



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.*

### New Sermon Series Begins Feb. 16 The Gospel in Seven Words

Can you describe the Gospel in only seven words? In this sermon series we will look at three scriptures, one from the Old Testament, one from Paul's letters and one from the Gospels that tell the gospel story. The word gospel means good news. Can you describe the Gospel in only seven words?

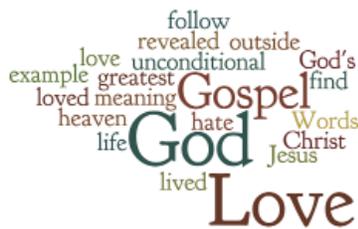
By the end of this series you'll be able to. Last fall our adult Sunday School classes took on this challenge, and now we're considering it as a congregation.

Join us Feb. 16, 23 and Mar. 2 for the sermon series, and begin thinking about your seven words. We'll be collecting words from all who want to participate and creating a church-wide word cloud graphic to tell us which words are used most. Watch for more information.

**Feb. 16**  
Part 1: Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Feb. 23**  
Part 2: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**Mar. 2**  
Part 3: Mark 12: 28-34



### 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 or purchasing tickets to the event. Do you have auction items you'd like to donate? Contact Amy Holmes at [adholfmes75@yahoo.com](mailto:adholfmes75@yahoo.com) or 816-868-3417.

### Marriage Enrichment Sunday on Feb. 16 Celebrating Marriages 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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# Faith Formation Groups

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. Spring session will be led by Mike Graves, Professor of Preaching at St. Paul School of Theology. The book is *The Misunderstood Jew* by A.J. Levine. Mon., Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

## 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., May 4, 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for movie title or to sign up.

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## President Truman to Speak at Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch welcomes Harry S. Truman, as portrayed by Ray Starzmann, on Tues., Feb. 18, 11:30 a.m. Revisit Truman's humble beginnings and his ascent to historic leadership through the interpretation of veteran Chautauqua performer Ray Starzmann. Designed for senior adults but everyone is welcome. Cost is \$9.50 for lunch and program. RSVP to Mary Margaret 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

## Pathways to Learning The Changing Face of Christianity



**Sun., Feb. 2** – “Changes Facing Christianity,” Bill Tammus, 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**

## February Collection Connection

The February Collection Connection will benefit Cornerstones of Care (Give What You Got).

We are asking for shampoo, conditioner and body wash,



which will be provided to youngsters in foster care when they are displaced from their home. These young people arrive at their foster homes with very little and these essential toiletries will help to make their lives a little better at a very stressful time. Leave your donations in the parlor during the month of February.



# Belonging

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Simon Senek's latest book, *Leaders Eat Last*, noted that the desire to belong to a group is one of the most powerful forces at work in the human community. He quotes a leader who shouts to his group of new recruits:

"From this day on words like 'I,' 'me,' 'my' will no longer be in your vocabulary. They will be replaced with words like 'we,' 'together' and 'us.'"

The man shouting those words, as you may have guessed, is a drill instructor in the United States Marine Corps. Senek argues that this is the power

behind the bond that these Marines share for the rest of their lives. In short, they belong. They come in as individuals and leave as a unit.

In the gospel of John, Jesus prays for the disciples, and ultimately for us, too, that we may all be one. By the time John wrote his story, the church had no doubt encountered conflict, disagreement and division. John recalls this prayer from Jesus as a way of reminding them that even in times of stress and worry they are to stand united.

I don't want to reduce the gospel to a leadership manual. It's much more than that after all, but there is a truth here for us. Organizations like churches become stronger when they stand together and find common ground. The church finds its strength when it can worship, pray and, yes, struggle together. "There's always something," my mentor in ministry used to say, "but the congregations that grow and thrive are those who know how to speak in the plural and describe themselves as 'we.'"

Senek points out that sometimes the best tool to use is humor. He writes of the famous moment when President Reagan joked with the surgeon as he was being wheeled into the operating room after being shot, "I hope you're all Republicans." The surgeon, a self-described liberal Democrat replied, "We're all Republicans today, Mr. President."

In the church we're all children of God, women and men living, loving, struggling, laughing, crying and growing together today and every day. I'm glad I belong to a church where all are welcome and all indeed means all. Let us pray together for the strength to be one.

