



VOLUME 87 · NUMBER 3

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.*

## Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday Service

February 13, 6:00 p.m.

The earliest Christians observed Good Friday and Easter Day, separated by a fast, as a special observance of the death and resurrection of Jesus. By 100 C.E., however, early writers were already mentioning a period of fasting called Lent.

The season of Lent is a 40-day period (not including Sundays) that runs from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Over the centuries, Christians of all denominations have developed specific and varied traditions during this period.

Almost uniformly, though, this season of the Church year brings the expectation of self-examination and personal growth toward the celebration of Easter. Some people give something up, while others might concentrate on some sort of learning experience. The options are as varied as the denominations.



The most common result among all the various traditions is a deepening awareness of our relationship with the Divine.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. The standard scripture readings for that day call us to turn away from that which separates us from the Divine and re-consecrate ourselves to a more spiritual life. Worship that day reminds us of our mortality with the words “from ashes you were formed...to ashes you will return.”

For that reason, we usually culminate our worship by the imposing of ashes upon the individuals’ forehead or on the back of their hands. These ashes become a symbol for all to see that we are a people of faith, traveling on a path toward greater spiritual awareness.

Join us on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a traditional imposition of ashes to symbolize the fragile nature of our lives.

### Lenten Sermon Series: Living A Generous Life

A series of sermons based on the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Living* by Robert Schnase begins Sun., Feb. 17 and continues through Mar. 17.

**Feb. 17** – The Practice of Radical Hospitality  
*1 John 4:17-21*

**Feb. 24** – The Practice of Passionate Worship  
*Luke 10:25-28*

**Mar. 3** – The Practice of Intentional Faith  
Development  
*Hebrews 10:22-25*

**Mar. 10** – The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service, Rev. Carla Aday preaching  
*Matthew 16:24-26*

**Mar. 17** – The Practice of Extravagant Generosity  
*2 Corinthians 9:8-11*



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# Bible Studies and Faith Formation Groups

## 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 Weinholt. Cost is \$13 including book. The class will meet Wednesdays, Feb. 13 through March 13, 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).

## The Psalms

This 10 week study explores the joy, faith, uncertainty, sorrow of the human journey in the company of God as expressed in the book of Psalms. Form a deeper connection to the scriptures, each other and God during this study which is based in the best of biblical scholarship. Facilitator is Kathryn Holtze. Cost is \$12 for materials. Tuesdays, Feb. 12-Apr. 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

## The Last Week

This class, based on a book by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, looks at the events that unfolded in the life of Jesus during Holy week. Come grow in your knowledge and faith as we retrace the steps of Jesus. Led by Greg Lear. Mondays, Feb. 18 and 25, Mar. 4 and 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

## Lenten Small Groups Forming

Seven new small groups will meet during Lent. The groups will discuss the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Living* by Robert Schnase, which will complement the Lenten sermon series. Most groups will meet on Sunday nights from Feb. 10-Mar. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Newly Engaged and Newly Married
2. Expecting or Parenting a New Baby
3. Parents of Toddlers and Elementary Age Children
4. Parents of Elementary and Middle School Children
5. Couples and Singles 30ish to 50ish
6. Single Women 30ish to 50ish
7. OPEN to anyone of any age/stage. This group will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:55-10:55 a.m.

If you are interested in one of these groups, please contact Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org).

## Save the Date!

### 4th 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 2013 Annual Dinner and Auction will be held on Sat., May 4, 2013, at The Museums at 18th and Vine. The Museums are located at 1616 East 18th Street, not far from the historic roots of our congregation at Independence Boulevard Christian Church where so many of our members volunteer regularly.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this annual event, 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. Visit [www.cccckc.org/stay-informed](http://www.cccckc.org/stay-informed) for more information about the benefactor levels. And watch for more information on ticket sales beginning later this spring.

## Pathways to Learning in



### March

#### Spirituality: Creative and Sustaining

Dr. Molly Marshall,  
President of Central

Baptist Seminary.

**Mar. 3** — The Spirit Constructs  
Incarnation

**Mar. 10** — The Spirit Sustains through  
Death

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



## Following Jesus?

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Jesus taught, “Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.” This is not an easy thing to do. We have a hard enough time loving each other.

