



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.

Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

New Faithbook Session Begins January 6 and 7

More than 60 women ages 25-65 are participating in this faith formation group. Any women interested in joining in the discussion are invited to come to the next session, starting Jan. 6 and 7 or sign up by calling 816-333-4917. Join us to explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey as we listen to a brief Bible presentation and then share reflections in guided small groups. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. OR Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Pick the time frame that works best for your schedule. Led by Rev. Carla Aday.

- Tues., 7:00-8:00 p.m., Jan. 6-Mar. 31; Spring Party Apr. 7.
- Wed., 9:00-10:00 a.m., Jan. 7-Apr. 1; Spring Party, Apr. 8.
- No classes held the week of Spring Break (Mar. 17 and 18).
- Apr. 7 - Closing Dinner
- Apr. 8 - Closing Coffee

Sign up with Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@ccccc.org or 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.

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.

See more opportunities on page 2.

January Sermon Series: Life Before Death

Living the good life in the here and now.

Jan. 11 – Part 1: You Are the Imago Dei, Genesis 1:26-28a, Psalm 8

Jan. 18 – Part 2: Live Forward, Philippians 3:10-14

Jan. 25 – Part 3: Take Heed Unto Thyself, 1 Timothy 4:11-16



Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

Continued from page 1.

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 or call the church at 816-333-4917.

Creating the Covenant

Designed for those who want thought-provoking and spiritually engaging Bible study but have limited time for personal study, Covenant is the most up-to-date way to learn about the themes from the Bible that shape our daily living. Multiple small group studies will begin in February. Each group will meet for eight weeks. Those who wish to complete the entire study may sign up for two additional eight-week groups. If you complete all 24 weeks, you will have read the whole Bible! Personal readings to prepare for class may be accessed on your phone or iPad or through a printed booklet. Dr. Miles will preach on the Covenant themes during the first three weeks of February. This is a great way to get acquainted with others in the life of the church.

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 Reli-

gious Studies at Rockhurst University.

Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall

State of the Church and Branding Survey Report

Mark your calendar for the State of the Church and Branding Survey Report on Sun., Jan. 18. The event will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall and an optional box lunch will be available.

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, individual staff responsibilities and a review of the State of the Church from Glen. There will also be an opportunity to provide input on what you would like to know more about in 2015.

New Members



Dan and Molly Beebe

Hosts: Tom & Cindy Thornton



The Place We Call Home

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



On Christmas Day, my wife, Julie, and I went to see “The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies.” Near the end of the film, Thorin, the King of the Dwarves, says to Bilbo, “If more people valued home above gold, this world would be a merry place.” He has been terribly wounded in the film’s signature battle. He says these words with his dying breath. Earlier, he was overwhelmed with Dragon’s Sickness, an ugly form of greed. As his life fades away, he realizes this singular truth: a place to call home is one of the greatest gifts any of us could ever desire.

Home has been on my mind a lot this year. Julie and I have done some major work around our house making it feel even homier. At the same time, our sons are quickly becoming young adults and will no doubt be planning to move away and establish their own homes and families. I’m also working on a book about my dad and what it was like to grow up as a preacher’s kid. By the time I was 17 years old I had lived in 18 houses and attended 13 schools, but I always felt most at home, no matter where we were living, with my siblings and parents. There is a lot more to my dad’s story and much of it is heartbreaking and difficult, but most of the time, when I was a kid, I just wanted to be with my family.

I am writing this while I am at home with Julie. I am off today. This morning she made a nice breakfast of eggs and bacon. I washed dishes. Later in the morning we reviewed our calendars for the year and planned for some time off in August.

There is nothing extraordinary about this day except for the simple joy of being at home with the one I love. There is a great line in Matthew’s gospel describing what Joseph did after he had a dream about Mary and the baby she was carrying: “When Joseph woke up he did as the angel commanded and took Mary home as his wife.” The first thing he gave his wife? A home. Oh, to be sure, they would soon be on the road to Bethlehem and later to Egypt before returning to Nazareth via Jerusalem. More often than not in Jesus’ first 12 years they were on the road and far, far away from extended family and friends. It’s not too hard to imagine that the first real lesson Jesus learned was very simple: home is that place where you go at the end of the day and someone is glad to see your face. No matter where we are, that is the place we call home.

