



# 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.*

### Planning for Our Youth and Children

Ministry Architects, consultants for children and youth ministries, will be on our campus Feb. 15-18 leading us in a thorough assessment of our Ministry to Children, Youth and Families. You have two opportunities to be involved as we begin to reimagine what we want these ministries to be. Sign up online by clicking here, or in the parlor, in Combs Chapel, on the second floor Sunday School table or on the first floor bulletin board for a one-hour listening group (Sat., Feb. 15 and Sun., Feb. 16) and attend the presentation of the final report at 4:00 p.m. Tues., Feb. 18, in the Youth Center.

We value the children of our church, and we are committed to building sustainable youth and children’s ministries that are going to have a deep impact. That’s why we are developing a game plan together. We hope to see participation in those groups from a broad spectrum of parents, volunteers, staff and people who just love our young people. We want your insights, your frustrations and your dreams to be heard.

Ministry Architects will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the church through focused listening groups. After three days in these groups, the Ministry Architects team will write a report, sharing what they’ve heard about the youth and children’s ministries, including assets, challenges, and how we compare to children’s ministries around the country and where it seems that God might be taking us next. Their report will include specific recommendations and a blueprint for how to move forward. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Lewis (monical@cccckc.org).

### State of the Church Dinner

Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future on Thur., Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m., in the Social Hall. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles’ report. Sign up in the Parlor on Sunday. \$14 per person.



### Save the Date!

#### 5th 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 2014 Annual Dinner and Auction will be held on Sat., Mar. 29, at Studio 2131. Studio 2131 is located at 2131 Washington Street in the Crossroads Arts District.

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, purchasing tickets to the event, or donating auction items. Watch for more information coming soon.



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# Faith Formation Groups

## 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. To prepare for this seminar-type experience, pick up the text and begin reading now. Winter session led by Dr. Nancy Howell, professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion at St. Paul School of Theology. Book is *On the Mystery* by Catherine Keller, available in The Well. Thursdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

## Enneagram

Dr. George Gordon, Minister Emeritus of Congregational Care, will lead this session that explores the nine ways that we obstruct our relationships with ourselves, with others and with God and the nine virtues or “gifts of the spirit” into which they can be transformed. Thursdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27, 7:00-8:45 p.m.

### Sign Up Now

Reserve your spot in the group of your choice by contacting Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## 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. Two opportunities – Sun., Jan. 26 or May 4, 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for movie titles or to sign up.

## Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communications skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free; for those not married at the church, the fee is \$35. Mondays, Feb. 17 -Mar. 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Lauren Weinhold at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).

## Embracing an Adult Faith

Who was Jesus? Who is God? What is salvation? How do we practice our faith? If you’ve pondered these questions, then you are encouraged to participate in Embracing an Adult Faith. This five-session class is for those seeking a richer understanding of issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology. Led by Lauren Weinhold. Cost is \$13 including book. The class will meet Mondays, Mar. 31 through Apr. 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information or to RSVP, contact Lauren at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).

## Pathways to Learning The Changing Face of Christianity



**Sun., Feb. 2** – “Changes Facing Christianity,” Bill Tammes, author and the former Faith columnist for *The*

*Kansas City Star*.

**Feb. 9** – “How Christianity is Changing around the Globe,” Dr. Bob Johnson, Dean of Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Feb. 16** – “Pope Francis,” Caitlin Hendel, CEO and President of *National Catholic Reporter*, and Dennis Coday, Editor of *National Catholic Reporter*.

**Feb. 23** – “Leadership in the Workplace: How to Respond to Those Who Let You Down?” Dr. Mack Harnden.

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

## Visitor Information Luncheon on January 26

You’re invited to an informational gathering to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and church at a luncheon on Sun., Jan. 26, from 12:15-1:45 p.m. For more information or to reserve your spot at the luncheon, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).



# Spiritual Growth Is Hard

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The desire for spiritual growth comes from a deep yearning within to go to a place we call home. The main character in Pat Conroy’s novel, *Beach Music*, says, “I could not quiet that pearly ache in my heart that I diagnosed as the cry of home.” That pearly ache is the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

I’ve seen it at work in the lives of those who know they are dying. I remember being in a hospital room with a man and his wife. It was lung cancer. He knew he was in his last days, maybe even hours (in fact he died that night). In that privileged place I heard him say to his wife, “I want to go home.”

