



# 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.*

## Creating the Covenant: Bible Study and Sermons

### Bible Study

Designed for those who want thought-provoking and spiritually engaging Bible study but have limited time for personal study, *Creating the Covenant* is the most up-to-date way to learn about themes from the Bible that shape our daily living.



Multiple small group studies will begin in February. Each group will meet for eight weeks. Personal readings to prepare for class may be accessed on your phone or iPad or through a printed booklet (\$20).

### Classes will meet Feb. 1 – Mar. 28.

- Men's Class** – Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Glen Miles and Jeff Zimmerman.
- Women's Intergenerational Group** – Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Meredith Holladay (bring a sack lunch).
- Parents of Younger Children** – Sundays, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Monica Lewis.
- Senior Adults** – Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 a.m. Joe Walker.
- South Johnson County Couples Group** – 7:30-9:00 p.m.; at the home of Lee and Kris Brumitt; Carla Aday.
- Monday Evening Group** – Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Lauren Weinhold.
- Choir/Wednesday Evening Group** – 6:00-7:30 p.m.; Meredith Holladay.

### Sermon Series

Dr. Glen Miles will preach a series of sermons on the *Covenant* themes during the first three weeks of February.

- Feb. 1** – The Bible's First Covenant – From Storm-Tossed Seas to Rainbow Filled Skies, Genesis 9:7-17
- Feb. 8** – The Ten Commandments – No Other Gods, Exodus 20:1-17
- Feb. 15** – Jesus Liberates Us – Become What You Believe, Matthew 9:18-33

### State of the Church and Branding Survey Report

Join us this Sunday for the State of the Church and Branding Survey Report. The event will be from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.



You will learn about the Branding Survey on our church name and how our church is perceived by area residents. You will also hear updates on church financials, reorganization of the staff and a review of the State of the Church from Glen. You also will have an opportunity to provide input on what you would like to know more about in 2015.



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# Faith Formation Groups

## Reel Faith

Watch a movie, enjoy pizza and then discuss the movie to see what images of faith are captured by the film. Meet at the Sulgrave Regency Condominiums in the movie theater. Led by Phil and Patty Love. Limit 14 people. Sun. Feb. 8, 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for movie title or to sign up.

## Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Mondays, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact Rachel Wymore at [weddings@cccckc.org](mailto:weddings@cccckc.org) or call the church at 816-333-4917.

## Faith Academy

Designed for those who seek to stretch the mind and expand the heart to explore new paths of faithful living, Faith Academy involves reading an academic text and discussing it in class with a clergy person or professor as mentor and guide. Dr. Mike Graves, Professor of Preaching at St. Paul School of Theology, will lead a class on Biblical interpretation and sermon writing. If you have a scripture and you need a sermon, what are the next steps? The class will meet two evenings to begin the process. Then Mike will preach the sermon on Sunday morning. The class will then meet for a third session to debrief. Apr. 20, 27 and May 4.

## Church Words

This class will help you unpack some of the daunting “churchy” words and understand and deepen your faith along the way. Taught by Dr. Meredith Holladay. Sundays, Apr. 19-May 17, 9:55-10:55 a.m.

## Pathways to Learning in March

### Resurrection Themes in Art, Literature and Music

- Mar. 8** – Aram Demirjian, Associate Conductor of the Kansas City Symphony.
- Mar. 15** – Dr. Madeline Rislow, Lecturer in Medieval and Renaissance at The Kansas City Art Institute.
- Mar. 22** – Dr. Bill Stancil, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Rockhurst University.
- Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall**



## 2014 Christmas Offering Raises More Than \$31,000

This 2014 Christmas offering raised \$31,880.57 as of Jan. 13, which was directed to Week of Compassion's efforts to win the battle against Ebola in West Africa, and to help rebuild the health care systems there.

Week of Compassion partner IMA World Health has partnered with the Christian Health Association of Liberia (CHAL), a network of Christian health organizations in Liberia, and other local health care organizations to provide health worker training and supplies to help stop the spread of the Ebola virus.

While the initial fear that Ebola would become an international pandemic has been diminished, the suffering and death continue in West Africa and the threat of a pandemic will remain until the battle against Ebola is won. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in West Africa, and thank you for your generous support of the Christmas offering.

## Moore, OK Mission Team

We will be sending a mission team to Moore, OK, on Apr. 19-24, 2015, to assist in tornado recovery and rebuilding efforts. To learn about how you can participate, plan to attend an information session on Sun., Jan. 25, at noon in Rm. 201. A tornado devastated Moore and adjacent areas on May 20, 2013.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Country Club Christian Church Mission Trip Team that works to establish and maintain partnerships to provide mission teams regionally, nationally, and internationally, please contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com).