Peace to you in the new year,

Save the Date: The Holy Land – In the Footsteps of Jesus

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller as they travel to the Holy Land Oct. 28-Nov. 6, 2015. Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. Stops include Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Watch for details on registering for the trip.

Worship with us!

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

Jan. 4
Light

John 1: 1-9, 10-18

Rev. Monica Lewis preaching

Sermon Series:
Life Before Death

Jan. 11

Part 1: You Are The Imago Dei

Genesis 1:26-28a

Psalms 8

Jan. 18

Part 2: Live Forward

Philippians 3:10-14

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Upcoming Guest Event

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

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 for more information.

Toothbrushes 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 the basic supplies. 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). 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.

Save the Date for Grace at Work

Do you have the passion to volunteer, but don't know where to start? Do we have an opportunity for you! Join us at the annual Grace at Work event on Sat., Apr. 18, 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.

Youth Help with Vespers at Foxwood Springs

Youth from Country Club Christian Church helped Rev. Joe Walker with Evening Vespers at Foxwood Springs Living Center on Sun., Dec. 28. Ashley Bough and Veronica Villegas proclaimed the Scripture and offered the benediction, respectively, helped with hospitality, and served communion. Both young women are interested in learning about vocations in health care and helping with the vespers service was an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in a retirement community setting. Ashley and Veronica went with Rev. Walker, who preached the service. He encouraged the congregation to "linger at the manger; letting the Christmas stories fill our hearts so that we can share the sweet hope and peace to be found in that far-away stable."



Chaplain Ann Kircher (center) welcomed Ashley Bough and Veronica Villegas

If you are a high school student and would like to explore health care vocations and earn service hours by helping with retirement community prayer services, please call Joe at 816-333-4917.



Onward and Upward

By Allie Cobb, Director of Student Ministries



I am so excited to announce our newly formed and amazingly talented Student Ministry Team! I am so grateful to every one of them for donating their time, energy, talent, and heart to help make Student Ministries here at Country Club Christian Church stronger and more sustainable. The members of this team are Kris Brumitt, Marcia Berry, Doug Flora, Chris Howard, Shelle Jensen and Kristin Patterson.

The energy that these individuals are bringing is contagious. Student Ministry is lucky to have them!

Our first meeting was Dec. 7 and super productive! After prayer, lots of discussion and careful consideration the Student Ministry Team unanimously decided that Country Club Christian Church's Youth Group would be getting a new and refreshing look. Previously, Youth Group has met every Sunday evening. Beginning in this month, Middle school students will meet monthly on the first Sunday of the month and high school students will meet monthly on the third Sunday of the month. This provides our students the best opportunity to connect with students in their age group in high impact programming to which they will want to invite their friends!

On Sun., Jan. 4, middle school students (6th-8th grade) will be meeting for a fun dinner out at Chuy's on the Plaza (5:00-7:00 p.m.). Invite your friends! For the first friend, dinner is on us.

Sun., Jan. 18 (5:00-7:00 p.m.) high school students (9th-12th grade) will meet at the church for the first-ever High School Music Night. We will have some very talented Country Club Christian Church students perform live. We will have instruments available for students to get a mini lesson, or, if they want, they can join in on the performance. Students are also welcome to just sit back and enjoy the music. Another month we will be more mission/ volunteer focused and give students an opportunity to serve their community. I am very excited to see all of the areas that this team will help grow Student Ministries.

I am eager to meet with the Student Ministry Team again. They are committed to seeing our Student Ministries grow and get stronger as we become more sustainable. My biggest thanks to each person on the Student Ministry Team for all of the hard and loving work that they will be doing

Thank you for your support and prayers! I am looking forward to seeing what the New Year will bring!