I’m a preacher’s kid. I went to church for the first time when I was six days old. One of the complaints I have heard all these years from folks who end up leaving the church is that the people fight too much. This is not new but it is still an issue in many, many churches.

Brennan Manning, an evangelical writer, preacher, scholar, theologian, recovering alcoholic and in his own words, a wandering vagabond preacher, wrote an open letter to the church in America. He didn’t write to any particular denomination or congregation. He wrote to every church, to every gathering of Christians across the land. He did not mince words:

*We would be known as Jesus’ followers not because we are chaste, celibate, honest, sober, or respectable; not because we are church-going, Bible-toting or Psalm-singing; We would be recognized as disciples primarily by our deep and delicate respect for one another, our cordial love impregnated with reverence for the sacred dimension of the human personality.*

Manning’s phrase, “the sacred dimension of the human personality,” is an academic way of saying that every person you encounter in this world is a child of God. When Jesus instructs us to “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” he is inviting us to follow him in a sacred and holy way, one that has little to do with proper belief and everything to do with love. When we learn to love one another, when we practice prayer for those who persecute us, we are acting and behaving like followers of Jesus.

The hymn “We Are One in The Spirit” may not win any awards for musicality but its simple message communicates a deep truth. The chorus concludes, “They’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.”

They’ll know we are Christians by our love. Simple, profound and yet, still not fully tried. Let’s pray together for the courage to follow Jesus in the ways of love.

Grace and peace to you,

## New Member Sunday February 10

We welcome new members on special New Member Sundays. The next opportunity will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Feb. 10. Email or call Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, to express your desire to join the church. Lauren will work with you to make your New Member Sunday a memorable and meaningful one. Contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

## Worship with us!

**Services at 9:00, 10:00  
and 11:00 a.m.**

**Sermon Series  
That’s Not in the Bible!  
Feb. 3**

Satan Tempted Eve  
*Genesis 1: 26-31, Hebrews 4: 14-16*

**Feb. 10**  
There is Nothing to Fear  
*Luke 5: 1-11*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## February Collection Connection

February's recipient is Sheffield Place. This organization opened its doors in February 1991 as a community response to the growing population of homeless mothers and their children in the Kansas City area. Since then, Sheffield Place has assisted more than 560 families in making the difficult journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Please bring your donations of laundry detergent, paper towels, disinfecting wipes, dish soap, cleanser, toilet paper, facial tissue to the Parlor.

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## Explore Your Future

Explore Your Future, a nationally recognized workshop developed through Temple University, will be offered at the church on Mar. 2 and 9, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The workshop, designed for persons 50 and up, provides participants the opportunity to discern what's next in their lives to create a satisfying and rewarding future. The program, which usually costs \$250, will be offered through the church at a reduced rate of \$50 per person. Non-members of the church are welcome. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 22. Contact Rev. Chuck Murphy, 816-333-4917 or [chuckm@cccckc.org](mailto:chuckm@cccckc.org) for more information.

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## 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. 4-25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Lauren Weinhold at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org) or call the church at 816-333-4917.

## Virginia Reed Food Drive on February 17

On Sun., Feb. 17, 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."

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## 2013 Mission Trip to Joplin

Country Club Christian Church will be sending a mission team to Joplin, MO, again next year. Mark your calendars for May 5-11, 2013. 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.

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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](http://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., and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



# Calling All People

by Justin Zeigler, Minister to Youth



My friends tease me for all of the “stuff” that I have in my office. You are welcome to stop by any time. It’s filled with paintings, art, knick-knacks, and some things that others would call junk.

One of these pieces of art has a prayer on it. One line reads, “Give me many tasks, or have me step aside while you call others.”

In reading those words recently I began to contemplate how complicated the idea of God’s call on our lives is. Writer Parker Palmer wrote, “Before I can

tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am.”

What is your life telling you? Sometimes I think that we have an image of what a “Christian” is. We think that we have to act, think, feel, or even look a certain way in order to be a true Christian. I don’t think that this is true. There are as many ways to live into a life of discipleship as there are people in the world. It’s time to pay attention to both of these wise sayings.

