



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

October 8, 2017 | Vol. 91 No. 20

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister God Finds Us



Rev. Carla

I am beginning now to see how radically the character of my spiritual journey will change when I no longer think of

God as hiding out and making it as difficult as possible for me to find God, but instead, as the one who is looking for me while I am doing the hiding.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

My friend started coming to church and sitting on the back row. It was a rough patch in his life. He liked the music, the silence, the encouraging words from the preacher. But he never spoke to anyone, slipping out before the final hymn.

One day his brother called from 1000 miles away to check on him.

“I am fine,” he assured his brother.

“Where do you sit when you go to that church?”

“I sit on the back row.”

“Well next week sit on the front row and then call me after church.”

The next week he called his brother to say that after church, some really kind folks came and talked to him, invited him to their group and were so friendly. Those people became some of his dearest friends. It has been over 30 years since he sat on the front row and they still sit together in church, gathering for lunch or dinner about once a month.

continued on page 2

Miroslav Volf to Preach on October 8

Renowned theologian Miroslav Volf will preach at Country Club Christian Church on Sun., Oct. 8. Volf is the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School and Founding Director of Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Volf is a leading expert on the public role of religion. The most recent of his many books are titled *Flourishing: Why We Need Religion in a Globalized World* and *Public Faith in Action*. His *Exclusion & Embrace* won the 2002 Grawemeyer Award in Religion and was deemed one of 100 most influential religious books of the 20th century by Christianity Today. His sermon title is ‘The Touch: Sinful and Redeemed’ based on Luke 7:36-50.



Miroslav Volf

What is Neighborhood Communion?

Community Fellowship Small Groups

Wondering what our new Neighborhood Communion gatherings are all about? Here’s a handy Q&A that explains it.

Q: What is Neighborhood Communion exactly?

A: Neighborhood Communion is a small group fellowship concept designed around the idea of communion and community—gathering with others in a casual setting to share fellowship and a small bite to eat.

Q: What’s the purpose?

A: Neighborhood Communion gatherings are an opportunity for people to connect and relate in authentic ways. When we feel connected, we’re more likely to feel fulfilled on our faith journeys, and more likely to engage in new and different ways. This helps us remember some things are too important to do alone.

Continued on page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE



Congregational Carepage 2

An Expedition on Ward Parkway by Dr. Mike Gravespage 3

Rev. Carla Aday’s Installation in photos.page 7

From the Senior Minister

continued from page 1

It is tempting to see God as elusive or aloof and to spend our time striving to find God's peace or earn God's affection. What a relief it is to realize that we are the ones hiding from God. I can see how I hide on a daily basis. I suspect you also know the ways you seek to elude God. What might happen to the character of our spiritual journeys, once we remember that God longs to receive us, stands waiting for us with open arms, even runs with joy when we begin to approach the driveway leading to grace? ☞

With grace and peace,

Carla

Celebration for Rev. Monica Lewis

On Sun., Oct. 8, we will hold a celebration of Rev. Monica Lewis' ministry and farewell reception in the Parlor after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please plan to come that day as we wish Monica well.



Congregational Care – What Is It?

The Congregational Care Ministry Team is an umbrella organization encompassing many diverse programs, all with the goal of addressing the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of older adults, the sick and physically challenged, and persons experiencing stress or loss in their lives. You are probably familiar with many of these programs, such as hospital calling, visiting communion, Stephen Ministry, the Prayer Ministry, the Funeral Ministry, and the Columbarium Committee.

Marilyn Dreas and Greg Lear have volunteered to lead the Congregational Care Ministry Team this year. In addition to strengthening existing programs, they plan to develop several new ministries: a calling ministry to keep in touch with members; a transportation ministry to explore ways to help members be physically present at worship and other church activities; and a committee to develop programs focusing on intergenerational relationships with special emphasis on social engagement of the sick and isolated. They also plan to pursue, in coordination with other ministry teams, live streaming of our church service to nursing homes. If you have any suggestions on these or other activities to improve our Congregational Care ministries, please let Marilyn or Greg know. ☞



Prayer Ministry on the Road is one example of Congregational Care's ministry.

