



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.*

## Spring Stewardship Features Special Events

The Spring Stewardship Campaign launched last week with a Ministry Fair where folks signed up to serve in all the ministries



of the church through hands on service. This year's campaign features a video of church members who share what they love about their faith, their church and their God. You can watch it at <http://tinyurl.com/ccclove> or at church on May 3 at the Coffee with Glen. **Please come to the parlor this Sunday, Apr. 26, to pick up your Stewardship packet.** This will help us save on postage!

### Groups and Classes challenged to Contribute at 100% Level

The Stewardship Ministry Team challenges each Sunday School Class, small group and ministry group in the church to invite its members to participate in the campaign by making a pledge. Every group or class that achieves 100 percent participation in pledging will receive a donut or dessert party for your class or group. In addition, any group in which all members increase their pledge will receive an invitation to a cookout with Glen and Julie Miles.

### You Are Invited!

## COFFEE WITH GLEN

Sunday, May 3

9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m., noon

(Please attend the coffee that best fits your schedule)

Church Social Hall

Enjoy a moment with your pastor.

Savor a latte, cappuccino, coffee, juice, pastries, fruit, quiche. Stop in the video booth to share what you love about the church.

### Jazz Artist to Sing

On Sunday, May 10, a special musical thank you led by jazz artist Bukema, accompanied by the children of the church will be presented at worship as a way to show our church family's "For the love of You."



## Grace At Work Crews Assist Community

On Sat., Apr. 18, members and friends of Country Club Christian Church participated in Grace At Work. Spanning the city in 9 groups, volunteers raked leaves, trimmed bushes, cleaned apartments for Restart, painted, setup a fundraiser for Della Lamb and more.

What is the Grace at Work experience like? See page 6.



Volunteers worked on landscaping at Hartman School in Kansas City, MO. More photos on page 6.



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## Spring Musical

**Sunday, April 26, 12:15 p.m., Social Hall**

Mark your calendars for the spring musical, *iAm: The Real Life App for All That*. This show is for everyone in the church, not just parents of the children and students who have been working hard to present this entertaining spectacle. You won't want to miss this. Lunch provided!

*iAm: The Real Life App for All That* is a children's musical designed to teach kids that even with all of our distractions and entertainment, the most exciting thing in life is getting to know the God who made us.



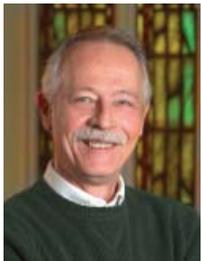
## New Members



Brittany Waller

**New Member Host:** Kristin Jamour

## Rev. David Diebold Retiring



Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music at Country Club Christian Church will retire effective August 1, 2015. David has been on staff for 34 years.

“While the loss of David’s wisdom, talent and institutional knowledge cannot be overstated, I am also thrilled to congratulate him on a legacy of leadership that will not soon be matched. I am truly excited for David and Susie as they embark on the well-deserved new adventure of retirement,” Dr. Glen Miles said.

“The lives that David has touched over the years cannot possibly be counted. He has helped families choose powerful hymns for funerals. He has suggested inspiring scores for wedding celebrations. He has written beautiful and relevant liturgy and has planned exquisite worship services. He has thoughtfully and purposefully chosen texts designed to provide the most meaningful worship experience, every single Sunday. I cannot begin to measure David’s quiet influence on every person who has set foot in this church during his tenure.”

The Personnel Committee, led by Lee Brumitt, will develop a plan for seeking David’s successor, including convening a search committee. In addition, watch for plans for a joyous celebration of David’s ministry sometime this summer.



Mike & Shelly Brabner

**New Member Hosts:** Mitch & Erin Feitz



# Prayers in the Middle of the Night

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The life of Jesus was centered in prayer. At almost every important event in the Gospel of Luke we find Jesus praying. He prays at his baptism and when he is choosing the disciples. We find Jesus praying before he teaches and he prays before Peter's confession. He proclaims that the temple in Jerusalem is to be a House of Prayer.

Luke wants us to see that prayer is a source of strength for Jesus and by extension for us, too. Prayer is not a magical action that helps us avoid the hard parts of life. Rather, prayer, the kind that is willing to tell the truth to God, is messy. It does

not shy away from life's toughest moments. In fact, it is in those difficult times when prayer becomes a present reality.

