



VOLUME 89 · NUMBER 4

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

**Feb. 18, 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

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 standard scripture readings for Ash Wednesday call us to turn away from that which separates us from the Divine and re-consecrate ourselves to a more spiritual life. For that reason, we usually culminate our worship by the imposing of ashes upon an individual's forehead or on the back of their hands. Join us on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a traditional imposition of ashes.

**Lenten Sermon Series: Making Room for God Begins Sun., Feb. 22.**

Life today is filled with a complex series of requirements demanding our constant attention. It is easy to put aside matters of the Spirit. We need the chance to reverse the order of our priorities. Before we take on all that is before us in this busy life, let's find a way to make room for God by listening to the biblical word and each other.

## News from the Northeast Partnership

Members of our congregation have been busy in the Northeast area of Kansas City in the past few months! For the last two years, we have focused our outreach in the Northeast on four agencies or programs in that area: Della Lamb Community Services, Newhouse Shelter, Micah Ministries and Sheffield Place. In addition, through our participation in Harvesters' Back-Snack program, we provide packs of food each week for children at Garfield Elementary School (located in the Northeast) who would otherwise not have enough to eat on the weekends.

In the fall, we had two educational bus tours of the Northeast, planned by Esther Giffen and Barbara George and narrated by Kay Barnes and Bobbi Baker, so that members of our congregation could see the places where we serve and other sights in the Northeast. More than 75 members participated in these tours. We are planning another tour for this spring.

## Della Lamb Community Services

Since September, more than 80 members of our congregation have volunteered in projects at or for Della Lamb, including about 60 different people who volunteer weekly or biweekly as tutors in the Adult English as a Second Language program, sew summer dresses and shorts for preschoolers, and knit hats for children at Christmas. As part of our fall Grace at Work, members painted walls at the Della Lamb preschool, enjoyed a playgroup that included children from our congregation and children served by Della



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## Northeast PartNerShip

*Continued from page 1.*

Lamb, and wrapped Christmas presents for Della Lamb clients. We bagged and distributed food for Thanksgiving, participated in Operation Santa (wrapping gifts and sorting clothing), and helped with the Christmas distribution. In September, many in our congregation participated in the collection of household goods for Della Lamb's refugee resettlement program. If you would like to volunteer at or for Della Lamb in the future, contact



Grace at Work play date at Della Lamb

Linda Rives at [therivesaz6@gmail.com](mailto:therivesaz6@gmail.com). At our church Thanksgiving dinner, the Della Lamb children's choir entertained beautifully. Perhaps the most beautiful sight that evening was watching Carl Bolte and the children from the choir engage in an impromptu and joyful carol sing before the dinner.

### Sheffield Place

Three members of our congregation serve on the Sheffield Place Advisory Council. During Grace at Work, about 20 members worked on landscaping projects, then shared a cookout with Sheffield residents. For Christmas, the YaWhose Class, the Chancel Choir, the Sewing Group, the Knitting Group, and a Disciples Bible Study group purchased Price Chopper and Wal-Mart gift cards, totaling \$660, for Sheffield residents. The Koinonia Class provided Christmas gifts for a family, and the Berry-Bough small group adopted four families. Two of our members volunteered at the Sheffield Holiday House, several others attended. If you are interested in volunteering at Sheffield, contact Cindy Irely at [cindyirely51@gmail.com](mailto:cindyirely51@gmail.com).

### Micah Ministries

On the second Sunday of each month, as part of Micah Ministries, our congregation is responsible for cooking the meal, providing the cakes, cleaning and setting tables and serving meals at Independence Blvd. Christian Church for food insecure persons, most of whom are among the working poor. Diane Jones heads the cooking crew, and Jackie Cunningham heads the serving team. About 20 of our members participate in cooking and cleaning and setting the tables, and about a dozen help serve. In January, we cooked

and served 736 meals for 450 people. Several of our members cook or serve every week, not just the second week of the month. In addition, members of our congregation bake at least 42 cakes each month for these dinners.

At Thanksgiving, we provided 110 pumpkin pies, and at Christmas, members purchased, stuffed and delivered 650 Christmas hygiene stockings.

Our members helped with loading and delivering the pies and stockings. We also donate clothing and travel-sized toiletries to the Micah clothes closet on a regular basis. If you would like to help contact Jackie Cunningham ([JackieKCunningham@gmail.com](mailto:JackieKCunningham@gmail.com)) if you would like to help serve. Travel-sized toiletries can be brought to the church office on Sundays and to Paul Cutelli during the week.