Because of his condition there was no way he could go to his house. Louise got up on the bed. She lay down next to him. She wrapped her arms around him and said, “We are at home with each other. You are at home in my arms.” It was one of the most sacred and holy things I have ever witnessed. It was like being given a glimpse of heaven.

Jesus said, “the Kingdom of heaven has come near.”

That is one of the truths about the spiritual life. Heaven is as close as your next breath. Heaven is all around us. I remember a married couple in our church, both of them elders, holding hands as they walked together to the communion table to pray over the Lord’s Supper. It was a heavenly sight.

A few years ago I was honored and humbled to lead a private marriage ceremony for a man and woman in their fifties. There were only five of us in the sanctuary. They’d been through the worst that life could throw at them. Failed marriages, terrible disease, bankruptcies and more. I read from the book of Revelation, “Behold, I make all things new...” By the time the ceremony was over there wasn’t a dry eye.

You don’t have to wait for some major event in your life for spiritual growth to begin. It can happen as soon as you are willing to pay attention to the life you’re living. It may not be easy. It may not always be pleasant but when we are willing to look deeply at our lives and the world that surrounds us we will find that, yes, God is already here.

Grace and peace to you,

## New Member Sunday February 2

While the process is simple, the act of joining a faith community is not a simplistic one. Knowing that faith is relational and that one’s experience is enhanced by deeper connections, we expect that all members will make attending worship a priority, that they will find ways to get involved in a class, volunteer initiative or council, and will make a financial commitment to the church. All new members are paired with a New Member Host who will help them get and stay connected and navigate their spiritual journey. The next opportunity will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Feb. 2. Contact Lauren at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Worship with us!

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

### What God Wants to Know

**Jan. 19**

Do You Want to be Well?

*John 5: 1-9*

**Jan. 26**

What Do You Want Me  
to Do For You?

*Mark 10: 46-52*

**Feb. 2**

Why Are You So Afraid?

*Mark 4: 35-40*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Lunch Bunch Features Bill Tammeus



Bill Tammeus, author and the former Faith columnist for *The Kansas City Star*, will be the speaker at The Lunch Bunch on Tues., Jan. 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. His topic is “Who’s Afraid of Other Religions” about why interfaith dialogue and understanding is crucial today.

Bill currently writes the daily “Faith Matters” blog, a monthly column for *The Presbyterian Outlook* and a biweekly column for *The National Catholic Reporter*. Bill was a member of *The Star* staff that won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. His many other awards include several from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists and the American Academy of Religion, in addition to receiving the 2005 Wilbur Award given each year to the best religion column in the country. He received the David Steele Distinguished Writer Award from the Presbyterian Writers Guild in 2003 and is the author of *A Gift of Meaning*, published in 2001, and co-author of *They Were Just People: Stories of Rescue in Poland During the Holocaust*, published in 2009.

Cost for the luncheon is \$8.50 per person (\$5 without lunch). RSVP to Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

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## Donations Needed for Nicaragua

A team from our church will travel to Nicaragua Feb. 22-Mar. 2 to partner with Nicaraguans to help improve health and living conditions for rural families. The trip includes teaching families to use home health kits and providing the basic supplies. You can help by making a donation to assist with the team’s efforts. Right now the greatest need is for monetary donations to purchase medicines once the team arrives in Nicaragua. Toothbrushes are also still needed. Drop your toothbrushes in the Parlor or monetary donations in the church office.

## Marriage Enrichment Sunday on Feb. 16 Celebrating Marriage and the Community that Enriches Them

We invite all couples who have been married at the church to attend the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sun., Feb. 16. Enjoy some wedding cake at a reception in your honor in the parlor immediately following the 11:00 service.

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## Sign Up for 2014 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2014 camp will be Aug. 2-9. 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, CO. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge with lovely mountain views and enjoys home-cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. If you don’t like to camp but you love the mountains, this is the place for you. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable desposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,550 for a private room; \$350 for a bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$80 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.



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## 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. 5, 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.



## A Slice of Wedding Cake

by Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



It hardly seems possible, but Scott and I will be celebrating our 10th anniversary in just over two months. We were married on a perfect spring day, surrounded by our closest family and friends. The day was absolutely perfect. Scott looked like a million bucks, the weather was ideal, Glen's ceremony was personal and moving, our flowers were breathtaking. And then the perfection dimmed. Getting out of the limousine at the end of the night, I put two huge holes in the hem of my dress. While on our honeymoon, I ruptured my eardrum and ended up in the emergency room. We came home to dead flower petals all over the dining room and when we watched our wedding video, we realized that it was only 30 seconds long, thanks to a dead battery in the video camera. Things went from perfect to less than in just over a week.