The prayers we whisper in the middle of the night are probably the most honest. I believe that God hears all that we say but I suspect that God pays more attention to you and me when there is no one else listening.

I was on a hospital visit to see a member of the church. The one I was there to check on was out of the room for physical therapy. I took out one of my cards and began to write a note. As I was writing I heard a patient on the other side of the curtain praying, "Please. Please God, please, help me."

Our joys are as diverse as the human race but we are united by grief and pain. In that difficult and sorrowful place there are no distinctions, as Brennan Manning writes, "Between the powerful and powerless, educated and illiterate, billionaires and bag ladies, high tech geeks and low tech nerds, males and females, the circus and the sanctuary."

By paying attention to the prayers of Jesus and his own midnight worries we will discover that God is always present, even in times of despair. Every one of us will find moments when it seems as though all hell has been loosed against us.

The message that Jesus came to proclaim, the good news that he has to share, is that even in the middle of the night God is with us. The Apostle Paul teaches us that when the pain is too great, when we cannot find anything to say, the Spirit of God will intercede with "groans too deep for words," filling in the silence with the very grace of God's presence.

How does one begin a prayer like this? Perhaps the only word necessary is "Help."

Grace and peace to you,

## The Holy Land – In the Footsteps of Jesus

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller as they travel to the Holy Land Oct. 28-Nov. 6, 2015. Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. Stops include Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Contact Lauren Weinhold at [weinhold.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:weinhold.lauren@gmail.com) for more information.

## Worship with us!

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

**For the Love of ...**

**Apr. 26**

Part 2: For the Love of God  
*Ephesians 2:1-10*

**May 3**

For the Love of the Widow  
Luke 21:1-6  
Rev. Mike Graves, preaching

**May 10**

Part 3: For the Love of Each Other  
*Philippians 2:1-11*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## April Collection Connection: Cross-Lines Community Assistance Program

The Cross-Lines Community Annex and Emergency Assistance Closet needs donations of full-sized toiletries to help support its shower program for families, seniors and individuals seeking assistance. Their current (or urgent) need is for toothbrushes, full-sized shampoos, and full-sized lotions of any kind.

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## Save the Date: Blood Drive on May 3

The Community Blood Center will be in the Pine Room (Rm. 10) on Sun., May 3, from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. to receive donations. We appreciate Chris Niedner and our Monday evening Disciple Bible Study who are taking the lead on organizing the blood drive.

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## Forum on Programs and Ministries

**Sunday, July 12, 12:15 Social Hall**

Save the date! Everyone is welcome to this gathering to learn more about the wide variety of ministries and programs of the church. There will also be time for questions and comments.

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## Church Words Continues through May 17

Learn some of the daunting “churchy” words and understand and deepen your faith along the way. Taught by Dr. Meredith Holladay. Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Rm. 302. Come to one or all of the remaining sessions. All are welcome. Apr. 26 : Don’t talk about sin at the dinner table: Sin and Grace.

May 3: A-what-ment? Atonement – the cross and what difference it makes

May 10: Ecclesiology: What’s the church for, anyway?

May 17: Eschatology: Left Behind, the Rapture, and other fun things.

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## Best Practices Task Force Formed

Board President Mary McClure has appointed a task force to study vital and thriving congregations around the USA. Twelve or more churches will be contacted. The team will interview key leaders in each congregation to determine their best practices. A report will be presented to the Congregational Board at their June 2015 meeting. Members include Meredith Holladay, Amy Holmes, Sally Nielsen, Jason Roske and Joe Walker. Glen Miles serves as convener.

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## Coming this June! Lemonade on the Lawn

**June 1, 8, 15, 22**

On the first four Monday nights in June we’ll gather on our lawn for lemonade and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. Come for a glass of lemonade and a snack. Stay for conversation – or study – or meditation!



At 7:00 we’ll break up into small group options:

○ **Men’s Bible Study with Glen Miles** – Great Leaders, Flawed Souls. A Bible study for men focusing on the stories of Moses, Joshua, Saul and David. These men were great leaders. They were used by God to do something amazing yet each one was also deeply flawed in some way. We will look at the lives of these biblical leaders to see that God can use us in profound ways.

○ **Podcast Group with Carla Aday** – Four podcasts from “On Being” with Krista Tippett. Participants listen to a podcast before coming to discuss.