Pumpkin pies for Micah Thanksgiving dinner

### Newhouse Shelter

The CAYA group has held game nights with the residents of Newhouse, and plans are being made for other projects with Newhouse. The February Collection Connection is collecting laundry detergent pods for Newhouse. A collection basket for the pods is in the Parlor.

### Garfield Elementary School

Each week our BackSnack team bags and delivers 60 meals to Garfield Elementary School. (They also deliver 50 meals to Hartman Elementary.) This team includes 28 of our members. If you are interested in participating on this team, contact Carolyn Hughes.

As you can see, hundreds of our members from age 3 to 93 are already participating in one way or another with the Northeast PartNerShip, and we are beginning to build good relationships there. We are busy planning both ongoing and one-time projects with all of our partners in the Northeast and would love to have every member participate in some way. Opportunities will be publicized as they become available. If you are interested in participating in the future, email Nancy Lear at [nancylear@gmail.com](mailto:nancylear@gmail.com) and let her know what your interests are and what days and times work best for you.



# The Power of Hope

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Paul, writing to the church in Rome declares, “hope does not disappoint.” It is a beautiful witness from one who has been through the worst that life dishes out. Beaten, mocked, imprisoned and worse, it’s almost impossible to imagine that Paul after all of that could write about hope. Yet there it is.

I’ve found myself time and time again returning to Paul’s words. As we say in my work, “That’ll preach!” More than that, however, there is the underlying assumption that even in the most pressing of times, God is present, God is still at work.

Joseph Cardinal Suenens, a Roman Catholic theologian, said: “I am a man of hope, not for human reasons, nor from any natural optimism, but because I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the church and in the world, even when his name remains unheard.” That is a remarkable comment because it reminds us that our hope is based on something more than our own good intentions.

I have a framed copy of Psalm 139 hanging on the wall of my office. It reads, in part, “Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.” The promise is similar to Paul’s words for the Romans. In those heavenly, rapturous moments, when it feels like life could not be any better, God is there. Conversely, when it feels like you have fallen into the pit of hell, God is in that place too.

The man who gave me that framed Psalm was struck down by polio when he was a teen. Before the disease hit he was a good athlete with dreams of being a great tennis player in his native land of Australia. After losing the use of his legs he began to ask questions. Most of them began with “Why?” His queries eventually led him to a PhD in science. He moved to the USA when he was recruited by NASA to work on the Apollo space project. He said to me one day as we talked about his journey: “I can’t use my legs but once I rediscovered hope I found that my mind could take me to the stars.”

Whether we are traveling through the universe or digging our way out of the pit, God’s promised presence is more than enough to help us find our way to the hope of glory.

Grace and peace to you,

## Sermon Series: Making Room for God

**Feb. 22** – Part 1: If God is for Us  
Romans 8:31-39

**Mar. 1** – Part 2: Long for The Pure  
1 Peter 1:22-2:3

**Mar. 8** – Part 3: When Love Isn’t Enough  
Psalm 88

**Mar. 15** – Part 4: Be Still and Know  
Psalm 46

**Mar. 22** – Part 5: Let It Be  
John 14:25-31

## Worship with us!

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

**Sermon Series:  
Creating the Covenant**

**Feb. 15**  
Part 3: Jesus Liberates Us – Become  
What You Believe  
*Mark 9: 14-29*

**Lenten Sermon Series: Making  
Room for God**

**Feb. 22**  
Part 1: If God is for Us  
*Romans 8:31-39*  
**Mar. 1**  
Part 2: Long for The Pure  
*1 Peter 1:22-2:3*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## February Collection Connection: Laundry Detergent Pods for Newhouse

In February, we are collecting laundry detergent pods for Newhouse. Newhouse is part of our Northeast PartNerShip and they are in desperate need of laundry detergent for use in the facility. The pods work best as it makes it easy to use the correct amount of detergent per load. Newhouse provides a safe environment for positive development of women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. Please leave your donations in the Parlor.

