



# CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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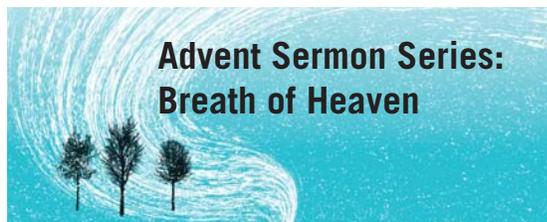
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*We joyfully  
welcome  
and nurture  
all people  
by providing  
a vibrant  
Christ-centered  
community  
of faith,  
dedicated to  
spiritual growth  
through  
worship, study  
and service.*

## Join Us this Advent Season



### Advent Sermon Series: Breath of Heaven

The season of Advent is a time when the church says, “Slow down, take a deep breath and pay attention to the story of God’s presence in the world.” This series will take a sacred look at the

people God chose to help bring the holy child into the world.

**Nov. 29** – A New Dream – Joseph  
*Matthew 1:18-25*

**Dec. 6** – You Have Nothing to Fear – Mary  
*Luke 1:26-38*

**Dec. 13** – Glory to God – Shepherds  
*Luke 2:8-10*

**Dec. 20** – Another Road Home – Magi  
*Matthew 2:1-12*

### A Christmas Festival – for All Ages

**Sun., Dec. 13**

New this year! Where else can you find Santa, stories, and song, cookies, cocoa and caroling, all in one amazing evening? Come for all or part of the festivities. This event is sure to become a new holiday tradition for all ages.

**5:00 p.m.** – The whole church is invited to enjoy chili and cookies with Santa himself.

Have your photo taken by the Sanctuary tree for a complimentary keepsake ornament.

**6:00 p.m.** – Christmas Story and Song, a program featuring seasonal music and readings, begins in the Sanctuary, including performances by the Sticks & Phones Orffestra, Chancel Choir, Jubilee Ringers, Children’s Music and soloists.

**7:00 p.m.** – Bundle up, grab a cup of cider or cocoa, and join us for old-fashioned caroling as we spread cheer in our church neighborhood.

### Brass Christmas Concert

**Mon., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.**

The Kansas City Brass present a traditional concert featuring seasonal favorites at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

### Music of the Season Concert

**10:00 a.m., Dec. 20, Sanctuary.**

Christmas music by Country Club Singers.

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

**Thur., Dec. 24**

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services.

**5:30 p.m.** – Children and families service.

**8:00 and 11:00 p.m.** – Traditional candlelight service featuring the Kansas City Brass. Communion at 11:00 p.m. service only.



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## Getting to Know Our Community Partners

Country Club Christian Church is known for its generosity to the community through gifts of time, talent and resources. A team of members recently completed a study of the organizational health of eight organizations where members of our congregation frequently volunteer.

The study showed that all the organizations averaged scores of over 4 on a 5-point scale. Teams of three church members conducted in-person interviews with each organization and then scored each on financial capacity, leadership, programs, volunteer management and fit with Country Club Christian Church. An online survey of members who volunteer at each organization gave additional insight.

The organizations studied were Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Della Lamb Community Services, Grace United Community Ministries, Hartman Elementary School, Harvesters Community Food Network, Micah Ministry, Newhouse and Sheffield Place.

The scores gave insight, but the real benefit of the study was a strengthened relationship with each organization. The team that conducted the research is made up of members representing Metro Mission, Grants and Special Gifts (formerly Outreach), Mission Trips and Endowment. The study will help the newly formed Outreach and Missions Coordinating Team increase the impact of our time, talent and resources in transforming lives.

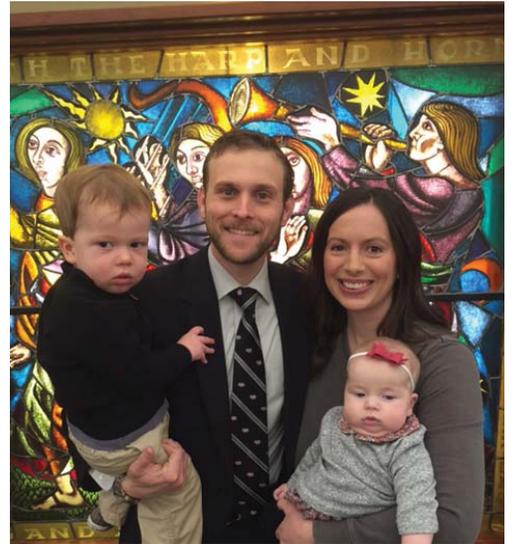
Study team members included Carla Aday, Katie Allison, Barbara George, James Guthrey, Lance Jessee, Nancy Lear, Mary McClure, Ed Pasley, Tom Thornton, Joe Walker, and Betsy Wilson.