Neighborhood Communion, continued from page 1.

Q: What's the format for the gatherings? When are they?

A: A group leader will set the time and location for the first gathering and help guide discussion, but after that the rest is up to your group. Your group might decide to rotate the host home, you might take turns bringing a small snack to contribute to the "communion" meal. Each group will meet three times between Oct. 18 and Thanksgiving, for approximately one hour.

Q: How do we do the communion part? Will there be prayers, bread wafers and grape juice?

A: As Dr. Mike Graves has taught us, historically speaking communion wasn't a quiet, serious, somber ceremony. It was all about intimacy, inclusion, and joy. Communion is about caring for each other, sharing life as well as bread and wine.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: Email Barbara George at barbarag@cccckc.org or sign up in the Parlor on Sunday.



reflections

An Expedition on the Parkway

By Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residences



The Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Dillard has an essay on worship that should have won an award somewhere along the way. In my mind it's so important that I have my students read it in the Intro to Worship course every spring. The essay is titled "An Expedition to the Pole," and is in her book *Teaching a Stone to Talk*. I should tell you up front that it is a parable, one thing compared to another much the way Jesus compared the kingdom of God to pearl merchants and women baking bread.

Only in this case it's the odd juxtaposition (aren't they all?) of worship services and famous polar expeditions of the 19th and early 20th centuries. In both cases, things go wrong, horribly wrong. She describes, for instance, a Sunday service when no one could find the opening hymn, not even the organist. How instead of a sermon proclaiming gospel, there were mostly announcements, including one about how the acolyte would be lighting the two Advent candles momentarily, only the candles were already lit. Dillard notes that high school stage plays are more polished than our church services. She adds, we are like dancing bears in the circus, clumsy and sure to fall down.

When detailing polar expeditions, she lists for example the famous Franklin expedition of 1845, which instead of bringing along additional coal should they run out of fuel, "made room for a 1,200-volume library, 'a hand-organ, playing fifty tunes,' china place settings for officers and men, cut-glass wine goblets, and sterling silver flatware." Seriously? Books and silverware for an arctic exploration? Of course as readers we are supposed to imagine how churches do something similar when it comes to traditions in worship. In the most quoted part of her essay, she writes, "The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets."

Because the essay is a parable, there are lots of insights to be gleaned. For me, two things stand out. First, I recognize the craziness of this journey called worship, daring to sail toward the mystery of God; and second, still we set off each week because God has planted a longing in our hearts. Will things go wrong? You can pretty much count on it, that and the fact that God will show up as well. Hope to see you Sunday, and be sure to bring your helmet, silverware optional." 🍷



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

October 8

The Touch:
Sinful and Redeemed
Luke 7:36-50
Dr. Miroslav Volf Preaching

October 15

Spiritual Revolution, part 1
Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Volunteers Sought to Work in The Well

Volunteers are needed to help staff The Well gift and book shop on Sunday mornings. There are two shifts each Sunday, 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Volunteers are asked to commit to one Sunday each month. Training on the iPad based Square point of sale system will be provided; some computer experience helpful. Contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org for more information.

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

New Class with Dr. Mike Graves Starts in October “Don’t Know Much About the Bible”

It's not too late to jump into Dr. Mike Graves' newest class which is exploring the library of documents we call the Bible. Mike is leading an overview of both testaments and a discussion of approaches to reading more closely and fully. Appropriate for both seasoned bible students and those who have never taken a class. Tuesdays through Oct. 24, 7:00 p.m. In

Faithbook

Women exploring scripture and forming friendships. Come and go as your schedule permits on either Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. Led by Carla Aday. Fall session begins Sept. 19/20 and concludes Nov. 14/15.

CONNECTIONS

For mid-20s-mid-40s. Come, meet and talk with others who are living similar life experiences in order to get to know others better. This gathering will listen to a brief podcast, video, or lecture followed by small-group guided discussion. Fall series: Oct. 8, 15, and 22 at 10:00 a.m. in rooms 302 and 304.

