elvin Knight, Committee Chair

As you are aware Dr. Glen Miles resigned in late November to accept a new pastoral call in the spring. While we are saddened that Dr. Miles is leaving us, we are supportive of his next endeavor.

The Congregational Board has appointed a Discernment Committee to discern the qualities the congregation desires in a senior minister. We are asking each of you to provide your opinion of the characteristics you believe are important for a senior minister at Country Club Christian Church. Please feel free to express your opinions through one or more of the following methods:

1. A congregational meeting will be held on **Sun., Jan. 22, at 10:00 a.m in the Social Hall.**
2. We will meet with Elders and Deacons in a joint meeting on Tues., Feb. 7.
3. Any member of the congregation may provide his or her opinion of what you desire in a senior minister by emailing discernment@cccckc.org.
4. We will solicit your opinions through Survey Monkey, an online survey. We will ask you to respond to the survey and answer a variety of questions in regards to the qualities of a senior minister. In addition we invite you to provide narrative. Please watch your email for a notice from the church with a link to the survey. The survey will also be available in paper form in the church office.
5. Please feel free to personally contact any member of the Discernment Committee. Committee members are Elvin Knight, Mary Dibble, Dan Jensen, Amy Rose, Matt Moeder, Amy Holmes and Betsy Wilson.

Your contribution is essential in this initial step. Your input will be used to develop the job description of our next leader. We appreciate your assistance and your prayers as we begin this next step in the life of Country Club Christian Church.

Guest Preacher Announced

By Jen Parker, Chair of Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee announces that in addition to our existing clergy, Dr. Mike Graves has agreed to serve as guest preacher for Sunday worship services over the next few months. He will preach at all three worship services during this period.

Dr. Graves is a member of Country Club Christian Church and serves on the faculty at the Saint Paul School of Theology. In his capacity as Saint Paul's William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching and Worship, Dr. Graves has extensive experience in the pulpit and has preached at Country Club Christian Church many times in the past.

All pastoral concerns during this time should continue to be directed to Rev. Carla Aday, Rev. Joe Walker or Rev. Monica Lewis. As previously mentioned, an interim Senior Minister is not being pursued at this time and Executive Minister Rev. Carla Aday will continue to supervise the staff.

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. Tickets are available for purchase online at <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-dinner-auction/>.

Do you have an item you'd like to donate for the 2017 auction? We are looking for lots of fun and unique items, such as vacation homes, tickets to sporting events or concerts, gift certificates, jewelry, artwork and more! Fill out the form at <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-dinner-auction/> to submit your item.





The Secret Plan of God

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



The Apostle Paul, writing to a church in Ephesus, proclaims, “This mystery was not made known to humankind as it has now been revealed...” What is the mystery? What is the secret? God loves everyone. That’s it. That’s the mystery. God’s grace is not reserved for a special few who think alike and look alike and share similar beliefs. Nope. God’s grace is for everyone. How is the world supposed to discover this mystery, this “secret plan of God,” as Eugene Peterson describes it? Through the church. Our task as followers of Jesus is to share this good news with the world!

Paul wrote “both of us have access...to God.” The word both refers to Jews and Gentiles. He is saying everyone, through the love and grace of Jesus, is invited to participate fully in the family of God.

Paul makes a very strong case for this inclusive Gospel by recalling his own life as an example. In Ephesians 3:8 he writes, “although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ...” Paul, before he was a famous Christian missionary, persecuted Christians.

Do you see what Paul is driving at here? God came to him, the lowest of the low, a cruel and dangerous person, and God chose Paul to be the great leader in the church, to be the one who would preach this message of grace and love for everyone. The self-deprecatory tone that Paul uses here is almost untranslatable into English. “I am the lowest of the low; I am at the bottom of the trash pile.” And yet, this is the one God called.

Paul concludes in Ephesians 3:13, “I pray therefore that you may not lose heart...” Great advice. Do not lose heart in this frightening world. Remember that God can work in the middle of anything and bring about the good news of God’s love for all.

You know what? It’s not supposed to be a secret. Take this word to the world and let God’s love be given and received.

Grace and peace to you,

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.

Worship with us!

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

Jan. 15

We Are One in The Spirit
John 1:29-34

Jan. 22

Walking in The Light of God
Matthew 4:12-17

Jan. 29

Rev. Monica Lewis preaching

Feb. 5

One Service at 10:30 a.m.

Farewell to Dr. Miles

Heartfelt

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Dr. Glen Miles preaching

Our Church Family

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.