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## Pathways to Learning in March

### Resurrection Themes in Art, Literature and Music

**PA+HWAYS**  **Mar. 8** – Aram Demirjian, Associate Conductor of the Kansas City Symphony.  
**Mar. 15** – Dr. Madeline Rislow, Lecturer in Medieval and Renaissance at The Kansas City Art Institute.  
**Mar. 22** – Dr. Bill Stancil, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Rockhurst University.

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

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## Donations for Easter Egg Hunt

Our second annual Easter Egg Hunt is coming up Mar. 22.



Last year was a huge success and we hope that 2015 will be even better! We need 2,000 filled plastic Easter eggs to make sure that every child has a great time hunting for eggs. Please bring your filled eggs to

the Collection Connection through Mar. 15. You're invited to stay after worship on Mar. 22 to see the joy on the faces of lots of children as they gather the eggs you will provide!

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## Sale in The Well

All Christmas merchandise is now 75 percent off and Christmas books are 10 percent off in the The Well, our book and gift store on the first floor. Other items with a red line through the price are 50 percent off. The Well is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## Memorial Easter Lilies

Honor the memory of a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter lily. The lilies will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, Apr. 5 and may be taken home after the 11:00 a.m. service or donated for our homebound members. Prices are \$16 for single stem plants and \$21 for double stems. Pick up an order form in the main office. Please return the completed form, with payment, to Mary Margaret House by Sun., Mar. 8. Your payment is the confirmation of your order. If you have questions, contact Mary Margaret House, marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

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## Save the Date!

### Annual Celebration Dinner

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

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the dinner and auction, which not only has become an important source of funds for the church's operating budget, it has more importantly cultivated friendships that extend across generational lines and nurtured a sense of stewardship within our community. You can help ensure this year's event is a success by becoming a benefactor at one of six levels starting at \$250 or purchasing tickets to the event. Do you have auction items you'd like to donate? Watch for more information.

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## Leadership Nominations

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2015-2016 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. We need members who are energetic, dedicated and motivated to serve. The nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions: Congregational Board: Chairperson-Elect, treasurer, secretary, and Board members; Personnel Committee at-large member; Personnel Committee chair; Endowment trustees; Elders; Deacons; youth Elders; youth Deacons. The deadline for all nominations is Mar. 1. Nomination forms are available in the church office or at <http://tinyurl.com/2015nominations>.



## A Few of My Favorite Things

By Lisa McCleish, Director of Early Childhood Programs



The last week of January we held our annual open house in preparation for registration for preschool and parents day out.

As I spent time giving tours to prospective families, I would share with them some of the best things about each classroom and the teachers. As luck would have it, my drive home to the northland one evening was longer than usual and I had plenty of time to compile a list of my favorite things about being Director of Early Childhood Programs at

Country Club Christian Church.

1. I am greeted every morning by children who are full of excitement and energy for what lies ahead. I get hugs and high-fives along with smiles from children who cannot wait to tell me about new shoes...a haircut...an upcoming birthday...vacation or anything else they happen to be thinking.
2. Every time I walk into a classroom, it is like the first time I have been there. The children want to show me what they are doing; we read books or sing a song. Then they tell me good-bye so I know it is time for me to move on.
3. Watching the youngest preschool class fold their hands, close their eyes and say a prayer before lunch. Or, listening to our oldest preK children sing their prayer to the tune of the Superman theme song.
4. A group of 20 staff who choose to spend their days taking care of our smallest blessings.
5. Generous and kind parents who share their children with us, then send a note or bake cookies to tell us thank you.
6. The generous and kind church staff smile and clap when we parade by, listen to us sing at Christmas, volunteer to read stories and welcome the school families to the Country Club Christian Church family.
7. A beautiful building and campus that give us space to run, to climb, to learn, to explore, and to rest.

*Lisa*

## The Financial Life of the Church

**Sunday, March 15, Noon, Social Hall**

At this forum a panel of four lay leaders involved in the financial leadership of the congregation will make brief presentations on the current financial results, the endowment, the rationale and background of the integrated budget, and the long-range financial plan. Following these presentations, there will be ample time allowed for questions and comments. Phil Love, Board Chair elect, will moderate the panel.

## Upcoming Student Events

**Hope House Service Project** – Sun., Mar. 1, 5:00-7:30 p.m. Middle and high school students will be going to Hope House to volunteer for the evening. We will be playing games and making crafts with the children that reside there. We will also provide a “sack” dinner. If interested in volunteering, please contact Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org) so we can arrange transportation.