○ **Women’s Book Group with Meredith Holladay.** Book to be announced.

○ **Meditation Group**

○ **Green Team Volunteering** – Work with the Green Team on projects in our gardens.

Contact Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 to sign up. Contact Meredith Holladay at [meredithh@cccckc.org](mailto:meredithh@cccckc.org) if you have questions.



## Your Stories Became Our Movie

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



*Will you be in the movie?*

That was the subject line on an email Carla Aday sent to a handful of folks a couple of weeks back, asking if they were willing to be interviewed for a video we had conceptualized for the 2015 stewardship campaign.

I say *conceptualized* because at that point that's what it was: a mere concept. An idea; a notion. We would make a video telling a little story about what folks love about Country Club Christian Church. Sounds great, right?

Carla and Glen were excited about the idea. The Stewardship ministry team was excited about the idea. *I* was even excited about the idea, except for one tiny detail: I have done very little video editing. And I know myself well enough to know that sometimes the projects I dream up do not unfold the way I envision them. So I was a little nervous about this movie living up to my own expectations, let alone those of others.

For several months, I had been taking video of various events in the life of the church. I had been obsessively messaging my brother, an electronic media guru, with equipment questions. I had been searching for background music. But when it came to interviewing those folks the Stewardship team asked to be in the movie, I was sort of terrified.

I shouldn't have been. Each of them came to my makeshift studio on the second floor of the church and told me their stories: how they came to the church, what the church has meant in their lives, why they love it here. There was some crying and some laughter. There was warmth and emotion. There was love and grace and hope.

Their stories became our movie. In the end, I needn't have worried, because Erin Parkinson and Ashley Bough, Milburn Hobson and Matt and Laura Wildman made our movie for us.

And I realized this experience was not unlike the way we make church. You, all of you, come here with your experiences, with your warmth and love and emotion, with your grace and your hope, and you make up our story. You make us church. So thank you for being in the movie.

*Lara*

PS: If you haven't seen the movie yet, go to <http://tinyurl.com/cccllove>

PSS: Stop in the video booth in the Social Hall on May 3 to share what you love about the church.

### Green Team Plant Sale

**Sunday, April 26, 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

The Green Team is holding a Native Plant Sale on Sun., Apr. 26, 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on the lawn. Money earned will go to support the Green Team. Native plants, once started in a good location, will provide beauty for many years. Because they have survived for thousands of years in our climate, they can withstand the extreme weather we have in Kansas City, and they provide excellent pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies. We will also have free milkweed seeds for those buying plants. Milkweeds are the host plants for Monarch butterflies and by planting milkweeds, you can help save the Monarchs.

### Did you know?

- Our congregation purchased the food, cooked the dinner, baked the cakes, served the tables to provide 9,311 plates of food to hungry families in Kansas City through Micah Ministry in 2014.
- Our congregation filled over 2,000 eggs to be hunted by over 100 children at our second annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- We've served over 1,000 hot dogs during children and student events over the past year.
- Children's ministry volunteers served over 650 hours last year.

Your generous giving makes these life changing ministries possible!

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# Upcoming Student Events

## Senior Brunch

**Sun., May 3, 12:15 p.m., Youth Center.** Please send 10 of your high school senior's favorite childhood photos including one senior photo along with your student's plans after graduation to Jason Ashley at [jasona@cccckc.org](mailto:jasona@cccckc.org).

## Pastors' Class Reunion Breakfast

**Sun., May 3, 9:30 a.m.** If you have been a member of a Pastors' Class or a mentor, please join us for breakfast in Rm. 202.

## High School Mission Trip

**June 14-20.** We are going to Chicago. Current high school students are invited to join in a week of fun, fellowship and mission work. Cost is \$500 per person. Scholarships are available upon request. Please contact Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org) if interested in attending.

## Middle School Mission Trip

**June 22-23.** Students in grades 6-8 will engage in ministry opportunities as part of our PartNership in Northeast Kansas City. This is a free experience for students. Please contact Allie Cobb at [alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917 for more information.

