



# 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 Staff for Children and Youth Ministries

### Lindsay Howes

Lindsay Howes has joined the staff as Director of Children’s Ministries. Lindsay has a passion for the spiritual development of children.



She has a background in social work and wants each of our children

**Lindsay with husband, Phil, and sons, Noah and James**

to experience and know God through vibrant children’s worship and programs. She and her husband, Phil, have been members of Country Club Christian Church since 2009. They have two boys, Noah and James, who are both active in our children’s ministries and have attended our Parents’ Day Out program. Phil serves as the treasurer of Country Club Christian Church on our Congregational Board.

Stop by and meet Lindsay at 9:45 a.m., Sun., May 11 near the Children’s Welcome Station on the 2nd floor.

### Allie Cobb

Allie Cobb is the new Director of Youth Ministries. Allie grew up near Wichita and moved with her husband to the Kansas City area two years ago for his job. They



**Allie with husband, Travis, and dog, Saddie**

have a “furry baby” golden retriever whom they adore. Allie was part of her previous church for ten years, eight with children’s ministries. She is excited about joining our church and partnering with families as we continue to build sustainable and engaging ministries to youth. She is currently a substitute teacher for the Liberty School District.

You can greet Allie on Sun., May 11 from 12:15-12:30 p.m. in the Youth Center.

### Joy-Full Worship Service

Join us in the sanctuary on Thurs., May 15, at 7:00 p.m. for a stewardship prayer service. The service will include vocal and instrumental solos, the Sticks & Phones Orffestra, hymns, candlelight, moments of quiet, Glen’s communion meditation and the sharing of bread and cup. Together we will celebrate grace in our midst and ask God to guide us in joy-fully supporting our church and its ministry in the world.



# Tower Spires Are Returning

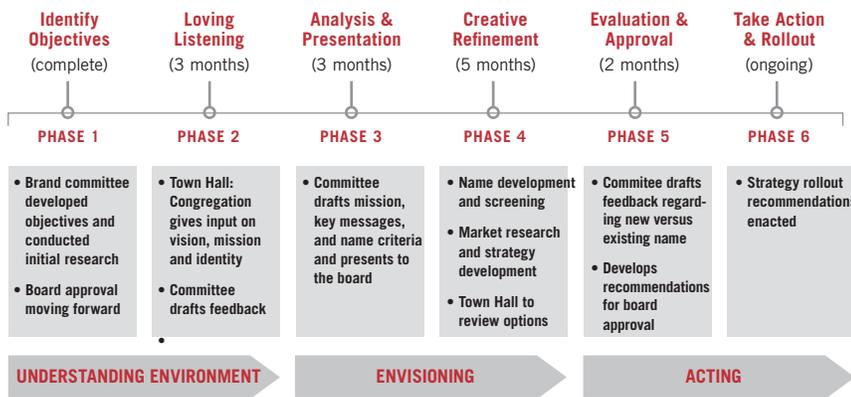


The new finials are being placed atop the tower, returning it to its pre-construction look.

## Sharing Our Memories and Imagining Our Future

More than 100 people attended the Town Hall meeting on Sun., Apr. 27, to kick off a project to study our mission, vision and identity. Potential outcomes include new marketing approaches, a new name, and new signage. The project is expected to take about one year. Watch for more information.

### Country Club Christian Church Mission, Vision and Identity Project



What is the message we want to give the community about who we are and what we're about? How can our message and identity honor our past, reflect our theology and serve our neighbor? Potential outcomes include new marketing approaches, a new name, new signage.

## Thank You from the Nominating Committee

By Mary McClure, Nominating Committee Chair

I continue to be amazed at the talent in our church and your willingness to serve! The nominating committee was thrilled to receive over 120 nominations this spring.

It was challenging to choose from the many talented nominees for relatively few slots. To create a diverse slate of nominations, we considered demographics, skillsets, areas of involvement and leadership. The board will review a slate of terrific leaders at the May 13 board meeting to prepare for a vote at a congregational meeting on June 8.

