



VOLUME 91 · NUMBER 9

COUNTRY CLUB

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.*

## A Place at the Table

### 2017 Stewardship Campaign

God sets a place at the table for you and calls us to create a place at the table for others! In response to God's generosity, we at Country Club Christian Church set the table for worship, spiritual growth and service. At this table lives are transformed, relationships are born, forgiveness is received and joy multiplies to change the world. Join us during the stewardship campaign for these special events:

**Stewardship Packet Pickup** – Please stop by the parlor on Sun., May 7 to pick up your Stewardship packet.

**May 7 – Mission Sunday.** Our mission partners will be honored in worship, and you will have an opportunity to meet them in the Parlor.

**May 14 – Coffee and flowers on Mother's Day.** Cappuccinos and fun photo opps with Mom, family or friends.



**May 21 – Pledge Sunday.** Enjoy brunch between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the parlor. Please bring your pledge card to worship when we will dedicate our gifts and ourselves to the ministry God calls us to share.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK BY BOOK

Join us on Thur., May 11, to hear Gin Phillips, author of *The Well and the Mine*, talk about the ways that stepping into other people's lives and living out their stories through literature helps us become more empathetic, kinder people. She will also talk about her own family and how it connects with *The Well and the Mine*. Phillips is the author of five novels and was the winner of the 2009 Barnes & Noble Discover Award for *The Well and the Mine*. Her talk on May 11 is entitled, "What's the Point of Fiction?" Come even if you haven't read the book! Reception and book signing will follow in the Social Hall. If you can help provide treats for the reception, please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/book-treats>.



## 2018 Mission Trip to Mungeli, India

In early 2018, two teams from Country Club Christian Church will head to Mungeli, India to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli and the Rambo Memorial English Medium School. The first will go from Jan. 6-20, and the second from Jan. 21-Feb. 3. Each team will spend about 11 days at the Mungeli Christian Hospital complex. The last two or three days of each team's time in India will include sightseeing, such as a tour of Delhi and the Taj Mahal.



There will be an informational meeting on Sun., June 11 in Room 201 after the 11:00 a.m. service for anyone interested. No special qualifications are needed to participate in the trip. Reservation forms and deposit checks (\$250) will be accepted beginning at the meeting on June 11. Spaces are limited and spots will be assigned in the order of the receipt of deposit checks.

## Collection Connection: Flashlights and Batteries

In May, we are collecting flashlights and batteries for Micah Ministry. Many of our Micah guests have had their utilities turned off or are homeless. These folk depend on candles, which can be dangerous, and flashlights to help them light their darkness. If you'd like to help our brothers and sisters at Micah, please bring batteries and/or flashlights with batteries for our May Collection Connection.

## Quarterly Financial Report

|                                           | Prior Year Actuals<br>Jul 15 - Mar 16 | Current Year Actuals<br>Jul 16 - Mar 17 | Budget<br>Jul 16 - Mar 17 | Year to Date<br>Budget Variance |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                             |                                       |                                         |                           |                                 |
| Contributions                             | 1,262,321.28                          | 1,173,408.50                            | 1,205,203.56              | -31,795.06                      |
| Building and Event Fees                   | 658,909.42                            | 654,818.95                              | 596,496.87                | 58,322.08                       |
| Endowment (Designated and Non-Designated) | 174,217.32                            | 120,415.40                              | 265,292.28                | -144,876.88                     |
| <b>Total Income</b>                       | <b>2,095,448.02</b>                   | <b>1,948,642.85</b>                     | <b>2,066,992.71</b>       | <b>-118,349.86</b>              |
| <b>Expense</b>                            |                                       |                                         |                           |                                 |
| Total Personnel Expense                   | 793,179.29                            | 817,462.40                              | 841,664.34                | -24,201.94                      |
| Total Programs, Facility, Admin. Expense  | 994,912.86                            | 935,449.31                              | 961,027.65                | -25,578.34                      |
| Total Mission and Outreach Expense        | 167,744.71                            | 166,240.85                              | 233,925.03                | -67,684.18                      |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                      | <b>1,955,836.86</b>                   | <b>1,919,152.56</b>                     | <b>2,036,617.02</b>       | <b>-117,464.46</b>              |
| <b>Net Operating Excess (Loss)</b>        | <b>139,611.16</b>                     | <b>29,490.29</b>                        | <b>30,375.69</b>          | <b>-885.40</b>                  |