## Lunch and Learn: KU Alzheimer's Disease Center

The University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center will present a special Alzheimer's Disease Prevention and Clinical Trial Seminar on Tues., Dec. 1 in the Social Hall. The seminar is free and everyone is welcome. Lunch is available for \$10 with advance reservation. Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m., the seminar is noon-1:00 p.m. Omar Ramirez and Carroll Oliver will present information on KU's Alzheimer's Disease prevention and clinical trials. Participants will learn about the current study opportunities available at KU. You will discover how you can potentially help to translate research advances into improved diagnoses and care for patients during the search for a cure and possibly prevent Alzheimer's. Plan to attend and bring a friend who needs to learn about this disease and research.

For lunch reservations call Mary Margaret, 816-333-4917, or sign up on Sunday morning in the Parlor. For more information about the program or Alzheimer's Disease care and support, call or email Joe at [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).

## Infant Dedications



Nora Lee Wymore was dedicated on Nov. 8. Parents are Rachel and Travis Wymore with son, Ben.



Noah Thomas Heatherman was dedicated on Nov. 8. Parents are Mark and Kelly Heatherman.



## Will Love Win?

Dr. R. Glen Miles



Our visit to the Holy Land two weeks ago included a stop at the Wailing Wall. On our way to this sacred place of prayer, we traveled past heavily armed Israeli soldiers. Just outside there was a concrete wall topped with barbed wire. I wasn't sure who was being kept out (or kept in) but it was symbolic of the ongoing conflict in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. Our guide assured us that we were very safe, and in fact there was never a moment when I felt anything but safe, but it was unusual to visit such holy sites while being watched by the military.

At the Wailing Wall I prayed for peace. More specifically, I prayed for our church, asking God to help our congregation be a voice for hope in the world. I left Israel determined to find ways that we could work for shalom, God's Peace.

The attacks in Paris caused me to wonder though, "Will love ever win? Does peace have a chance?" The horrific murders seemed to mock my measly attempts for shalom. How practical is it to follow in Jesus' way when evil is armed with automatic weapons?

As these questions floated around in my mind I went back to our time in Israel. I remembered that later that week we walked the Via Dolorosa, the traditional path that Jesus followed carrying his cross to the crucifixion. Again, there were soldiers at several stops. It seemed weird until I remembered that Jerusalem in the time of Christ was overwhelmed with the soldiers of an occupying country. There was violence everywhere. Crucifixions were normal.

And yet...Jesus continued to preach for peace. He wept over Jerusalem because he was afraid that they would never know how to find peace. I'm pretty sure God wept last weekend, not just for Paris but for Beirut and Baghdad and countless other nameless and forgotten places where violence continues to raise its ugly head.

So instead of letting terror and fear rule my heart, I still want to follow Jesus. I know it doesn't make sense to some to do so. There is a very real part of my soul that is genuinely afraid. Amy Butler, the minister at the Riverside Church in New York City, reminds us that "we are people of faith, and as such we take in instead the conviction that God's kingdom is coming to be; the commitment to welcome the stranger; and the assurance that love will always have the final word." In the face of all that is happening around us let us together choose to believe in the one we name Lord and let his ways be our ways.

Grace and peace to you,

## New Member Sunday

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is Dec. 13. Contact Meredith Holladay at meredithh@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917 for more information.

## College Age Young Adult Pizza Day

On Sun., Dec. 6, all Country Club Christian Church college age young adults are invited to join us for worship at the 11:00 a.m. service. Immediately following the service we will gather in the Social Hall for pizza, salad, dessert and a chance to make some new friends! For more info and to make reservations, please email Glen Miles at glenm@cccckc.org.