ALLIE

Pre-need Funeral Planning

Do your New Year's resolutions include pre-planning your funeral and final arrangements? In addition to advance health care directives and funeral home plans it will be helpful for your loved ones if you provide some guidance for your memorial service. Think how convenient it will be for your family to open a paper or electronic file and easily find your preferences for a Scripture or hymn, a draft obituary, and other background materials. To aid your planning process we have compiled a free packet with popular Scriptures and hymns, sample service outlines, and a columbarium and rose garden brochure. You can choose to set an appointment for a conversation about pre-planning your service or simply request a packet be mailed to you. For more information call Rev. Joe Walker, 816-333-4917, ext. 224 or email care@cccckc.org.

Sign Up for 2015 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2015 camp will be Aug. 1-8. 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. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge with lovely mountain views. A private room costs \$1,650 or a bunk room is \$350, plus each participant pays a \$80 food and activity fee. For more information, go online to <http://tinyurl.com/camp2015>.

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.

Jan. 4 – Middle School Night Out. 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Middle school students get ready! We are going to Chuy's on the Plaza for dinner and fellowship. The cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org.

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

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.

Baby Dedications



Lincoln Ehman Major with parents, Will and Karmen Major, was dedicated in worship on Sun., Dec. 21, 2014



Gretta Elise Parker with parents, Jayson and Jennifer Parker, was dedicated in worship on Sun., Dec. 21, 2014



The Greatest Generation

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



In his book, Tom Brokaw famously dubbed them “The Greatest Generation.”

At a time in their lives when their days and nights should have been filled with innocent adventure, love, and the lessons of the workaday world, they were fighting...the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled, Brokaw wrote.

When their courage and sacrifice prevailed, they resumed their lives and built the America we knew for the first part of my lifetime. I have been humbled on those occasions when I have helped lay to rest one of their ranks.

In sharp contrast to the perseverance displayed by that generation in that era, as you read this comics and pundits are making sport of the venerable tradition of New Year’s resolutions. If you make resolutions, either noble or humorous, and if you are one of those stout folk who sets goals and sticks to them, I applaud you. However, we have to concede studies demonstrate that most of us abandon our resolutions a week or so into the New Year.

It is not merely nostalgic reminiscing to wonder how our culture can reclaim the essential discipline of sustained commitment. Scripture describes this virtue as “steadfastness” (1 Timothy 6:11-12) or “endurance” (2 Corinthians 6:3-10). There are certainly personal, national, and world challenges that are worthy of our best efforts and finding and implementing lasting solutions is never easy or quick.

Happily, a lot of folks are identifying how we can best teach adults and students skills which help us persevere. Angela Lee Duckworth, a psychologist, talks about finding your “grit,” the “passion and perseverance for very long-term goals...sticking to your future, not just for a week, not just for a month, but for years; working really hard to make that future a reality.” The Search Institute explains that a “growth mindset” is one of the critical components of perseverance. A growth mindset is a hopeful worldview that proclaims “what I am today is not what I am destined to be.”

The Greatest Generation was thrust into a life or death struggle that demanded they reach deep down into that reservoir of resiliency that comes from the Holy Spirit. As we are perched on the precipice of a new year, let us prayerfully reflect on how we – in our day and age – can best support one another and persevere in revealing the hope and peace God intends for our lives and our world.

Joe

P.S. For more information, visit the Search Institute’s resource at <http://www.parentfurther.com/webinars/got-grit> or this Edutopia article <http://bit.ly/1r4JKLo>.

Children and Families

Club Kids (Grades 3-5)

Sky Zone – Jan. 11

Club Kids will resume Sun., Jan. 11 at Sky Zone, 6495 Quivira Road, Shawnee, KS at 4:00 p.m. Pick up will be at 6:00 p.m. \$10 per person. RSVP by Jan. 5, 2015 to Jason Ashley at jasona@cccckc.org.

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.

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.

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The Well Book Corner

Do you need books for your children or grandchildren? Do you need a Bible to use in your Bible study? Would you like to read a book mentioned in a sermon or a minister's column in *The Christian*? Then visit The Well, our book and gift store on the ground floor of the church. The Well also features gifts for everyone, including wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world. Shoppers will find jewelry, scarves, CDs and handmade items. The proceeds go to Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world.



You can also shop at home through Amazon to benefit Week of Compassion. If you use the Amazon search function on The Well's web page, a percentage of the purchase price is directed to Week of Compassion. Go to www.cccckc.org and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.



The Well is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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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