**High School Late Night** – Mar. 6 and 7, 7:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person. More details on this exciting event are to come soon. Please contact Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org) to RSVP.

**Green Team Volunteering** – Sun., Apr. 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the church and chapel. Middle and high school students do you have a green thumb? Even if you don't, you are invited to help the Green Team get ready for spring! The more hands the better. Snacks will be provided. Contact Allie for questions and sign-up.

### Sunday Evenings

Middle School and High School students are encouraged to participate in Youth Group, a monthly fellowship opportunity.

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

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

## Student Gatherings



High School Music Night



Middle School Valentine Party



Middle School Dinner Out.

## 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>.

## You're Invited

You're invited to the wedding of Meredith Holladay, Minister of Spiritual Formation, and Zach Walker at 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2015, at Village Presbyterian Church (6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208). A short reception will follow in the Friendship Hall.





## Message from the Regional Office

By Donna Rose-Heim, Intentional Interim Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater K.C.



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Country Club Christian Church,

I was blessed to be with you for worship and study last Sunday! I enjoyed our conversations, music, study, worship and sharing in communion together.

Our region of Greater Kansas City has 85 congregations, and we are thankful that you are one of these! The gifts you give to Disciples Mission Fund and directly to our region help us to share in our ministries together – things like support and credentialing of pastors, help with search teams, education events, Tall Oaks Conference Center, New Church and much more. Thank you for your partnership!

If you use Facebook, I encourage you to “like” our regional page at facebook.com/ccgkc. You’ll find pictures of you there, along with other congregations and a little bit about some of the ministries our regional congregations share. We also welcome you to visit our new web page – [www.kcdisciples.org](http://www.kcdisciples.org). If you would like to know more about what is happening with your regional partners, I encourage you to sign up to receive our E-Connect – an email that goes out twice a month with information about events and opportunities. Simply email Robin at [office@kcdisciples.org](mailto:office@kcdisciples.org) and ask her to add you to the list.

Our region is only as strong as our relationships and ministries we share. May God smile because of the many ways we come together to make a difference in Greater Kansas City. Blessings to each of you!

## Children and Families

### First Steps of Faithfulness

**Mar. 1, 9:55 a.m.**

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. 9:55 a.m., Rm. 215.

### Club Kids

**Mar. 1** – Power Play, Shawnee, KS. \$20 per person including dinner.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Join other children and families for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sun., Mar. 22 at 12:15 p.m. on the Combs Chapel lawn. Lots of Easter activities and lunch.

### Kansas City Zoo Overnight

**Sat., Apr. 11–Sun., Apr. 12**

All 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us for an overnight in the “wild.” We will participate in an after-hours program at the Kansas City Zoo then spend the night in the Penguin Pavilion. We will conclude our program with a brief Sunday morning worship time. Watch for details.

### Sunday School Apps

Parents please check out the new *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* app to help you reinforce our Sunday lessons.

- For iPhones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-apple> to download the app.
- For Android phones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-android>.

Through *Grow! Proclaim and Serve* your child will hear the Bible story, apply the Bible message, and then live out the message in their lives in concrete and age-appropriate ways. Go to <http://www.growproclaimserve.com/parents.html> to learn more about the curriculum.

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# Our Church Family

## In Sympathy

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

**Tom Plunkett**

## Memorials

### Mary Ann Cooper

James & Nancy Carnes  
John & Erma Hess  
Mary Lou Spalding

### Carl Corbin

James & Mary Ann Arnett  
John & Erma Hess  
Ann Smith

### Laura Cray

Mary Buehler  
James & Nancy Carnes  
John & Erma Hess  
Robert & Sirley Legg  
Patricia Martin

### Barbara Williams

John & Erma Hess  
Robert & Kay Moffat  
Herbert Williams

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Senior Minister

Rev. Carla Aday  
Executive Minister

Rev. David Diebold  
Minister of Music

Dr. Meredith Holladay  
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Students and Families

Rev. Joe Walker  
Minister of Congregational Care

Mr. Jason Ashley  
Director of Building and Grounds

Ms. Rachel Clement  
Director of Finance

Mr. Paul Cutelli  
Director of Technology and  
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Ms. Allie Cobb  
Director of Student Ministries

Ms. Dina Pannabecker Evans  
Associate Organist

Ms. Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Ms. Sally Huggins  
Assistant Director of Communciations

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
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