Barbara Luce

Bill & Brucie Hopkins

Carlene Neihart

Todd & Pauline Johnson
Bill & Laurel Mace
Alan & Susan Garner
Jill Reynolds
William & Kathryn Worley
Daniel & Sharon Brown
Bill & Marlene Wiseman
Cheryl Dittmer
Brian & Dian Steele
Lawrence & Susan Winter
Mary & Stephen Hamilton
David & Kathy Hellwege
Blanche Gangwere
Arthur & Barbara Stern
Ronald & Sandra Riley
George & Lois Satterlee
Rodd & Martha Staker
Jim Neihart
Bob & Renée Letterman

Lloyd Wilkerson

John & Doris Soltys

Lucille Lambert

Mary & Pete Thorsell

Marianne See, for the Building Fund

Wilson Siemens

Wayne Heady, for the Music Department

Bill & Laurel Mace

Mary & Pete Thorsell

Correction: In a previous issue, we mistakenly noted memorials from "John & Mary Jane Stewart"; the entries should have read "John & Martha Jane Stewart." We apologize for this error.

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

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.

The men's retreat will be led by Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care, and Dr. Mike Graves, St. Paul School of Theology.



Cost is \$125 per person. This Sunday, Jan. 15, is the deadline for the early registration rate of \$110 for men's retreat. The early registration for women's retreat is Aug. 15.

Christian Community Camp Registration

Registration opens Jan. 15 for the 2017 camp June 3-10. Stop by the Zappia room off the parlor for information. 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, For more information, contact Rev. Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



Stay Informed

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



Last week my daughter's school had two snow days. She, like most school-aged children, was thrilled. I remember those days of going to bed hoping for snow: waking up in the wee hours to peek out my window and check for accumulation; listening for my school's name on the radio's list of cancellations; excitement at a free day with nothing planned except maybe some sledding with my friends.

A couple of Sundays ago, right before Christmas, we made the call to cancel our two early worship services due to extreme cold and ice. We don't like to cancel church, especially on a Sunday, and it doesn't happen very often. But inclement weather is inevitable in this part of the country, and we want our members, visitors, volunteers and staff to be safe, so we will err on the side of caution.

When we have to close the church, we make every effort to inform you. On page 6 you can read more about our process for communicating closures. We use email, our website, social media and when we can, local news stations. But inevitably, it's not enough. Someone doesn't get the message and ventures out in what might be dangerous weather only to arrive at a closed church. We don't want that to happen.

So, like the notice on page 6 says, we want you to check our communication resources before you leave home during iffy weather. But you know what? We want you to check those resources during regular weather, too!

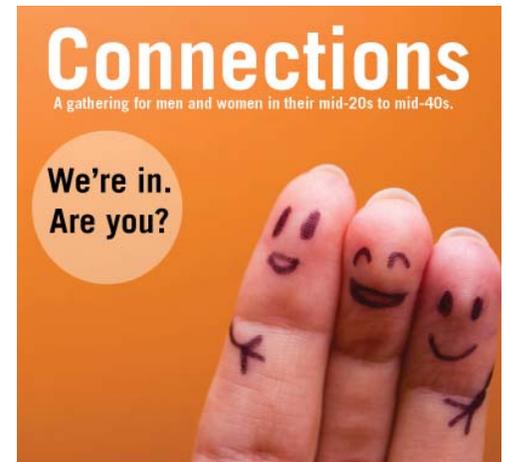
There is so much going on in the life of the church that it can be hard to keep up with it all. And I am very aware that everyone's email inboxes are super clogged with mostly spam these days.

But to fully participate in the life of this church, you need to be informed about what's happening here, and the best way to do that is to read our emailed newsletter, follow our Facebook page, and check in on our website regularly. You'll also stay more informed by coming to worship regularly and reading The Journey Ahead bulletin insert, which is a mini-newsletter.

We make every effort not to overload your inbox. The newsletter email only comes every other Friday, and it should just take you a few minutes to scan headlines. If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Twitter, please start. You might be missing valuable information about the life of the church.

If you're not already on our email distribution list, let me know (laras@cccckc.org) and I'll make sure you're added. I look forward to sharing all of the goings-on at Country Club Christian Church with you this year!

Lara



A Gathering for Men and Women in Their Mid-20s to Mid-40s

Looking for a new way to connect at Country Club Christian Church? Join us for Connections, starting Feb. 26 at 10:00 a.m. Hear a group message based on that day's scripture, followed by small group conversations. Contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org for more information.

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.

You may donate items in our Parlor or contribute by writing "Collection Connection" on your envelope or check

Student Ministries Events

First Fridays for Middle School

All 6th-8th graders are invited to join us as we kick off Friday Fridays on Feb. 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). We'll have food, fun and fellowship. Bring your friends.

High School Youth Group

Weekly beginning in February, 9th-12th graders will have a fellowship gathering over food with different topics each week. Meetings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Depending on your schedule and location, join fellow students for fellowship and food. On Thursdays, beginning Feb. 9, we will gather from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Spin Pizza (6541 W. 119th St, Overland Park, KS). On Tuesdays beginning Feb. 14 we will gather from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Panera in Brookside (6301 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, MO).