# Forgiveness Extends into Eternity

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Jesus is very clear in Mark 3: “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven their sins.” That is an amazing statement but too often we in the church have added comments to that word of forgiveness. Too often we have said, “Well, yes, forgiveness is a gift for everyone and God will forgive every sin but...” And it is at this point that we tend to add something like “...but don’t take advantage of that forgiveness and don’t get carried away with sinning and don’t do this or that or...”

In a contemporary translation of the Bible, Jesus’ point is even clearer: “Listen to this carefully. I’m warning you. There’s nothing done or said that can’t be forgiven.” The key word in that version is “nothing.”

Jesus is clear about the universality of forgiveness but then he says, “...whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of eternal sin.” A young Christian wrote to me a while back asking about this verse. He was very concerned about what would happen if he did this seemingly terrible thing against the Holy Spirit. I told him that I am 100% certain that if you are concerned about it, that is a sign that you don’t have to worry about this very strange and unusual statement from Jesus!

I also told him that Jesus’ point is this: the only unforgivable sin is the failure to see that God forgives every sin, every person. The only unforgivable sin is to limit God’s grace, to limit God’s desire to bring all into the light of grace.

One time, Peter quizzed Jesus on forgiveness. He asked, “How many times do we forgive, seven?” Peter most likely knew he was stretching things a bit. The rabbis taught that three times was more than enough, then let it go. By going to seven he was more than doubling the teaching.

Jesus answers, “Forgive 77 times,” or, it’s hard to tell for sure from the ancient Greek, maybe he is saying, “forgive 70 times 7 – 490 times!” Jesus isn’t worried about the math. Forgiveness isn’t something you can figure on a calculator. If you are keeping track, you haven’t yet learned how to forgive.

CS Lewis wrote, “To be a Christian is to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

I’m pretty sure that Jesus would offer a hearty amen to Mr. Lewis’ conclusion!

Grace and peace to you,

## New Member Sunday on February 15

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is Feb. 15. Contact Dr. Meredith Holladay at 816-333-4917 or [meredithh@cccckc.org](mailto:meredithh@cccckc.org) for more information.

## Worship with us!

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

**Sermon Series:  
Life Before Death**

**Jan. 18**

Part 2: Live Forward  
*Philippians 3: 10-14*

**Jan. 25**

Part 3: Take Heed Unto Thyself  
*1 Timothy 4: 11-16*

**Sermon Series:  
Creating the Covenant**

**Feb. 1**

Part 1: The Bible’s First Covenant –  
From Storm Tossed Seas  
to Rainbow Filled Skies  
*Genesis 9: 7-17*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Upcoming Guest Event

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend a social and informational gathering on Sun., Jan. 25, 12:15-1:30 p.m. to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and congregation. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Dr. Meredith Holladay at [meredithh@cccckc.org](mailto:meredithh@cccckc.org).

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## The Holy Land – In the Footsteps of Jesus

Anyone interested in the trip to the Holy Land this fall is invited to an informational session on Tues., Jan. 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. RSVP to Lauren Weinhold at [weinhold.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:weinhold.lauren@gmail.com). Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller will lead the trip Oct. 28-Nov. 6. Stops include Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

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## Lunch and Learn: The Health Effects of Stress

Join us as Dr. Evan Mladenoff explores ways stress sabotages your well-being and how you can recognize and manage stress. Dr. Mladenoff practices in Overland Park and has lectured internationally. Among other patients, he serves as a sports medicine consultant for players from National Football League and Major League Baseball teams. Tuesday, February 10, 11:30 a.m., Social Hall. Everyone welcome, Bring a friend. \$10 includes lunch. RSVP to 816-333-4917 or [marymargaretH@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargaretH@cccckc.org).

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## January Collection Connection: Donations for Nicaragua

The January Collection Connection is directed toward our Nicaragua mission trip. A team from our church will travel to Nicaragua Feb. 21- Mar. 1 to partner with Nicaraguans to help improve health and living conditions of rural families. The trip includes teaching families to use home health kits and providing medicines for the mobile clinic and pharmacy. Help by donating toothbrushes (we need thousands) or money to purchase other medicines. Drop your toothbrushes in the Parlor or monetary donations in the church office.

## Virginia Reed Food Drive

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.
2. 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 Jan. 18, a computer will be available in the parlor for you to make an online donation. During December and January we are having a competition among the 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services to see who can donate the most.
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 or leave them in the box in the parlor on Jan. 18.

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.

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## Save the Date!

### Annual Celebration Dinner

In continued recognition of our past and as we move forward with a greater vision of who we are as a church, we are proud to announce that the 2015 Annual Dinner and Auction will be held on Sat., Apr. 25, at The Roasterie Bean Hangar, 1204 W 27th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the dinner and auction, which not only has become an important source of funds for the church’s operating budget, it has more importantly cultivated friendships that extend across generational lines and nurtured a sense of stewardship within our community.