Elected positions are just one of many ways our members serve our church. Thanks to each of you for the ways you serve our congregation and others in our community.



# Saying Goodbye to Your Inner Pharisee

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



I preach grace. And when I am done preaching on grace I usually preach another sermon on grace!

Preaching grace is easy. Living grace is hard. The alternative to grace, judgment, is just as easy to preach and it is a lot easier to live, too. Most of us have an inner Pharisee, an aspect of our personality that can easily fall into the pattern of judging and looking down our noses at others.

Jesus was always around the sort of people that I tend to judge. Luke's gospel tells us that Jesus was called "a friend of sinners." That's good news for all of us but sometimes it's hard to accept. People in his day (and in our day, too), wondered if it was possible to be a non-judgmental person.

Brian McLaren writes about this, "Jesus debated the Pharisees not so that his super-orthodoxy of the exclusively right could finally prevail over theirs, but so that his generous orthodoxy of God's saving love for all could open wide the doors to God's house, with a special welcome for the poor, the broken-hearted, the prisoners, the sick and yes, even the mistaken."

Jesus wanted his detractors to see how generous God was with God's love. Jesus teaches us to love like that too. He invites us to let go of our inner pharisee so that we can be embraced by the love of God as we open our hearts to the world.

Sometimes we have a hard time doing this because we are not sure that God will really accept us. We hold back on following Jesus closely because we are uncertain that he will really welcome us to join him in his generous love.

Do you remember the old gospel hymn "Just As I Am?" It is one that was sung at the end of revivals for many, many years. The four-word title is accurate, JUST AS I AM. God invites you and me, just as we are, to receive the forgiveness of God and then God sends us out to the world to share that same message of grace.

Saying goodbye to our inner pharisee will help us find the joy of a life lived in the light of God's forgiving and empowering love.

Grace and peace to you,

## Pledge Celebration Sunday Is May 18

The 2014 Stewardship Campaign is underway. Pledge packets not picked up on May 4 have been mailed.

Please fill out the pledge card with your new 2013-2014 pledge and return it to the church by Pledge Celebration Sunday, May 18, or return it to the church office any time before May 18.



## Worship with us!

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

**May 11**  
Joy-Full Giving  
*Philippians 4:10-19*

**May 18**  
Joy-Full Love  
*John 15: 1-11*

**May 25**  
Dr. Glen Miles preaching

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## The Lunch Bunch: Celebrating the Panama Canal

At the next Lunch Bunch, we welcome speaker Lisa Browar, President of the Linda Hall Library, to speak about the anniversary of the Panama Canal's opening. The Canal opened on Aug. 15, 1914, connecting the world's two largest oceans and signaling America's emergence as a global superpower. Learn how the Linda Hall Library is helping people appreciate the project's historical and contemporary significance. Tues., May 20 at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917.



## New Items at The Well

Have you been in The Well lately? Check out new items from the recent Nicaragua mission trip and devotional books. The Well, our book and gift store, is 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.

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## Pathways to Learning: Do you Know Your Urban IQ?



**June 1** – A panel of leaders from our Northeast PartNerShip: Becky Koop, Events Director for the Northeast KC Chamber of Commerce; Abdulkadir Bakar, Director of Refugee Resettlement Program; Della Lamb Community Services; Kathy Stone, VP of Development, Newhouse Shelter.

**June 8** – A panel discussion on homelessness in Kansas City. The data on who is homeless in Kansas City may surprise you. Learn about the annual survey of Kansas City homeless, veterans and homelessness, and how our church members are serving at Sheffield Place in northeast Kansas City. Panel: Vickie Riddle, Executive Director of the Homeless Services Coalition; Art Fillmore, St. Michaels Veterans Center; Kelly Welch, Executive Director of Sheffield Place in northeast Kansas City. 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.

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## NE Partnership Passport Drawing June 1

Have you visited at least one restaurant using the Northeast Partnership Passport? Turn in your Passport for a drawing to be held June 1 at the Pathways class. Two gift baskets will be given away – you don't need to have completely filled in your Passport to be eligible! Turn your signed Passport at the church office anytime in May or at Pathways on June 1.