Pathways to Learning

A series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. Ideal for those who aren't involved in a Sunday School class; entire Sunday School classes also encouraged to participate as a group. The next series is **How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor with Dr. Mike Graves**, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12, 10:00 a.m. Social Hall. Thomas Foster's book, *How to Read Literature like a Professor*, invites readers to glimpse how English professors discover insights that students often miss. Adapting his title, this class will consider the techniques taught in seminaries for how to interpret the Bible, including older as well as newer methodologies. In addition to looking at these methods, we'll consider biblical texts used in Sunday sermons this past year.

TED Talks

Listen to a relevant TED Talk as a group and engage in group discussion. Facilitated by Craig Doty. Third Sunday of the month, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. at 10:00 a.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205).



FaithPub

Led by Mike Graves. Group for men of all ages. Meets Thur., Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m. at The Well (7421 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO), where participants can enjoy a beverage, appetizer or light meal, and connect with other men looking for sacred conversations around stuff that matters. David May, Professor of New Testament at Central Seminary.

Upcoming Music Series

KC Guitar Society Casual Concert Series in the Chapel on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. – free and open to the public. Oct. 8, Cucharada (Tango): Sean Mawhirter, guitar; Tina Bilberry, violin; Johnny Hamil, bass. Nov. 12, Chris Hudson, guitar. **Allegro Choirs of Kansas City** in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 22. Tickets are \$16, \$21, and \$26 and are available through http://allegro.getmytix.net/events/442_2017-Fall-Concert



The Anniversary Sunday School Class and Connections small group shared an afternoon at Tall Oaks Conference Center on Sat., Sept. 30.



a message from staff

New Heart, Vision, Design

By Lara Schopp, Communications Director



The first newsletter I ever edited was during my senior year of college. A final project for my desktop publishing class, I designed, wrote and edited a newsletter for my sorority. I was super proud of that newsletter, despite the typos and design flaws I later discovered. There was something particularly satisfying

about watching a blank computer screen blossom with vibrant photos of my friends and quippy captions about our adventures.

Though my professional career later took me down the writer/editor path rather than the graphic artist one, I have always loved the process that starts with a blank screen and ends with a polished communications piece. There are literally hundreds of little decisions that go into each design--concrete ones like colors, shapes and fonts, and more abstract ones like feel, tone and personality.

You've probably noticed by now that we've recently redesigned this newsletter you're reading. The path from our old design to this fresh one started with that very same blank screen I stared at all those years ago in college (albeit on a newer model computer and with more advanced software). It was an intentional process to launch a look that complements the new era for our church with Carla Aday as our senior minister.

Our previous design was almost 15 years old, and a lot has changed in communications. Most of you are probably reading this on a smart phone, tablet or computer screen rather than a hard copy. We wanted a new design to be more compatible with newer technology.

We also wanted it to help illustrate the new heart and new spirit for our church. I know I'm biased but I think we succeeded. Many thanks to Lori Bennett and Tepring Crocker whose leadership gave us a plan and a direction, and also to a focus group including Linda Kekina, Becky Hopkins, Tom Thornton, and Steve Rogers, who gave us input.

And extra special thanks to Lori, who took all our ideas and that blank screen and created this lovely new look. I hope you enjoy reading. ☺

Our Church Family

Memorials and Tributes

Memorial gifts and gifts honoring loved ones 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.

Joyce Minor, for Micah Ministry

Greg and Nancy Lear

Midge White, for Congregational Care

Jay and Lillian Edwards

Cindy and Randy Irey

Jessie Martin

Martha Rolofson

Charlotte Zachman, for W. Ralph Jones Youth Center and The Charlotte O. Jones Playground

Virginia Lucas



Nancy Lear stands with 120 bins of sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks and underwear that were counted, sorted and inventoried by Country Club Christian Church volunteers. Each Della Lamb client age 12 and under receives a complete outfit at Christmas through Operation Santa.

Student Ministries

Need Service Hours?

Join us in serving at Micah Ministries the second Monday of each month. Meet at the church in the Chapel parking lot at 4:30 p.m. Pick up back at church at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Serve at Micah Ministry – Mon., Oct. 9

High School trip to Worlds of Fun/Lock In –

Sat., Oct. 21, 3 p.m.