This is a summary report of our quarterly financials. The full report is available upon request from the Business Office. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Lynn Cockle, Treasurer, at [lcockle@polsinelli.com](mailto:lcockle@polsinelli.com). If you have questions about your giving statement, please contact Rachel Clement, Director of Finance, at [rachelc@cccckc.org](mailto:rachelc@cccckc.org).



## On Saying Goodbye to Lucky

By Dr. Mike Graves, Guest Preacher



A former colleague of mine had a saying taped to his door at the seminary, “A drop of ink may cause a million to think.” There’s no doubt in my mind, the written word can touch people. In this case, I have no illusions that this article will reach a million people, but a modest number counts all the same. Besides, the topic itself is rather small, about 20 pounds in this case.

Lucky was her name, and we had to put her down this past Saturday. Words cannot describe the pain, no way. Even the bard Shakespeare might have struggled. But while I seem incapable of describing the pain, I can most definitely describe some of the joys our family shared with Lucky for 16 years. We got her late in the summer of 2001, only weeks before 9/11. I remember because I was building a deck the day the news broke, and the little pup had become my shadow. Every time I fetched a 2 x 4 from the driveway and headed to the backyard, she went with me. She was the family dog, but my personal friend. It’s an odd thing to rub the belly of a puppy on the day when so many people perished, but it is life.

I eventually taught Lucky to run across the yard and catch a Frisbee, usually about 3-4 feet in the air. She was quite the sight, airborne with that red disc in her mouth. She didn’t usually like to give it back, but when I managed to wrestle it away, I would throw it again and watch her fly.

Technically speaking, she was a mutt, a hybrid mix of Rat Terrier and who knows what, Beagle maybe. Rescued from a puppy mill, her name was Lucky because she would spend the rest of her days on a doggy pillow with a blanket on top of that. Rough life, huh? She loved the sunshine, basking in it, no matter how hot. But Lucky was a good name because it was also how we felt to have her in our lives.

My colleague who had the sign on his door was the person who also taught me that “pet” may not be the right word, since it could imply some kind of master/servant relationship. He favored “companion,” like a friend. I think he was right. I have had people in churches over the years ask me if dogs and cats go to heaven. Clearly, I’ve never been myself, so I can’t say for sure. But I hope so. If and when I get there, I plan on bringing a Frisbee.

### New Member Sunday

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next opportunity is May 14. Contact Barbara George at [barbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org).

## Worship with us!

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

**May 7**

*Acts 10: 1-17, 34-35*

Building a Church

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**May 14**

*Acts 6*

Unstoppable

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**May 21**

*Acts 20:7-12*

The First Day of the Week

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## FaithPub

FaithPub for men will meet at The Well (7421 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO) on Thursdays, May 18 and June 8 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Mike Graves, our guest preacher, will lead the sessions and guest speakers will present on the theme “Glimpses of God.”



Speakers are:

- May 18: Fritz Mutti, retired Bishop of the United Methodist Church
- June 8: David Sallee, former President of William Jewell College

Come hear how other men have experienced a glimpse of God in their everyday lives, in extraordinary moments, in books, nature, movies, or personal experiences. Bring a friend and enjoy a beverage, a burger and a fun and meaningful evening. Come one time or come to all. But don't miss this intergenerational evening!