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## Green Team Presents Class

On Wed., June 19, the Green Team will present **What your Backyard Tree Wants You to Know**. Chuck Conner, Missouri Department of Conservation Urban Forester, 6:30 p.m. Many landscape trees in Kansas City are suffering from the effects of drought and the threat of exotic tree pests. Join Chuck as he discusses ways to properly care for new and mature trees in Kansas City area landscapes. Free and open to the public. No registration required. Door prizes. For further information call 816-665-4456.





# Thank You

By Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



As I reflect back on the past seven years, I am reminded of the litany we share with new members when they join the church.

*“Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus the Christ, we gladly welcome you into this community of faith, enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to your care. In the power of God’s Spirit, let us mutually encourage each other to trust God and strengthen one another to serve others that Christ’s church may, in all things, stand faithful.”*

I am able to make that promise to new members, because I, too, have been the recipient of your love and care. You have enfolded Scott and me with your care, you have encouraged us when we needed it most and your friendship has strengthened us. In short, you have been church. I am humbled and inspired by the example you have been to us.

It’s been such a blessing to share this faith journey with you. Whether we were sleeping on church pews in Nicaragua, serving meals at Micah Ministry, sitting next to one another in worship, climbing to the top of the Acropolis in Athens, studying together, planning wedding details, raising a glass at the annual dinner or simply getting caught up in the Parlor over a cup of coffee, I am better for having shared these experiences with you.

Scott and I look forward to sharing many more rich experiences with you in the years to come. We look forward to attending worship with you. (We hope that you will forgive us if we inadvertently sit in your pew.) We look forward to traveling with you again. We look forward to serving alongside you as together, we work to make God’s kingdom a reality here on earth.

Thank you, for all that you have meant and will continue to mean to us.

With deepest gratitude and affection,

## Special Easter Offering to Help Refugees

Thank you for your generous contributions to this year’s Easter Offering. As of May 8, \$17,529.85 has been collected and will go to Week of Compassion’s work providing relief to people displaced by the Syrian Civil War and Jewish Vocational Services and Cultivate KC in their efforts to help refugees. These two projects will each receive half of this year’s Easter Offering. Easter Offerings are still being received, so if you would still like to participate, please send your check, marked “Easter Offering” to the church office or drop it in the offering tray on Sunday.

## A Few Spaces Available for 2014 Christian Community Camp

The 2014 camp at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO, will be Aug. 2-9. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge and enjoys home-cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. 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.

## May Collection Connection Shoes for Micah Ministry

Guests at Micah Ministry not only receive a hot meal and friendly conversation, but they are invited to the clothing closet. This month our church is collecting new and gently used shoes for them. We need shoes for children, women and men but we especially need men’s and larger size women’s shoes. Athletic shoes are the most requested but any “street” type shoe is welcomed. Women’s dress shoes are not needed. Please place your donations in the bin in the Parlor.

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## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Group

**Sun., May 11 – Service Project for Hartman Elementary School.** Make snack bags for the students' field day on May 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Youth Center.

**Sun., May 18 – Creative Worship.** Balloons, drawing and moving around are all part of this interactive worship experience, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Youth Center.

**Sun., May 18 - 6th Grade Pastors' Class Reunion.** 4:00-5:00 p.m., Baskin Robbins in Brookside at 336 West 63rd St, Kansas City, MO 64113.

**Sun., May 25 – Water Games!** Summer will be here soon so let's cool off with some water games. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Youth Center.

### Family Night at Micah

Youth families are invited on May 12 to serve together at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry.

The next opportunity will be May 12. 14. Meet at Independence Boulevard Christian Church at 5:00 p.m.

### Mission Trips

**Junior High to Houston - June 22-26** Middle School students will travel to Houston, TX to work with Urban Service Projects. They will also visit the Houston Aquarium. Cost is \$400. Scholarships are available based on need.