One is telling us that all calls are not our calls. I am not called, nor do I have the gifts, to be a great painter. I must step aside, because that is not who I am. What I have heard from God and my life is that I am called to be a friend, a mentor, a teacher, and a servant.

What is your life telling you? Are you called to be a great parent? Are you called to serve through volunteering? Are you called to be a professional who conducts business with grace and justice? Listen intently to God and to your life and go from there. And when you realize that you aren’t called to something, step aside. It’s OK...because your life and your call are beautiful and the world needs them.

## 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. 13, 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.

## Sign Up for 2013 Christian Community Camp

There are still a few rooms available at Christian Community Camp at the YMCA of the

Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2013 camp will be Aug. 3-10, 2013. A registration form



and a \$250 non-refundable desposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,500 for a private room; \$250 for the bunk room. Each private room sleeps a maximum of six people. A bunkroom contains all bunks and sleeps six to eight. We now have a male bunk room and a female bunk room available. Food and activity fee of \$75 per person. For more information, contact Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917 to ensure your spot.

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# Upcoming Youth Events

## CYF and Chi Rho Sunday Nights

5:30-7:30 p.m.

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us on Sunday evenings. Each Sunday of the month focuses on a different path designed to help youth transform lives and relationships through spiritual growth, express God's love in tangible ways, and experience the life changing love of God through fellowship and worship. During months when there are five Sundays, we'll use that evening for planning and feedback.

### Souper Bowl Sunday – Feb. 3

Meet in the Youth Center at noon. We will be playing football games and doing a service project in honor of Super Bowl Sunday.

### Snow Tubing in Weston – Feb. 10

Join us as we go snow tubing in tornado alley at Snow Creek in Weston. Tubes are provided ...just hop in your tube and enjoy the ride! Please dress in layers with waterproof clothing. Families are welcome. Cost: \$35/person (scholarships available). This covers lunch, transportation and the experience. Bring your own spending money for the snack bar. We will meet in the Youth Center at noon and return to the church at

5:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Justin at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org) so we have enough drivers.

### Feb. 17 – No Youth Group

Celebrate Presidents day with your family.

### Justin's Choice Night – Feb. 24

This is a "Justin's Choice" night so be ready for games, ridiculousness, and a whole lot of fun! Bring friends.

### Chi Rho Mission Trip

This summer the 6th-8th graders will go to Indianapolis, IN, July 8-12 to work on justice projects including working with people who experience poverty and people who are striving to escape violence. This is a great opportunity to learn how to serve in a very direct way as well as be in a new city and have some fun! Contact Justin Zeigler, [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org).

### CYF Mission Trip

CYF will travel to Chicago July 21-27 to continue working in the city with local organizations to address issues of homelessness, poverty and racial injustices. Contact Justin Zeigler, [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org).

## Celebrating Karla Herrington's Ministry

Children and parents celebrated Karla Herrington's ministry on Sun., Jan. 27. Karla, who has been serving as Director of Children's Ministries for the past five years, has resigned from her role. Karla said it has been a hard decision but she desires more time with family, especially on the weekends. Karla's work has been a wonderful gift to the church and her help on Sunday mornings has been priceless!!

Karla and her family will continue to be involved with the church so we will have the pleasure of continued connections with her! Please thank her for her dedication in ministry. If you missed the opportunity to leave a note or card for Karla, you may leave it at the church and we'll make sure she gets it.



Pictured with Karla are Olivia Keller, Elizabeth Crocker, Caroline Schopp and Lauren McGuire.

## Infant Dedications Will Be March 3

We will welcome babies and young children into our congregation through special recognition during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sun., Mar. 3. Families interested in having an infant dedicated can contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917 for full details.



## Explore Your Future

by Chuck Murphy, Minister of Congregational Care



My doctor recommended additional tests. There was a health concern that I had not had to deal with before. The first emotions I felt were fear and angst. With this news, now there was another reminder that I'm not, and will never be, what I used to be.

Dealing with the fear or angst in me that accompanies life events is often called "mid-life crisis." It's a crisis as it is a sudden event that threatens our well being. But, I'd rather think of it as a "healthy mid-life reflection." In the affirmative, it provides an opportunity to realize the importance of physical health, to be thankful for the care and support and the gift of faith that helps one cope and work through another potential loss. And, it provides the opportunity to reflect on what is important in life and ask stimulating questions. Who is important to my life? How could I be more caring of them? What is my purpose? What can I do to make a difference?