You can 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. Do you have auction items you’d like to donate? Watch for more information.



## Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



As an avid runner, I dread the winter months that make it hard for me to get out of bed before the crack of dawn to face the single-digit temps and sub-zero windchills. I will run in wretched heat, pouring rain and in driving snow. I have completed races with frost on my face. But I find myself drawing the line when the thermometer reads below 10 Fahrenheit.

So I was thrilled to see a peek of sunshine one recent Saturday and my phone's weather app reading 25 degrees. Wearing multiple layers, I laced my shoes, grabbed my Garmin running watch and headed north from my home, just under two miles south of the church.

About halfway into the run, I encountered a small blue sign in someone's yard inviting me to Country Club Christian Church's Christmas Eve services. I smiled to myself, wondered which of our members lived in that house, and briefly contemplated removing the sign. This was, after all, two weeks post-Christmas, and I suspect the homeowner will take it down eventually.

This is the second year we've advertised our Christmas Eve services with this type of yard sign. I have loved seeing them pop up across my neighborhood. I am always surprised and delighted to see them in front yards, and I find myself wanting to knock on the door to thank the homeowners.

The purpose behind the signs is, of course, to get the word out about our services. But when you take a sign home and put it in your own yard, you do more than help us advertise. You tell your friends and neighbors that Country Club Christian Church is your church, a church you are proud of and believe in. Displaying one of our signs is almost like a personal invitation from you to your neighbors to visit our church. And we all know that the number one reason people visit a church is because they receive an invitation from someone they know and trust.

On the second half of my run that day I took another route back home and saw another sign in another yard and smiled to myself again.

So thank you for taking a yard sign. I hope you saved it and will display it again next year. And be sure to watch for Easter Sunday yard signs, coming soon!

Lara

## Leadership Nominations Underway

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2015-2016 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; Personnel Committee chair; Endowment trustees; Elders; Deacons; youth Elders; youth Deacons.

We are asking you to provide nominations for at least two positions, and submit them by Feb. 6. The deadline for all nominations is Mar. 1 but your submission by Feb. 6 will enable the Nomination Committee to begin working sooner. Nomination forms are available in the church office or online at <http://tinyurl.com/2015nominations>.

## Thank You for Micah Stockings

Thank you to all the generous people at Country Club Christian Church. On Dec. 22, 650 socks filled with hygiene products were delivered and handed out at Micah Ministry. Recipients' faces beamed with gratitude and hugs were exchanged with many. It is amazing the little things such as a bar of soap that we take for granted but are so important in the lives of many others. You can continue to help with hygiene items by donating those travel size items you get at hotels, or when you have an extra bottle of shampoo or toothpaste. These can be left in the church office on Sundays or with Paul Cutelli during the week.

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# Upcoming Student Events

## Sunday Evenings

Middle School and High School students are encouraged to participate in Youth Group, a monthly fellowship opportunity. We'll gather for a light meal, fellowship, and a time to explore a life of faith with one another. We will frequently participate in service opportunities and community-building outings. Annual permission slips to cover these events are available on the Student Ministries page of our website or in the 2014/2015 Student Ministry packet.

**High School Youth Group:** Third Sunday of the month.

**Jan. 18 – High School Music Night.** Join us for a night of dinner and music. The Floras will bring in a variety of musical instruments to use. Feel free to join in or sit back and just enjoy. 5:00-7:00 p.m., Social Hall.

**Middle School Youth Group:** First Sunday of the month.

## Middle School Grade-Level Gatherings

6th through 8th graders are invited to participate in 30-minute quarterly gatherings that are grade specific. This offers students the chance to connect and have fun with other students in their grade. These gatherings occur just before Middle School Youth Group.

**Sundays, 4:30-5:00 p.m., Youth Center**

**Feb. 1: 6th grade gathering**

**Mar. 1: 7th grade gathering**

**Apr. 5: 8th grade gathering**

**Aug. 2: 6th grade gathering**

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Middle and high school students are needed to help raise money for Harvesters Food Bank on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1. Volunteers are needed to collect money after the 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Our goal is collect at least \$500. Feel free to start fundraising early. We will post weekly updates as we get closer to our goal. Since friendly competition makes things more fun, we will have a prize for the group that raises the most money. The groups will be 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation in advance please contact Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org).

## Super Bowl Party

Food. Football. Epic commercials. Half-time show. Students grades 6th-12th are invited to watch the Super Bowl, hang out with friends, and collectively decide which commercial is the worst. Sun., Feb. 1, 5:30-10:00 p.m.