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  
Feb. 2**

Part 4: Why Are You So Afraid?  
*Mark 4: 35-40*

**Feb. 9**  
Rev. Joe Walker preaching

**The Gospel in 7 Words  
Feb. 16**

Part 1: Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Feb. 23**  
Part 2: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## 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.

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## Some Rooms Closed for Construction

For the next two to three weeks, the Parlor and Rooms 201 and 301 will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. due to construction. Please check with the receptionist for information about alternative locations for classes and meetings.

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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.

## 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.



## 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.

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## 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



## Construction Nearing Completion

by John Clemmer, Business Administrator



Have you looked up at the roof or exterior walls of our church lately? It is truly stunning to see the building being returned to its original grandeur. Slowly but surely the construction crew is adding stone and ornamentation that is simply beautiful. Work on the tower has now begun and the large finials on the roof will be installed shortly.

While the exterior work is the main focus right now, we have not forgotten about the interior spaces of the church. We realize there are improvements large and small that can be made to the inside. We have begun to take on these tasks – both to enhance the appeal of the interior and to eliminate safety concerns.

One project that immediately comes to mind is the carpeting on the third floor hallway by the Solarium. We will be replacing this carpet shortly. This has been a concern of ours for some time; we are glad to report that the replacement of the carpet will not only improve the ambience of the area but remove a possible safety hazard.

Other areas of the building, both large and small, need attention. We are assessing these areas and prioritizing them. Many times the staff here can make improvements without much time or expense incurred.

It sounds small but sometimes these projects can really help. A case in point: on Grace at Work day on Apr. 5 an opportunity will be available for folks to help restore the pews with lemon oil. This will help re-invigorate and preserve these magnificent pews.

As always we welcome your input and suggestions for items that may need attention around Country Club Christian Church. We also welcome any expertise or contributions you could make in time or material.

The goal is be good stewards of our church building, to spend our resources prudently, and, most importantly, to make all of our church welcoming and inviting so we can celebrate and rejoice in the love of Jesus Christ.

## 2013 Christmas Offering Raises More Than \$20,000

The 2013 Christmas Offering raised \$20,767 for Della Lamb Community Services in Kansas City and for CEPAD in Nicaragua.

The theme for the Christmas Offering was “Improving Lives Through Education.” Della Lamb, one of our PartNERship agencies in the Northeast area of Kansas City, was our local recipient. Della Lamb provides programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and sponsors and provides facilities for a charter school serving 600 children a day. The agency also has adult education classes in English as a Second Language, GED tutoring, and a number of Life Skills programs such as Nutrition, Money Management, Employment skills and Self-advocacy skills. While the scope of Della Lamb’s services is wide, the core of what they do is to improve lives through education.

Our International recipient was CEPAD, our partner in Nicaragua. CEPAD was born after an earthquake flattened Nicaragua’s capital city of Managua. The protestant churches of Nicaragua joined together to help organize and coordinate the rebuilding and relief efforts and the resulting organization was CEPAD. CEPAD’s programs empower the poor in many ways, such as teaching farming methods that provide better balanced nutrition for rural families. They also work with mission groups to help them serve the people of Nicaragua in the most constructive ways. There is no way that we would be able to do the work we do in Nicaragua without CEPAD.

Thank you for your generous gifts to the 2013 Christmas Offering.

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## Upcoming Youth Events

**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.

**Feb. 23 – Share Your Story.** Trials and Tribulations through Music. Chris Howard will be here to share his love of music in an engaging and thought provoking discussion. Get to know another member of our church family and listen to some tunes! Dinner 5:30-6:00 p.m. and Youth Group 6:00-7:30 p.m.

### High School Lock-In

**7:30 p.m. Fri., Feb. 21-9:00 a.m. Sat., Feb. 22**

All 9th-12th graders are invited for a night of fun, fellowship and food. The night will include an hour and a half at PowerPlay, a supermarket sweep, online worship planning, movies and more. Meet at the church at 7:30 p.m. We will head out early Saturday morning to Sosa’s Diner for breakfast. We will return to the church for pickup at 9:00 a.m. Everyone must return a permission slip with payment by Feb. 16 to participate. Cost is \$18 per person but you may bring a friend for free. Questions, contact Hayley Holt at [hayleyh@cccckc.org](mailto:hayleyh@cccckc.org).