High School Game Night

Join us on Sun., Feb. 12 for game night. We will gather from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205).

High School Mission Trip

To learn about the mission trip for 9th-12th graders to Fort Worth, TX and Texas Christian University this summer, please attend an informational meeting on Sun., Feb. 12, at noon in the Youth Center. The trip will be June 17-23.

Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8)

June 12-13, 2017. Middle School students will engage in mission in Northeast 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.

Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Rm. 202

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

Weather Closing Information

During the winter months when the weather can be unpredictable, we encourage you to check the church's Facebook page or website when there is extreme cold, ice or snow before heading out to church. Although we prefer not to close the church, when there is inclement weather—particularly on Sundays—we want you, our volunteers and our staff to be safe. We will always post weather closings on our website and on Facebook, and in the event of a Sunday closing we will also send an all-church email. If you are not currently receiving church emails, please contact Paul Cutelli at paulc@cccckc.org. When we can we also notify the local news stations of our closings. Because of its more flexible reporting system, KMBC Channel 9 will have the most accurate information from us. However, you will always get the most reliable, detailed information if you check Facebook or our website. Stay safe and warm during these cold winter months!

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.



First Fridays

By Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families



I've lived in Kansas City for about six years now. And as long as I've lived here, I've wanted to go to First Fridays in the Crossroads District. Six years and I've never gone. I follow hundreds of local artists on social media and spend my nights flipping through their posts to see all of the fun and creative stuff they're making.

Like so many of you, my family is living in that in-between time where weekend evenings don't really exist in the same way they used to. Our weekend nights are typically spent with a popcorn and movie night at home and play dates that turn in to a well-rehearsed plea for friends to stay for dinner. I love this. I love all of this. But sometime, I'd like to go to First Friday. And I know many of you parents reading this would, too. Keep reading to find out how you can sneak away to get some time for you!

Beginning Fri., Feb. 3, our Children and Student Ministries will begin offering new programming – First Fridays!

We will meet in our church building February and March of this academic year (join us at Country Club Christian Church's annual Celebration Dinner and Auction the first Friday of April) and we'll kick off 2017-2018 academic year with First Fridays, September-May. Each month will be a little different. Sometimes we might have a food truck style dinner, others may enjoy a hot cocoa bar, or maybe they'll get a little taste of First Friday art culture with an art fair. This will be fun, trendy, and a great place to be on Friday nights while parents get to enjoy an evening out on the town.

For our 3-5th graders, First Fridays will be a time of fun, fellowship and faith development. Think Club Kids meets food truck meets youth group. We are eager to dig in deep with this age group and give them a taste of what the older kids get to do in youth group. This will be an opportunity to connect this age group in relationship with one another and to enrich their faith at a time in life where tough questions become the norm.

Our 6th-8th graders will meet on First Friday in addition to weekly youth group during the other weeks of the month. For this age group, First Fridays will be a great event to bring friends, play awesome games, grow together in faith and live our their lives in deeper and meaningful relationships with one another. They'll eat good food – you can guarantee them that!

If you are interested in volunteering to help with First Fridays, please contact Lindsay Howes (lindsayh@cccckc.org) or Chuck Pickrel (chuckp@cccckc.org).

For families who would like more specific information about First Fridays, make sure to check your weekly Wednesday email.

Monica

Children and Families

First Fridays

Feb. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

3-5th graders are encourage to join us for this new event we are kicking off. First Fridays will be, you guessed it, on the First Friday of the month. We will have a monthly theme, dinner, activities and fellowship. Join us Fri., Feb. 3 for Winter Indoors – dinner, hot cocoa bar, popcorn bar and winter movie. Save the date for Mar. 3.

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!

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 Feb. 8. 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.deep-bluekids.com.

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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

Staff Direct Phone Numbers

Recently a new phone system was installed at Country Club Christian Church that now makes it possible for you to dial a staff member directly. We also continue to have our general number (816-333-4917) available. During the week, that number will continue to be answered by a person during regular office hours.

We hope this updated system will make it easier and quicker for you to reach a staff member.

Name	Direct Number
Diana Black	816-381-9241
Paul Cutelli	816-381-9242
Monica Lewis	816-381-9243
Lindsay Howes	816-381-9244
Lara Schopp	816-381-9245
Alex & Sara Goering	816-381-9246
Dina Evans	816-381-9247
Paul Tucker	816-381-9248
Joe Walker	816-381-9249
Jason Ashley	816-381-9250
Barbara George	816-381-9251
Anne Haraughty	816-381-9252
Carla Aday	816-381-9253
Glen Miles	816-381-9254
Sally Huggins	816-381-9255
Rachel Clement	816-381-9256
Chuck Pickrel	816-381-9257
Elizabeth Pfalzgraf	816-381-9258
PDO/Preschool	816-333-6311