Middle School Lock In – Sat., Oct. 21, 6 p.m.

Youth Choir

Meets Sundays from noon to 12:45 p.m. in Rm. 213. Come sing with us!

Volunteers Needed

Adult volunteers are needed to help with Middle and High School Sunday School and youth group. If you would like to teach Sunday School or help chaperone Thursday or Friday night youth group gatherings, please contact April Booth at aprilb@cccckc.org.



Youth Elder & Deacon training last Sunday. Mike talked about worship. Deb Plucknett, elder chair, trained them on the logistics of serving communion and offering.

Sunday School for 6th-12th Graders meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 205 and 202.

High School Youth Group meets every Thursday from 5:30-7 pm. at Waldo Pizza. Dinner provided!

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday from 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Center. Dinner provided!

Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?

Contact Lori Bennett, Chair of the Student Ministries Team, at lorib77@me.com.

Children and Families



Family Worship Night where we learned about the presence of God and spiritual practices.

Pictured are: Wyatt Cobb (dad) Walker and Caroline Cobb (kids)

Trunk or Treat

Sun., Oct. 29, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Dress your little ghoul or goblin in his or her Halloween costume to trick or treat between decorated cars. Food, pumpkin decorating, games and more!

Family Worship Night

Dec. 3, Feb. 4, May 6 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

A worship experience for the entire family. Free dinner provided. Pray with your family. Worship with your family. Sing with your family. Be active with your family. Serve the world with your family.

Community Camp Early Bird Deadline.

Join families and individuals from our congregation June 9-16, 2018, 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 stays in a lodge with mountain views and enjoys the home cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. Registration is now open. \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Total cost is \$1,750, or \$1,650 if paid in full by Nov. 1

Collection Connection



This month we are holding two separate collections. One is items for Trunk or Treat, including nut free candy, stickers, small toys, etc. The second collection is for baby yarn for the knitting group to create items for infants. Please leave your donations in the Parlor.



Rev. Carla Aday's Installation



Rev. Carla Aday was installed as Country Club Christian Church's 8th Senior Minister on Sun., Sept. 24. Pictures at left, former Senior Ministers Dr. Gene Brice and Dr. Bob Cueni and Dr. Albert Pennybacker with Carla. At right, a large crowd gathered to celebrate.



Milburn Hobson, Lucy Lehoczky and Ava Grace Ehman carried in the elements.



Dr. Brice and Dr. Cueni presented Carla with a robe and stole.



The Children's Choir provided special music.



A reception followed on the front lawn.

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



6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

Program Staff

Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Minister

Dr. Mike Graves
Scholar in Residence

Rev. Monica Lewis
Minister to Children,
Students and Families

Rev. Joe Walker
Minister of Congregational Care

Jason Ashley
Director of Building and Grounds

Rachel Clement
Director of Finance

Paul Cutelli
Director of Technology

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans
Executive Director of Operations/
Co-Director of Music

Barbara George
Director of Membership
Development

Sara and Alex Goering
Associate Directors of Music
for Children and Students

Anne Haraughty
Ministries Coordinator

Lindsay Howes
Director of Children's Ministries

Lisa McCleish
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Elizabeth Pfalzgraf
Assistant Director of Children
and Student Ministries

Rev. Chuck Pickrel
Director of Student Ministries

Lara Schopp
Director of Communications

Dr. Paul Tucker
Co-Director of Music

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday
ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

816-333-4917

email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org

SAVE THE DATES



Trunk or Treat

Sun., Oct. 29, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Food, pumpkin decorating, games and more!
Dress your little ghouel or goblin in his or her
Halloween costume to trick or treat between
decorated cars.

*Individuals or groups interested in decorating
a car should contact Lindsay Howes for more
information at lindsayh@cccckc.org.*

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thurs., Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker Harold Ivan Smith

Author of Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography

Advent in Advance

Sun., Nov. 19, 11:00 a.m.

Free Advent workshop for children birth through
5th grade. Includes light lunch and make-n-take
session to prepare your family and home for the
Advent season.

Christmas Festival

Sun., Dec. 10., 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Watch for more information.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

