



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December 29, 2017 | Vol. 91 No. 26

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister In the Spaces Between Us



Rev. Carla Aday

I am excited about 2018. My baby, God willing, will graduate from college. Our clergy positions at the church will finally be all

filled. The church board is moving forward with a solid vision for reaching out to our community. What are you hoping for in 2018?

Marsh Sinetar writes:

To find in ourselves what makes life worth living is risky business, for it means that once we know we must seek it. It also means that without it life will be valueless. More than just a few find their most valued selves despite the risk, although the majority seem to be. . . . people who don't wish to make any trouble—not even the kind that's expected. The majority shrewdly stay dull to what in them is life and has meaning. A few brave souls, however, do look within and are so moved by what they find that they sacrifice, from then on, whatever is necessary to bring that self into being.

—Ordinary People as Monks and Mystics

In chatting with some of our members who are in their early 20s, I have discovered that even they long for the courage to go against the grain and build a more authentic life. We are tempted to just go with the flow and do what everyone else is doing. But

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Wishing You a Peaceful New Year

The staff of Country Club Christian Church wishes you all the warmth and love that is the Christmas season!

First row, L-R: Ralph Sanchez, Leslie Tenjack, Lisa McCleish, Elizabeth Pfalzgraf, Carla Aday, Jason Ashley. Second row, L-R:

Lara Schopp, Jeff Sidney, Paul Tucker, Lindsay Howes, April Booth, Rachel Wymore, Mike Graves, Barbara George, Rachel Clement, Carla Rauth. Not pictured: Joe Walker, Dina Pannabecker-Evans, Paul Cutelli, Chuck Pickrel, Anne Haraughty



New Year, New Classes

Bible Basic for Busy Parents

This class will familiarize parents with the Bible in a way that will help them more confidently have those post-Sunday school conversations with their children. For parents of children ages birth to 5th grade. Childcare available; those in the Children's choir may go to childcare after choir. Led by Jennifer Austenfeld and Lesley Holt. Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25. Offered twice: 10:00-10:45 a.m., repeats at 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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. Begins Jan. 16/17. No class weeks of Mar. 20 (spring break) and 27 (Holy Week). Concludes week of Apr. 3 with spring parties.

Session 1—Fierce: Women of the Bible. This four-part series will look at women of the Bible and their stories of violence, mercy, bravery, wisdom, sex, and salvation. Based on a new book by Alice Connor. Teachers: Carla Aday and Catherine Stark-Corn

See more upcoming classes on page 4.

faith
book

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From the Senior Minister

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that leaves us feeling hollow inside, or not even feeling as if we have an inside.

As I re-read the gospel stories about the birth of Jesus this year, I realized that the good news was announced to groups of people: the shepherds, the magi. This reminded me of the power of community in shaping faith. God's light dawns upon us when we gather in worship, or small groups, or on service teams, or even when friends speak honestly to each other about ultimate concerns. God comes not just to us, but in the spaces between us. Together we find courage to look within and become who God calls us to be.

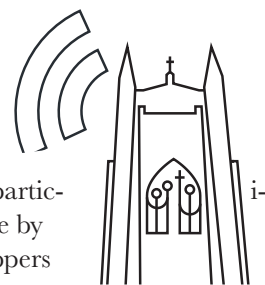
I challenge you to take a risk in 2018. Be brave. Standing together. I have a hunch, we could be amazed at the holy energy arising in our midst. ☞

With grace and peace,

Carla

Live Streaming

We will live stream the 11:00 a.m. worship service each Sunday. Watch online if you're not able to come to worship or if you're out of town by simply visiting our web site at www.cccckc.org. When you are in worship, you can participate in our efforts to create a high quality viewing experience by sitting toward the front. Seeing the front rows full of worshippers will help viewers virtually connect with our community. ☞



New Staff Reception

Join us on Sun., Jan. 7 as we welcome two new members to the Country Club Christian Church staff. Rev. Corey Meyer will be the church's new Director of Mission Partnerships and Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn will serve in the role of Interim Minister to Children, Youth and Families. Help us welcome them during worship at all three services that day, and then stay for a reception at noon where you will have a chance to greet them both. ☞