Such has been the ebb and flow of our marriage over these past ten years. Many days, we feel like newlyweds, but there are some days when it feels like the flowers and the camera batteries aren't the only things that are dead. As I reflect back on the last decade, I'm struck by the common cord that has kept Scott and I connected to one another, to our community and to God. That common thread is YOU and this church family. Whether it was through a Bible study group, a Grace At Work team or through the smile of someone on Sunday morning, your presence in our lives, individually and as a couple has meant more than you will ever know.

On Sun., Feb. 16, the Marriage Enrichment Council will honor all couples who have been married here and will celebrate this community of faith that enriches them. Whether you were married here decades ago or just last year, we hope you will make plans to attend church on the 16th. But it's impossible to celebrate the church's rich wedding ministry, without celebrating the common thread that is this entire faith community. On Feb. 16, we will be honoring all of the ways that your hospitality, your encouragement, your friendship, your patience, your guidance and your grace uplift not only couples who are married here, but everyone who enters here.

The Marriage Enrichment Council thanks you and we look forward to celebrating you (and sharing a slice of wedding cake with you) on the 16th!

*Lauren*

## Preschool and Parents' Day Out Open House

**Jan. 28-30, 9:00-11:30 a.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 give tours. Registration for currently enrolled families for preschool, transition and PDO siblings will be Mon., Feb. 3, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. PDO families will enroll Tues., Feb. 4, 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Registration will be open to the general public for preschool, transition and PDO on Thurs., Feb. 6, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

## 2014 Mission Trip to Joplin

Country Club Christian Church will be sending a mission team to Joplin, MO, again this year.

Mark your calendars for May 18-23, 2014. To sign up or for more

information, contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com). The team will continue to help with the recovery following the 2011 tornado.



2013 Mission Team

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## Upcoming Youth Events

**Jan. 19 – Invisible Child: Dasani’s Homeless Life.** A recent piece came out in the *New York Times* which followed a young girl in New York City. The poignant story will make us think about where this might exist in our city and what we can do. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 26 – Share Your Story.** Shelle Jensen will be here to share a part of her faith journey and talk about her work with CASA. We know and love Shelle! Get to know her even better on this night! 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 2 – Game Night at the Salvation Army Children’s Shelter.** Do you love to see a child’s face light up? Do you want to help our community? Do you need community service hours? If you answer yes to any of those questions, join us on this night of youth group. We will be heading to the Salvation Army Children’s Shelter to spend some time having fun and playing games with the children there. Meet here at 5:30 p.m., we’ll eat a snack on the road, and be back by 7:30 p.m. for pickup.

**Feb. 9 – Person of the Year.** Rev. Monica Lewis will be here to hang out, play games, and talk with us about the Person of the Year, Pope Francis. He has received a lot of recognition and ruffled some feathers. What can we learn from his example as we start 2014? Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and Youth Group from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

### High School Lock-In

Let’s pull an all-nighter! Save the date for an all-night lock-in here at church. Open to 9th-12th grades. 7:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 21-9:00 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 22.

### Family Night at Micah

Youth families are invited every second Monday of the month to serve together at Independence Boulevard Christian Church in their Micah Ministry. The next opportunity will be Feb. 10.

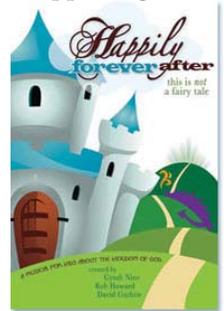
### Summer Mission Trips

This is a great opportunity to serve in a very direct way as well as be in a new city and have some fun! Middle School – June 22-26, 2014; High School – July 13-19, 2014. Watch for more information. Come to the Fireside Chat on Jan. 12 to talk about mission trips.

## Youth and Children’s Musical

### Auditions Jan. 19, 12:15 p.m.

Auditions for lead and supporting roles in the 2014 musical will be Sun., Jan. 19, at 12:15 p.m. in Rm. 213. This year the musical will include both children and youth.