**Senior High to Chicago - July 13-19** High School students will work with Urban Youth Mission in Chicago, IL. They also will visit Second City. Cost is \$500 with a \$100 deposit. Scholarships are available based on need.

### Service Hours Opportunities

**VBS July 27-31** – Volunteer hours available for youth. Let Allie Cobb ([alliec@cccckc.org](mailto:alliec@cccckc.org)) know if you'd like to help.

## Club Kids to Omaha Zoo



Ten 3rd-5th graders traveled to Omaha, NE, on May 3-4 for an overnight at the Omaha Zoo. They slept in the desert dome, searched for fossils and had a great time. Left to right: Breck McGuire, Grant Bough, Noah Howes, Aislinn Sullivan, Elizabeth Crocker, Liam Petre, Blake Petre, Jack Redding. Front: Caroline Schopp, Abby Lopatofsky. Not pictured: Duncan Bennett.



## Exciting Time for Our Ministries

by Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Youth and Families



It's such an exciting time for Country Club Christian Church's Ministry to Children, Youth, and Families!

After a thorough search process, we've hired Lindsay Howes as our Director of Children's Ministries and Allie Cobb as our Director of Youth Ministries. They've both hit the ground running and are already actively engaged in building relationships with the children and youth.

We are three months into our 18-month renovation timeline that was created as a result of the assessment we conducted in February using Ministry Architects.

We have an outstanding Renovation Team that is leading us through this process of building on our solid foundation. They are responsible for creating the systems and structures that will lead to sustainability and vitality in these ministries. This team is made up of Erin Parkinson, Lesley Holt, John Bartlett, Dana Flora and Courtney Lorenz. They've already met twice this month and I see their individual gifts emerging as this group kicks it into high gear. Did I mention how excited I am!? We are so blessed to have these smart go-getters leading us through this process.

We just recognized the Class of 2014 at our annual Senior Brunch on May 4 and both the students and families were excited to be part of very meaningful celebration.

Our 3rd-5th grade children just returned from their annual trip to the Omaha Zoo. They spent the night in the Desert Dome, dug for fossils, toured the zoo, and strengthened the relationships that will carry them through their lives.

We will be recruiting for Vacation Bible School volunteers in the coming weeks. Our Children's Ministry Team is busy creating and planning a super exciting week for our children. This year, VBS is July 28-31 and is free and open to children 2 years old through 5th grade.

This is church! This is what we are called to do. We are building for the future of our children and youth. This is the modern day equivalent of Jesus' words, "Let the children come to me." When they come to us, and they will, we will be prepared for them!

Please continue to pray for our children, the ministries supporting them, and those of us leading the way.

*Monica*

## Children and Families

### Club Kids (3rd-5th graders)

**Sun., May 11** – No Club Kids. Happy Mother's Day!

**Sat., May 17** – Humane Society Service Project. 3:00 p.m. at 5445 Parallel Pkwy, Kansas City, KS. We will meet there.

**Sun., May 25** – End of the Year Party. We will have a visit by the ice cream truck. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

### Thank You to Hayley Holt

Join us on Sun., May 18, as we say thank you and farewell to Hayley Holt, Interim Youth Director. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Social Hall.

### Children and Youth Ministries Mission and Vision Retreat

**June 6-8**

Ministry Architects will be back on our campus to lead us through a process that will determine our mission and vision.

### VBS – Save the Date!



Vacation Bible School will be July 27-31, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## Elders Meeting on May 13

All elders are encouraged to attend a meeting Tues., May 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Phil Love will be the speaker. The incoming Chair of the Elders will be elected.

## Virginia Reed Food Drive on May 18

On Sun., May 18, please bring your nonperishable food items for our collection for local food pantries that serve the homeless and hungry. Vans will be in the parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the baskets located at the east and north doors. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
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. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Youth and Families	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Joe Walker Interim Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. John D. Clemmer Business Administrator	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth
Ms. Allie Cobb Director of Youth Ministries	

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