## 2015 High School Mission Trip

Parents of high school youth are invited to a parent information meeting for the high school mission trip on Sun., Jan. 25, 12:15-1:15 p.m. in the Youth Center. Please note that the trip dates have changed to June 14-20, 2015.

Middle School students and parents, please stay tuned for information on the Middle School Mission Trip 2015 coming soon.

## Auditions for Spring Musical

All children and students are invited to audition for the spring musical, *iAm: The Real Life App for All That*, on Sun., Feb. 1 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Only those who want to be considered for a specific part need to audition. All others will participate in the group numbers and as extras.



The cast will be announced Sun., Feb. 8. Rehearsals will begin Feb. 15 and continue every Sunday from 11:00-11:30 a.m. The musical will be Sun., Apr. 26, at noon in the Social Hall.

*iAM: The Real Life App for All That* is a children's musical designed to teach kids that even with all of our distractions and entertainment, the most exciting thing in life is getting to know the God who made us. Join super app-designer Solomon and the amazing creative team at the App Factory, where you not only play the games, but you get into the game, and discover the real life app for all that.

For more information, contact Michael Patch, Director of Children and Student Music, at [michaelp@cccckc.org](mailto:michaelp@cccckc.org).



## Becoming An Invitational Church

By Dr. Meredith Holladay, Minister of Membership Development



There was a certain buzz in the air – and I'm pretty sure it was more than just egg casserole and good, strong coffee.

Over 50 people gathered in the Youth Center last Saturday to learn and discuss the hospitality ministry of the church. The conversation in the room demonstrated the significance of building a more intentional culture of hospitality at Country Club Christian Church.

We talk a great deal about welcome: we want this church to be welcoming; we want to welcome new faces in our midst. One of the questions we talked about on Saturday was what if beyond being welcoming, we strive to be invitational. Welcoming assumes that people will come to us – invitation presumes something different. It requires something of us. Being invitational asks that we take the first steps in extending welcome to our church, our worship, our faith formation opportunities. Being invitational means that we demonstrate a commitment to making our church home everyone's church home.

One of the ways I hope we can begin to develop this culture is a shift in our language. It may seem like a small thing, but to think in terms of guests instead of visitors, communicates a deeper level of hospitality. We want to invite guests into our home, as opposed to merely welcoming visitors at our doorstep. Do you hear the difference? It's a shift in vocabulary, but it is an important one!

In our conversation on Saturday, we were challenged to follow the Rule of 3 to 1: for every familiar face or friend that we talk with on a Sunday, talk to three new (or new-to-you) people. Can you imagine? How many new friends would we make in a given month? How many different Country Club Christian Church faces would a guest now know because we made the effort to seek out new people – not just the people we already know well.

At the end of the morning Saturday, I was energized. Yes, this is all hard work, and in many ways it is intimidating work, but it is good work. And as several people remarked, it is all our job – because we are to be the presence of Christ to other people, and Christ practiced invitation and hospitality, and calls us to do the same.

*Meredith*

## Children and Families

### Preschool and Parents' Day Out Open House

**Jan. 27-29, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.**

Prospective families can visit the program while currently enrolled families can see the room their child will go to next year. Parent Board members will be giving tours. Registration for currently enrolled families for preschool, transition and PDO siblings will be Mon., Feb. 2, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. PDO families will enroll Tues., Feb. 3, 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Registration will be open to the general public for preschool, transition and PDO on Thurs., Feb. 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

### Spring Musical

All children and students are invited to audition for the spring musical, *iAm: The Real Life App for All That*. on Sun., Feb. 1 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Only those who want to be considered for a specific part need to audition. All others will participate in the group numbers and as extras. See page 6 for more information.

### First Steps of Faithfulness

Beginning Mar. 1, join us the first Sunday of the month as families with children birth-2 years old explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness.

Non-Profit Organization  
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6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

# Our Church Family

## In Sympathy

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

**Robert Earl Swett**  
**Barbara Williams**  
**Mimi Gillin**

## Memorials

**Phyllis Alcock**

Gordon & Kelly Alcock

**Pamela Burke**

Mary Linda McDonnell

**Carol Chapman**

Jane Abildgaard  
Mary Dieter Smith

**David Hewitt**

Tom & Martha Lieser  
Norma Tilton

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

Dorothy O'Sullivan

**Ruth Luhnnow**

Jill Reynolds

**Harvey & Dorothy Ray**

Carter & Sally Beck  
Paula Lane  
F.W. & Nancy Zschietzschmann

**Harvey & Dorothy Ray, Permanent Missionary  
Endowment Fund**

Max & Sue DeWeese

**Jill Strafer**

C. Louise Strafer

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Allie Cobb Director of Student Ministries
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Dr. Meredith Holladay Minister of Member Development	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	

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