The musical is “Happily Forever After (A Musical for Kids about the Kingdom of God).” The performance will be Sunday, Mar. 9, 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. This story has knights, castles, princesses and dragons. This story is not just an excuse to brandish swords and wear tiaras. It’s a captivating and gospel-rich musical that tells the story of Princess Pride, Sir Brags-a-lot, and their curious band on an amazing trek in a very faraway land. When the Carpenter from another kingdom brings the troubling news that their castle is actually built on sand and will not withstand the coming storm, they hesitantly choose to follow him as he has promised to show them a better kingdom. Assuring them that he’ll take them all the way and will never leave them, they encounter troubles, temptations, and some very funny characters.

Mark your calendars:

**Practices:** Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 11:00 a.m.; Mar. 1, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Mar. 2, 11:00 a.m.

**Dress rehearsal:** Mar. 8, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Final rehearsal/lunch:** Mar. 9, 11:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Michael Patch, Director of Children’s and Youth Choirs, at [michaelpatch@mac.com](mailto:michaelpatch@mac.com).



## Creating Connections

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



Recently a church member shared his memory of a life-giving gift offered by his Sunday school class some 43 years ago. His wife broke her leg and was in a non-weight bearing cast for six weeks. And every day, his Sunday School class sent someone to the house to help them chase their very active 18-month-old son around the house since his wife couldn't walk at all!

In reflecting on his memory of this gracious act of caring, I realized again that so much of what makes the church the church, happens outside of the stone walls located at 61st and Ward Parkway. Here we pray, sing, preach, teach, baptize, marry and bury but this is not how we measure our success.

Years ago a favorite mentor taught me that the definition of success in the church is "when lives intersect and grace is present." And so when I see a young family in our church inviting a widow in our church to their house for Christmas dinner, I realize we've succeeded. When I see two young adults standing in the parking lot after church, one crying and the other one listening compassionately to the whole painful story, I realize we have succeeded. When I see a teenager texting one of the elders of the church saying "I'd like you to be my adopted grandmother," then I know we have succeeded.

But it's more than success we are talking about. Jesus called it more than that. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say 'Look here it is or there it is.' For in fact the kingdom of God is among you." (Luke 17:20-21)

When we get acquainted in small groups and Sunday school classes; when we build relationships on mission trips; when we form friendships in Bible studies, circles, service teams; we are making room for the Spirit of God to be revealed in our own midst. Then we are truly the church, the body of Christ – broken open and freely shared with one another.

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Children's Registration Table

#### Beginning Feb. 2

Our Children's Ministry is committed to making sure church is a community where each child is safe. Because of this, beginning Sun., Feb. 2, we're implementing a new check-in/check-out procedure for children ages 3 years through grade 5. Children participating in Sunday School (this is anyone in a second floor classroom) should be checked in by the adult who brought them to church at a registration table on the second floor. At this table, you will receive a security tag that matches the number on your child. You **MUST** have this number when you pick up your child(ren). From there, your child will pick up his or her nametag and proceed to the appropriate classroom. It is also important that you fill out a registration form for each child. If you have not already done so, forms will be available at the registration tables. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Monica Lewis.

### Club Kids

**Jan. 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.** This session will be all about food! What did they eat in Biblical times? Why? Let's try it!

### Fountains of Faith (grades 1-5)

Jan. 5-Feb. 2 — The Kingdom Parables Children participate in a rotation style program on Sunday mornings. The rotation takes seriously the spiritual development of children, utilizing a consistent structure while providing creative activities that engage children in new ways with God.

### First Steps of Faithfulness

Sun., Feb. 2, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Rm. 215. Parents with children under 3 are invited to join other families as we 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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## Virginia Reed Food Drive on January 19

On Sun., Jan. 19, please bring your nonperishable food items for our collection for local food pantries that serve the homeless and hungry. Vans will be in the parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the baskets located at the east and north doors. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

### PROGRAM STAFF

|                                                                  |                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. R. Glen Miles<br>Senior Minister                             | Ms. Hayley Holt<br>Interim Youth Director                       |
| Rev. Carla Aday<br>Senior Associate<br>Minister                  | Dr. Brian Mathias<br>Associate Organist                         |
| Rev. David Diebold<br>Minister of Music                          | Ms. Lisa McCleish<br>Director of Early<br>Childhood Programs    |
| Rev. Monica Lewis<br>Minister to Children,<br>Youth and Families | Mr. Michael Patch<br>Director of Children's<br>and Youth Choirs |
| Rev. Joe Walker<br>Interim Minister of<br>Congregational Care    | Ms. Lara Schopp<br>Director of<br>Communications                |
| Mr. John D. Clemmer<br>Business Administrator                    | Ms. Lauren Weinhold<br>Director of Church<br>Growth             |

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