### Family Night at Micah

Youth families are invited every second Monday of the month to serve together at Independence Boulevard Christian Church’s Micah Ministry. The next opportunity will be Feb. 10. Meet at Independence Boulevard Christian Church at 5:00 p.m. to serve families in need.

### Fireside Chat

**Sun., Mar. 2**

As we reIMAGINE our Youth Ministry, we want to hear from you. Join us to talk with other youth and children’s families and staff about what we are doing well and what we can improve. We will meet from 12:15-1:00 p.m. in the Youth Center.

## Planning for our Youth and Children

**Report Presentation Tues., Feb. 18, 4:00 p.m.**

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. If you are a parent, grandparent, family, friend, volunteer, teacher, elder, board member, or just plain care about the future of your church, we want to hear from you. During these groups you will be asked to share input about the way things are now as well as your hopes and dreams for our future. Sign up sheets are located in the parlor, on the bulletin board across from Rev. Monica Lewis’ office, and on the second floor in the children’s wing. Groups will gather on Sat., Feb. 15 and Sun. Feb. 16. The final report will be presented at 4:00 p.m. on Tues., Feb. 18 in the Youth Center.

## Book Drive for Library Prison Ministry

The 24th trip to Lansing Correctional Center to catalog and process library books will take place in March. Many inmates enjoy reading and are very appreciative of this program that our church initiated several years ago. We need books, but only fiction such as mysteries, suspense, westerns, science fiction, and other fictional best sellers. No romance novels, manuals, cookbooks, gardening (you get the idea). Paperbacks are preferred. Please put books under the table at the east entrance no later than Sun., Mar. 2.



## The Concert of Life

by Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music



On Jan. 25, our congregation hosted over 100 church musicians in an all-day workshop. We began with worship in our sanctuary. As we worshipped together I was struck by an energy in the hymn singing. It felt as if everyone was singing from the heart and with one voice. I experience that on Sunday mornings as well... moments in our corporate singing that seem to transcend the confines of a familiar melody or time-honored words.

I have an old Delft tile in my office, surrounded by a simple wooden frame. It is typical, in the sense that it is the traditional blue and white. But instead of the usual depictions of Dutch life, floral designs, or landscape scenes, it bears an old Dutch saying. Translated, the tile reads: "In the concert of life, no one has a program." It is a simple saying; one that we can probably all agree is truthful.

All of us have been touched in a variety of ways by the unexpectedness of life. Whether the events are good or bad, we never know when they will come. And, while we would hope to move through life with the ease of someone untouched by the capriciousness of life, it is never that easy.

Frequently, I say that we are purveyors of words. Not just when we are singing a hymn or an anthem, but in life as well. Words are what we have to communicate with each other. But when it comes to singing, I think that it is much more than simply words, notes and rhythms. It is the text that must be sung ... sung from deep within, from that place where we all have experienced both the devastations that sometimes life can send our way and the great joy we experience at other times. We must sing as if our collective song is a universal prayer for light and peace and hope for all of God's creatures. John Walsh Anglund once said: "A bird does not sing because she has an answer. She sings because she has a song."

Each day we have songs to sing, in our weekday world and on Sunday. We bring to the singing our own individual experiences. It is one of my deepest hopes that when we join together in song we raise a single voice that brings our words to life.

*David*

## 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 name tag 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.

### 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.

### "Feast" for Sunday School Classes

Instead of feeding your children snacks, we will take communion like the rest of the church. Several of our children have very severe food allergies and other health concerns and this is the best option to provide for the safety of all our children.

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Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## Virginia Reed Food Drive on February 16

On Sun., Feb. 16, 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."

## Memorials

### Wilbur Spalding

Ruth & Ray Luhnow

### Sharon Van Dyke

Doris Thompson  
Chuck & Marilyn Dreas  
John & Emma Hess  
Mr. & Mrs. William Hopkins  
Anniversary Class

### Ken Young

Tri C's Class  
Mary Vizcarra  
Carol Chapman  
John & Erma Hess  
Ken Young

## 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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816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538  
email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)