## Worship with us!

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

**Nov. 22**

Not from This World

*John 18: 33-38*

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**Advent Sermon Series:**

**Breath of Heaven**

**Nov. 29**

Part 1: A New Dream – Joseph

*Matthew 1:18-25*

**Dec. 6**

Part 2: You Have Nothing to Fear

– Mary

*Luke 1:26-38*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Nicaragua Team Visit

Longtime friends and colleagues Rev. Doug Orbaker and Emily Hewes will be with us on Sun., Nov. 22 to talk about our Nicaragua partnership and missions. The Koinonia Class invites everyone to hear Doug and Emily in the Youth Center from 10:00-10:50 a.m. All high school students are invited to a special conversation with Doug and Emily in the Youth Center at noon. Doug, an ordained Presbyterian minister, has been leading trips to Central America since 1998 and served with our Nicaragua partner, CEPAD for many years. His experience has been a great resource for us on our Nicaragua trips. Emily is the Development Director for CEPAD USA, a non-profit organization in the U.S. that supports the work of CEPAD in Nicaragua. Doug and Emily will be talking about our upcoming adult and student mission trips and exciting capital improvements CEPAD is spearheading in Nicaragua. For information on our adult or student missions to Nicaragua, please contact Rev. Joe Walker at [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).



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## Socks for Micah Ministry Christmas

Make Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of tube socks from the church at a cost of \$9/12 pack or .75 per pair, then purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917. Socks will also be available at the Virginia Reed Food Drive table Nov. 15. Each sock should be filled with the second sock in the pair and items that can be used by either men or women such as small sized toiletries including shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, and washcloth. Please, no candy or food items. Tie the socks closed with ribbon. Filled socks should be delivered to church no later than Sun., Dec. 20.



## Tri C's Sunday School Class to Celebrate 70th Anniversary

Country Club Christian Church will recognize its longest tenured Sunday School Class, the Tri C's, in worship on Sun., Dec. 6 as the class observes its 70th anniversary. In addition, the class will celebrate at a gathering on Wed., Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the social hall. Everyone is welcome.

The first meeting of the Country Club Couples class, the Tri C's, was on Sun., Dec. 9, 1945. The class was chartered with 11 couples but began growing quickly after a successful membership drive in 1947.



Picnic in Swope Park, 1955

In 1948 the class began its Welfare Fund as an effort to help others. Early recipients were Children's Mercy Hospital and the Mattie Rhodes Center. From the beginning, the class felt socials should be an important part of its activities, holding monthly potluck suppers in members' homes, and later at the church, and enjoying volleyball games, and participation by some men in church bowling leagues.

By its 10th anniversary the Tri C's had grown to a membership of 120, and members were actively participating in the larger church. "After growth for many years we have been losing members over recent times. Our last charter member, Peggy Slentz-Jones, passed away earlier this year," said Ruth Rader. "But we are still going, still participating in the larger church, and continuing the Welfare Fund started so many years ago with our primary recipients being City Union Mission, Salvation Army and Harvesters Community Food Network."

Please join us in worship on Dec. 6 to honor the Tri C's Class. If you wish to attend the celebration on Dec. 9, please RSVP to Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) by Fri., Dec. 4. The cost is \$10.



## Musical Opportunities

By Michael Patch, Director of Student and Children's Music



There is so much to talk about! Christmas activities are almost upon us, and I cannot believe that it is already time to announce the spring musical!

BUT FIRST! Country Club Christian Church is having a big Christmas Festival on Sun., Dec. 13. Kindergarten and pre-K will sing two short songs, *Immanuel* and *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. They are learning their songs during Sunday school. First grade and up will also sing two songs, *Praise The Infant King* and *Come Let Us Worship The King*. I can't wait to see

you all there! They are learning their songs after Sunday school, 11:00-11:30 a.m.

This year the spring musical will more fully incorporate children in the preschool-1st grade classes.

Our musical, *The Big Fish: Jonah's Whale of A Tale*, is an undersea "film noir" detective investigation of Jonah's mysterious disappearance into the belly of the whale. ...think trench coats, dark sunglasses, dark and stormy nights, and a hint of SpongeBob.

This musical is sure to have everyone swimming with joy!