## Mission Teams to Mungeli, India

Join us at 12:15 p.m. on Sun., May 17 for an informational meeting about this trip to India. In January 2016, two teams from Country Club Christian Church will head to Mungeli, India



to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli. The first will go from about January 4-17, and the second from about January 13-26. Each team will work at the Mungeli Christian Hospital complex for about nine days. No special qualifications are needed—there is something for everyone to do! During the time the teams overlap, they will tour Delhi and the Taj Mahal and perhaps take a safari to Kanha National Park.

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## The Grace at Work Experience



*My then fiancé and I were looking for a "church home" a few years ago. We attended the 11:00 a.m. service in March, a few weeks before Grace at Work. We decided to sign up for the Habitat for Humanity project and worked our tails off for four hours. In the years since, we've volunteered for every Grace at Work and have tried new service opportunities each time. I'm passionate about Grace at Work because it's a way to express fellowship for mankind – it's not just words on a page, it's using my hands to help, build and do good for others. — Rachel Reiff (left during Grace at Work 2015)*





## Why Do I Give?

By Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



Why do I give to the church? It certainly isn't because I have extra money lying around. There is always another pair of shoes I could buy, an unexpected home repair that must be tended to or an amount I should be saving to replace my 14-year-old car.

I could tell you that I give to the church because it is how I answer God's call. But it doesn't feel 100 percent honest to say my giving is in direct response to Jesus' command to "sell all you have and give to the poor" or that my motivation is purely to become that person that God had in mind in the verse "God loves

a cheerful giver." For while my head knows that God's work is done through the fragile, humble, work of the church, my heart needs more than that.

Maybe I give for some irrational reasons. For example, I recently received a note from a young woman who described how grateful she was for the meals brought weekly to her home for the nine months of her husband's deployment. She remarked that the church had been more like family than had her family. Or there was that visit I shared with a 91-year-old woman in a rehab unit recently whose eyes sparkled with delight when she told me how truly blessed she was to have so many fun, young friends in our church. Maybe these reasons seem squishy and undefined but I keep wondering how this tightly woven fabric of life would get weaved without the unique role of the church.

Perhaps the most honest reason I give to our church is because here my son was dedicated, baptized and finally blessed as he was sent off to college, his faith mentor there at his side through those awkward teenage years. It is here that my daughter walked down the aisle to say "I do" and here that she was prayed for after a life-threatening medical event. The gifts and blessings came to me with such lavish generosity that my faith could do nothing but grow.

But this year as I fill out my pledge card there is one specific moment that will compel me to not only give but raise my pledge. It happened in Nicaragua in February. We were invited to visit 3-year-old Jaqueline, recovering from surgery to remove a malignant tumor. The doctors and I were aghast when we saw the corrugated scrap metal lean-to with a dirt floor that she and her siblings and single mother called home. I learned that her family could not afford the bus fare to complete chemo nor the milk supplements the doctor ordered. So on your behalf, we sent \$612 to our mission partners in Nicaragua to help Jaqueline heal and live. I give because I believe in a church that acts like this.

*Carla*

## Children and Families Spring Musical

Join us at 12:15 p.m. Sun., Apr. 26, in the Social Hall for the children and student musical, *iAm, An App for All That*.

### Club Kids (34d-5th Grade)

May 3 – 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bible scavenger hunt at church.

### First Steps

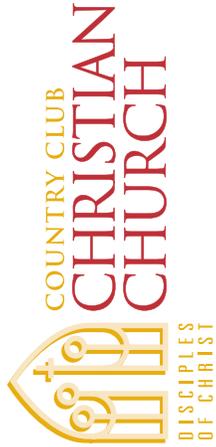
May 10 – 10:00 a.m. in Room 215. For families of children birth to 2-years-old.

### Vacation Bible School



June 5-7 – At G-Force VBS, kids explore how to put their faith into action. In our mission-focused VBS, kids experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move in and through life with God. Country Club Christian Church will come alive with movement and images of all sorts of kid-friendly transportation, such as skateboards, running shoes, roller blades, and more! We will watch the G-Force meter climb illustrating how God is at work around the world and how God's people are on the move. For more information, contact Lindsay Howes at [lindsayh@cccckc.org](mailto:lindsayh@cccckc.org).

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# Our Church Family Sympathy

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

**Byron Shutz**

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Senior Minister

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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  
Administrative Services

Ms. Allie Cobb  
Director of Student Ministries

Ms. Dina Pannabecker Evans  
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Ms. Lindsay Howes  
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Ms. Sally Huggins  
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