A teacher once said, "We spend the first half of life breathing in and the second half realizing the impact of our breathing out on others." There is much truth here. We spend much of life breathing in, or getting as much as we can out of life. Then we realize the need to breathe out, or how our lives affect others. Such mid-life reflections have provided the opportunity for a powerful change and impact on humanity. One could say that Jesus began his life as a carpenter, and in mid-life, realized his calling from God and the rest is history. The same could be said of his followers like Peter and Mary Magdalene.

We are fortunate to offer Explore Your Future, a program created through Coming of Age, a national initiative researched through Temple University. The four-session workshop, held on consecutive Saturdays, March 2 and 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Solarium (Rm. 309). It gives participants a unique opportunity to discern what's next in their lives and to create a personal vision that is satisfying and rewarding. The workshop is open to persons 50 and older and the public is welcome to attend. Because it is through the church, cost is \$50 instead of the \$250 it would cost elsewhere. Attendance is limited to 25, so sign up soon!

*Chuck*

## Children and Families

### First Steps of Faithfulness

Sun., Feb. 3, 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Parents with children ages 3 and under are invited to join other families for a time of conversation and connecting. Bring your infant and toddler to play. Play Zone (Room 215)

### Club Kids

#### Souper Bowl of Caring Service Day

Sun., Feb. 3, noon-2:00 p.m.

On this Super Bowl Sunday we will meet after church for a soup lunch and complete service projects. We will end at 2:00 p.m. No evening meeting.

#### Tubing at Weston at Snow Creek

Sun., Feb. 10, noon-5:00 p.m.

Club Kids and their families are invited for tubing at Snow Creek in Weston. \$35 per person covers lunch, one snack, snowtubing fees and transportation. Bring spending money if you would like to try the snack bar. Club Kids parents are welcome to join us – as are siblings if a parent is attending.

### Donations Needed for Hospice House

The Children and Families Ministry continues to support the KC Hospice House by providing activity bags for children that are visiting a loved one. We are in need of items to fill the bags. We fill bags suited for children ages 2-5 and bags for children 6-10 years old. Items needed include: small bubbles, bouncy balls, pens, markers, crayons, little memo pads, playdough, small toys, stickers, etc. If you can help with this, please leave your items in the basket in the children's wing. Thank you for helping us help others!

Non-Profit Organization  
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Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Our youth are collecting money after each worship service on Sun., Feb. 3, for Souper Bowl of Caring, a national fundraising initiative to combat hunger. Please donate cash or your spare change as you leave worship. Funds raised will be donated to the Virginia Reed Food Drive.



## In the Footsteps of Paul

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller as they travel to Greece and the Greek Isles Oct. 8-18, 2013. Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. For more information, please contact Glen at [glenm@cccckc.org](mailto:glenm@cccckc.org) or Lauren at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org). Registration packets are available in Lauren's office. The deadline for reservations is Feb. 1, 2013.



## Flower Vases Needed

The flower ministry needs vases for flowers. If you have a vase you can donate, please leave it in the Social Hall kitchen or at the reception desk.

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Senior Minister

Mr. Justin Zeigler  
Minister to Youth

Rev. Carla Aday  
Senior Associate  
Minister

Dr. Brian Mathias  
Associate Organist

Rev. David Diebold  
Minister of Music

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early  
Childhood Programs

Rev. Catherine Stark-  
Corn  
Minister to Children,  
Youth and Families

Ms. Lara Schopp  
Director of Communica-  
tions

Rev. Chuck Murphy  
Minister of Congrega-  
tional Care

Ms. Lauren Weinhold  
Director of Church  
Growth

## Our Church Family

### Sympathy

FRANCES ELIZABETH BOYD passed away Jan. 19. She is survived by a stepson, George Boyd, Jr. Services were Jan. 21 at Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

MARILYN KOONS passed away Jan. 27. Services are pending.

### Memorials

**Reggie Stafford**  
Greater KC Chapter 99s

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