Auditions for singing and speaking part will take place in January. Stay tuned for more information about auditions, activities, and family participation

*Michael*

## Columbarium, Advance Planning

Brightly colored leaves enflame our trees, then gently drift to our lawns. The days grow cooler and shorter. The earth invites to be mindful of our own seasons. If you would like information on a niche in our columbarium or other advance planning materials, please call Rev. Joe Walker, 816-333-4917.

## Save the Date! 2016 Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction, Fri., Mar. 4, 2016 at Boulevard Brewery.

**Auction** – It's really not too soon! The committee will be looking for Live Auction items, Super Silent items and items by category, such as sports, electronics, jewelry, restaurants, gift packages, for the event. Creative ideas for donated items by individuals, groups working together or by Sunday School class are welcome!

## Sign Up for 2016 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2016 camp will be July 30-Aug. 6. 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. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,700 for a private room (\$1,600 **if paid in full by Dec. 1**); \$375 for the women's bunk room (\$325 if paid in full by Dec. 1). Food and activity fee of \$85 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Lewis at [monical@cccckc.org](mailto:monical@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

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## Endowment Trustees Propose Amendments

Over the past few months, the Endowment Trustees have been studying a variety of policies and procedures to help ensure that endowment funds are handled in accordance with best practices. Their aim is to honor the wishes of donors, to preserve the value of the endowment over time, and to support the programs and ministries of the church. As a result of their recent study, the Trustees have proposed three amendments to the Declaration of Trust, which governs how the endowment is managed. A vote on the amendments is scheduled for the Dec. 8 meeting of the Congregational Board. Following is a summary of key provisions. The full wording is available on the church's website.

1. The first proposed amendment describes the process of determining the amount of funds available for distribution. It provides that up to 5 percent of the three-year average value of assets in the General Account may be made available. In determining this percentage, the Trustees will consider a number of factors listed in the amendment.
2. The second proposed amendment clarifies and affirms current practice. The Board of Trustees, having determined the total amount of endowment funds available for distribution, may delegate the actual distribution decisions for those funds to specific Councils and ministry teams through the annual budgeting process of the Church. Any available funds not distributed will remain in the General Account.
3. The third proposed amendment provides for annual audit of the Endowment Fund, which may be included in the audit of the financial statements of the Church in the same fiscal year.

Special thanks to Chairperson Tom Van Dyke and the entire Board of Trustees for their very fine work and faithful service.

## Student Poinsettia Sale

Purchase a poinsettia from Country Club Christian Church youth Sun., Nov. 22 and 29 in the parlor. Full payment must be received with all orders. Plants will be available for pick up from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 6, at the church. The poinsettias cost \$15 for a 6.5-inch plant, \$20 for an 8-inch plant, and \$25 for a 10-inch plant. Proceeds benefit student mission trip scholarship fund.

## Student Ministries News

### Middle School Christmas Party

Sat., Dec. 5, 12:00-3:00 p.m. Ice Skating Christmas Party. This is a FREE event for all students. Lunch will be provided.

### High School Christmas Party

Sun., Dec. 6, 12:00-3:00 p.m. This is a FREE event for students. Lunch will be provided.

### Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Youth Center

12:00-12:45 p.m.: High School Sunday School, Youth Center

## reStart the MusiKC Concert Raised \$1,500 for Homeless Teens



More than 100 high school students enjoyed the reStart the MusiKC concert hosted here on Nov. 16 by our Student Ministry Team and the SHARE organization at Shawnee Mission East High School. The evening featured eight local high school student musical acts. The concert raised over \$1,500 to benefit reStart, the city's only emergency shelter for homeless youth. A BIG thanks to our Student Ministry Team for hosting this successful event and to Shelle Jensen for leading the students as they planned and produced the concert.



## Grateful for You

by Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



It's that season when we tell ourselves we "should" be grateful. We "oughta" say thank you more. But how do we evoke genuine gratitude in the midst of what for most of us is a rather messy life? Will it take more than turkey and dressing to awaken us to the bounty of our lives? The American writer and naturalist Joseph Wood Krutch once said, "The rare moment is not the moment when there is something worth looking at but the moment when we are capable of seeing."