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## Hartman Field Day Volunteers

Come join the fun as students at Hartman Elementary School enjoy their end-of-the-year Field Day on Tues., May 23. Adult volunteers will help with games and activities that the school staff has planned and prepared. Kindergarten-3rd grade will participate in the morning with grades 4-6 playing in the afternoon. This one-day activity does not require background checks; adults will always be working alongside school personnel and other volunteers. For information contact Marjorie Jump, [margo@thejumps.org](mailto:margo@thejumps.org), or see our sign-up table in the parlor on Sun., May 7.

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## Connections Session 2

Connections, a gathering for individuals ages mid-20s to mid-40s, meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Led by clergy and small group discussion leaders, the focus is deeper study into the week's worship service scripture references. Session Two continues May 7, 14 and 21.

## Virginia Reed Food Drive

Our next Virginia Reed Food Drive is May 21. There are three ways to help feed our hungry neighbors:

- Bring a can 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 ([christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org](http://christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org)). On May 21, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation.
- 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.



For other ways to help us end hunger, contact Joe Walker at [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).

Your gifts support the five area food pantries that our church supports: Community Christian Church, La Gloria de Dios Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services and Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

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## Join Green Team This Season

Is gardening your thing? Or have you always wanted to learn how to garden? The Green Team Gardening Group helps care for the church grounds to make them beautiful and welcoming to all. Groups meet in the chapel parking lot on Monday evenings at 5:30 and Tuesday mornings at 8:30. Come enjoy some fresh air and exercise with the team for an hour or two whenever you can. Contact [MaryMcClure@me.com](mailto:MaryMcClure@me.com) for more information.



## Welcome to Our Church Family

By Barbara George, Director of Membership Development



“Welcome to our Church Family.” This is what I say to individuals as they make their commitment to membership at Country Club Christian Church. We certainly are a family; like-minded people of faith, in fellowship together, a community who expresses caring and concern for one another. More importantly we are one in the Body of Christ where all are welcome.

The commitment that we make to our new members is to invite them to go with us beyond these walls, beyond ourselves, to fulfill the mission that lays before us. In our Outreach Mission Statement we are called to: *Transform lives using our time, talent and resources.* Our Vision: *Every member engaged in local and global partnerships that create a more just world.*

This Sunday, May 7, at the 11:00 a.m. service we will be joined by our local partners in mission from Kansas City, MO; Kansas City, KS; and our Northeast PartNEership Initiative. Through them we tutor children at schools, clean and set up homes for incoming refugees. We help repair neighborhood homes, support mothers who are working diligently to create new lives for themselves and their children. We sort clothing, cook and serve meals at Cross-Lines and Micah Ministry each month.

Four weeks ago a new Amani Choir, meaning peace in Swahili, was formed in the Northeast that combines the voices of Country Club Christian Church members and refugees resettled by Della Lamb Community Services. A choir director was hired. Our humanitarian and traditional religious songs are in both English and Swahili. In the beginning it was a little wiggly and raw as we found our footing but that didn't inhibit one ounce of joy or limit our chatter as we learned about one another. For example, Ariane is finishing high school at Penn Valley and plans to stay for college. She wants to be a doctor (“not a nurse, a doctor”), a gerontologist because that's what her country needs. Darcy just joined us but wants to learn guitar so one member will stay late this week to work with him. Davey just relishes playing his keyboard and is all smiles! We have three guitars, a keyboard, and two African drums, plus 18 combined voices singing...and two babies sleeping. All are welcome.

We each are transformed as we endeavor to create a more just world. We all have “A Place at the Table.”

Welcome to our church family.

### Amani Choir

Our congregation, in partnership with Della Lamb Community Services, is forming a choir of refugees and church members called Amani, the Swahili word for peace. The choir will sing in the community as well as at our church. Amanda Sipes, a masters level student at KU, will lead the choir. Please email Barbara George at [barbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org) if you wish to join. Space is limited. Meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Della Lamb. Meet in our chapel parking lot to carpool, leaving at 6:40 p.m.

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## Student Ministries

### **Middle School Youth Group**

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday during the academic year. 6:00-8:00 p.m., Youth Center.