What helps us see? A victim of the attacks in Paris described how she lay on the ground in the theatre thinking of everyone she had shared her life with and how much she loved them. But who among us would undergo tragedy just to evoke more gratitude? Certainly at that first Thanksgiving there were those who were just happy to have survived in this new land. Are there other ways to see what gifts are ours to savor and treasure?

A friend of mine taught me this exercise of making a list of 100 things you are grateful for in your life. It is surprising how quickly the list comes, when you begin to think of it. Recently I made a list of 100 things I am grateful for about our church. Sally, our newsletter editor, refused to let me print the whole list since it would have taken up a whole page (included on my list: the royal blue lights illuminating the church during the playoffs and World Series; the smell of 30 pounds of taco meat simmering to serve the homeless; the high school student band event with 100 attendees that raised money to support homeless teens at Restart; the deep and profound generosity of church members; my colleagues; the way Paul Tucker plays the piano; kids running down the aisle for the children's moment).

What would be on your list? What are you grateful for in our church? In your family? In this country? In your career? The late Thomas Merton, a spiritual giant of the 20th century who modeled both quiet solitude and active commitments to justice, wrote:

*To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything (God) has given us – and (God) has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of (God's) love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from God.*

*Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.*

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Advent in Advance

**Sun., Nov. 22, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Make plans to attend this free Advent workshop for children birth through 5th grade in the Social Hall. Enjoy a light lunch and make-n-take session to prepare your family and home for the Advent season. You can make a wood block nativity set (start or add to yours), family keepsakes, and other fun activities to help us celebrate Advent.

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

**Dec. 6** – Christmas Party. Join us at the home of Elizabeth Pfalzgraf for mission, fun, and food. Watch for details.

### MOPs Group

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) will meet the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The next meeting is Dec. 9. We are also looking for mothers of older children to serve as Mentor Moms. If you are interested in participating, have questions about MOPs, or are interested in serving as a Mentor Mom, contact our MOPS leader at [mops@cccckc.org](mailto:mops@cccckc.org). For more information on MOPs, check out [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).

### Deep Blue

Deep Blue is inspired by the verse, "In the depths of who I am, I rejoice in God my Savior". (Luke 1:47 CEB). The children will discover what it means to be a disciple of Christ today through science experiments, art and crafts, animated videos and active games; making the Bible stories, characters and verses part of their lives.

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# Our Church Family

## Memorials

Memorial gifts are placed into the Church's Endowment Funds, which are used to support the church now and into the future. The Endowment Trustees disperse the funds according to the Declaration of Trust approved by the official Congregational Board.

### Carl & Bunny Corbin

Greg Corbin

### Betty Farmer

Greg & Nancy Lear

### Byron McDaniel

Bob King

### Marsha Wyatt

Fred Merrill

Tom & Melinda Beal

Greg & Nancy Lear

Thomas & Martha Lieser

David Rismiller

### Fred Merrill, for the Music Department

Dennis & Debra Anderson

Timothy & Sarah Aschbrenner

Donald & Beverly Cox

Earl & Donna Dague

Patrick & Jodi McGannon

Mabel Rice

The White Goss Corporation

## PROGRAM STAFF

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Senior Minister

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans  
Co-interim Director of Music

Rev. Carla Aday  
Executive Minister

Ms. Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Meredith Holladay  
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Ms. Sally Huggins  
Assistant Director of Communciations

Rev. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Students and Families

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Rev. Joe Walker  
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Mr. Michael Patch  
Director of Children's and Youth  
Choirs

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Director of Technology and  
Administrative Services

Dr. Paul Tucker  
Co-interim Director of Music

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## Take Time to Say Thanks

Have you ever thought of sending a thank you card to one of the ministers, staff or congregation to let them know how much you appreciate all that they do, or that you just benefit from knowing and talking with them? If you would like to do that, there are cards and "mail boxes" on the information desk in the parlor or in the entry hall at the chapel to make it easier. Just indicate on the outside of the note who it is to, write your note and post it in the mail box. At the end of November the notes will be delivered.

There is a list of ministers and other staff posted at the mail box.

*This project is sponsored by Reunion Group members Marilyn Carrell, Suzanne Gordon, Cindy Irej, Pat Jessee, Marjorie Jump, Micki Preloger, and Shelly Trewolla.*