### **High School Youth Group**

All 9th-12th graders are invited to participate in weekly fellowship gatherings over food with different topics each week. Meetings are all on Thursdays now. Depending on your schedule and location, join fellow students for fellowship and food. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Spin Pizza (6541 W. 119th St, Overland Park, KS), and 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Panera in Brookside (6301 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, MO).

### **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

### **Youth Music Group**

Youth Music Group for grades 6-12 meets on Sundays from 12:00-12:45 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). This is a creative and collaborative group. Vocalists and instrumentalists welcome. Come join us!

### **High School Mission Trip**

June 17-23. High school students (9th-12th grade) will travel to Fort Worth, TX and Texas Christian University this summer.

### **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 and build memories and lasting relationships with other students.

## Helping with Stewardship



Our 2-year-olds in Parents Day Out enjoyed decorating small grocery bags for the "Small Bags, Big Hearts" food drive in the parlor on Sun., May 7. Our Sunday School children and students will be filling pint-size bags as they learn about stewardship and the ways our church helps those who are hungry. You are invited to bring packages and cans which fit small hands for this month's very special Virginia Reed Food Drive.



## Sacred Space

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



This past month we held a family celebration at Tall Oaks Conference Center, our region's camp in Linwood, Kansas. The eldest of our four generations had been volunteers at Tall Oaks long years ago and they love to return to its familiar beauty and relive the memory of friendships that the camp evokes.

Back in the day, Mom and Dad used to take the grandchildren out to Tall Oaks. Now, here were those adult grandchildren returning to the grounds, with their own children scurrying underfoot.

At one point during the lazy Sunday afternoon I paused to be attentive to the convergence of three sacred streams in life:

- the intricate weaving of individuals into extended family,
- the ways in which nature invites us to be present to the Holy,
- and the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation in family and in community.

I very much appreciate Tall Oaks as one "church" space in which those three streams can be experienced and explored. The camp is close enough to be handy for a day activity and yet just removed enough from the metropolitan hustle and bustle to be "away."

The camp is available for individual retreat time or to host a family or church event. The summer camp season is almost here with offerings for every age including Grand and Me, a camp for K-3rd graders and grandparents. Our own Rev. Chuck Pickrel is helping to lead two camps this summer, Eighters and CYF, the senior high youth experience.

After the rest of the family departed on Sunday evening, I lingered for a time, first recalling the passage from Psalm 78:3-4:

*These are things we learned from our ancestors,  
and we will tell them to the next generation.  
We won't keep secret the glorious deeds  
and the mighty miracles of the LORD.*

Then I paused to pen a simple prayer:

*Holy One of the ages,  
we discover your goodness in each passing breath  
and the expanse of all creation.  
Through the gifts of your eternal Spirit  
may we help others to recognize You  
in prayer and in presence, in stillness and in service.  
Amen.*

## Children and Families

### 3rd-5th Grade Events

May 5 – **First Friday**, 5:30-7:30 p.m.,  
Social Hall.

### Family Worship Night

Sun., May 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family.

Dinner provided!

### Vacation Bible School



Register now for Vacation Bible School, June 19-22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Family Fun

Day Sun., June 25. For children ages 2 through 5th grade. Sign up in the parlor or online at <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc>.

### Children's Choir

Rehearsals Sundays, 11:00-11:30 a.m., Rm. 213.

### 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 May 10. For more information on MOPs, check out [www.mops.org](http://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.

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# Our Church Family

## Sympathy

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

**Carolee Dreier Atha**

**Charlotte Jones Zachman**

**Shirley Mills**

**Diane Armer Fitzpatrick**

## 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.

### Mary Louise Knutson

Jeanne Cockayne for Congregational Care  
Barbara Horn for the Music Department  
Martha Lieser  
Martha Jo Strickler for the Music Department  
Nancy & Friedrich Zschietzschmann

## PROGRAM STAFF

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

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