Tax Cut and Jobs Act Implications

The recently passed Tax Cut and Jobs Act has provisions which will cause many taxpayers to lose the benefit of itemized deductions, including charitable deductions. While the bill keeps the charitable deduction, it will not be beneficial for most taxpayers to itemize deductions as the result of a larger standard deduction of \$12,000 for single individuals and \$24,000 for married couples. While it is normally advantageous to make charitable contributions in December which would usually be made early in the following year, this year there is added reason to do so because for many individuals the deduction will be lost next year. Please consult your tax professional for the most up to date information.

Please remember now is a great time to bring your annual pledge up to date. All gifts to be credited for the 2017 tax year must be in the church office by noon Sun. Dec. 30 or postmarked by Dec. 31 if mailing to the church. ☞

Collection Connection

In February 2018, we will sponsor the twelfth mission trip to Nicaragua. We will be building water filters and providing a general medical clinic in small villages. YOU can play a critical role in the success of this mission by donating toothbrushes or work gloves. Many toothbrushes are needed to include in home health kits provided to families in remote communities. Hard work is the norm for most people of Nicaragua. They build their own homes, community centers and schools, farm the land or collect wood to cook over open fires. Your contribution of work gloves can help make these tasks a bit easier for everyone. You can also make a monetary donation to allow us to purchase additional materials. Mark your donation Nica 2018. ☞



Pondering What Falls from the Sky

By Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence



Despite not yet having finished the book, I feel the need to tell you about it. *What Falls from the Sky* is Esther Emery's memoir, and with a subtitle that tells you most of what you need to know: *How I Disconnected from the Internet and Reconnected with the God Who Made the Clouds*.

It's probably halfway through the book before she identifies the two most repeated responses she got while conducting this year-long experiment. She

claims that those born before 1979 used words like "interesting" and wanted to hear what she was learning from it; the younger persons, however, did not find it interesting at all, but wondered about the "implications." They wanted to know why she would do such a thing in the first place, and how it was even possible.

But as the subtitle indicates, Emery didn't just go off the grid but experienced more of life and found God in the process. She claims that she and her husband communicated more deeply, had more sex, cooked more real meals, and read almost the entire Bible. As for the part about finding God, it wasn't just time with the Bible but her venturing into a church for the first time in her life and realizing there had been a hole there that all the apps and smart phones in the world could never fill.

Let's face it, the use of technology in our day and age is complicated. True, persons can lose touch with their loved ones and friends with too much screen time; but you can also Google where the best spiritual retreats can be found near you. I think I found Emery's book so meaningful because in addition to her premise and the lyrical writing, it's the kind of advice I've been giving students for 59 semesters now. (I started teaching as a child, in case you're wondering.) I have told aspiring preachers that there are some really great resources on the web and how they'd be crazy not to use those. But I have also said that good sermons need time to develop the way babies in the womb need gestation. And as far as I'm concerned, being still and pondering God's ways in the world is sometimes best done unplugged. Preacher or not, that seems like wise counsel at this busy time of year. If you're interested in the book, I'm guessing you know how to look it up. ☞



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

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

Dec. 31 -

One service only at 10:30 a.m.

All Will Be Well

Mark 1:1; 16:1-8

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

Jan. 7

New Beginnings

Mark 1: 4-11

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Jan. 14

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Jan. Food Drive

This month our Food Drive focus is on canned fruits and vegetables. You may bring canned goods to the donation points or make a financial contribution by marking your check or giving envelope "food drive" and placing it in the offering plate, or texting FOOD and the amount you'd like to donate to 816-839-9410.

Your gifts support area food pantries that our church supports: La Gloria de Dios Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services.

Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

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.
Jan. 7, The Pic and Bow; David Smart, guitar and Michelle Gawith, violin
Feb. 11, Francisco Venegas, guitar

Guest Gatherings

If you are a guest at Country Club Christian Church, we are happy to welcome you! Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee in the library on Jan. 14 at 10:00 a.m. This is an opportunity to learn more about us in a casual setting. A member of our clergy will guide you through our values, traditions, and beliefs and you'll discover ways to connect with our service opportunities, classes, small groups, and of course, our members. We would love to become your church family. RSVP to Barbara George, 816-381-9251.

FaithPub returns in February

Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves, this popular men's group meets for beer and conversation on a host of spiritual topics. This spring we will be in our new location at Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd, KC MO. Join us from 7:00-8:00 p.m., each time with a special guest speaker. Dates: Feb. 22, Mar. 22, Apr. 19, and May 17.

New Class Starts in February

Acts and Action

If you're the kind of person who makes New Year's resolutions about growing closer to God in Bible study or volunteering to make a difference in the world, this course is for you. We will study several key passages from the book of Acts, focusing on three themes: wealth and poverty, food justice, and fear of the other. As a follow-up to the study, we will engage in ministries around the KC area that are seeking to address these needs. This is a great opportunity to put your faith into action. February 12, February 19, February 26

Correction

In our last newsletter, new member, Sandi Smith's last name was incorrect. We apologize for the error.



Sandi Smith

Faith and Grief Lunch

A safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. Gather around tables for a simple box lunch and sharing guided by a trained facilitator.

This month's guest is Mike Cochran, whose brother had Down syndrome. Are there unique faith and grief experiences a family goes through when they lose a loved one with disabilities? Mike will share his perspectives on the family bonds that exist in these special circumstances.

Tues., Jan. 9, 12:00-1:00 p.m. at Village Presbyterian Church. Meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. to make it accessible for those who work. To register: (469) 251-9612 or www.faithandgrief.org

The lunches are a collaboration of five churches: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, Second Presbyterian Church, Village Presbyterian Church, and Country Club Christian Church.

Micah Socks



For the last month or so members and friends of Country Club Christian Church have been assembling gifts for our friends at Independence Blvd Christian Church -home of The Micah Ministry to share with the individuals they serve in Northeast Kansas City. These gifts -- a pair of new socks stuffed with personal hygiene items -- are useful for individuals in need. This year we delivered approximately 800 pair of socks. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project!



a message from staff

Tune In

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communication



If you were in the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sun., Dec. 10, you had the distinct pleasure of hearing the Country Club Singers' anthem, *Calypto Carol*, featuring Dr. Paul Tucker both at piano and as the soloist.

Calypto Carol has a Caribbean flair that had the congregation not only clapping in time with the beat, but also prompted a spontaneous standing and swaying by the majority of the folks in the room. Now in some churches that kind of thing happens every Sunday, but let's just say for us it was a little unusual and completely delightful.

It was one of those moments in worship where I thought to myself, "I wish I could share this with everyone I know." Carla followed up with a particularly stirring sermon, and halfway through I texted a friend and said, "You're gonna want to listen to this one."

I love these magical worship moments, and that is why I'm so excited that they are now available to a wider audience every Sunday through our live streaming service, and on demand any time.

Now I'm not giving you permission to skip worship, because nothing compares to actually being in the room. But, if you're out of town or otherwise unable to get out on a particular Sunday, go to www.cccckc.org at 11:00 a.m. and click the big red button that says "Click to View LiveStream," scroll down a little and you'll see the embedded streaming module. When you click the play button, if a service is underway you'll see it live, or you'll be given the option to view a previous Sunday's broadcast.

We've already had folks tune in who travel during the winter and others who were visiting relatives and shared the live stream with them. The live stream or archive is a great way for our homebound members to stay connected to the church. And it's a great way for you to share those magical moments with your friends and family too.

For example, you can tell them how to access the archived stream from Sun., Dec. 10 and fast forward to the 20:45 mark to hear *Calypto Carol* for themselves, followed by Carla's sermon. I'm pretty sure that when they do, they're going to want to tune in again and again, and hopefully someday visit in person too. 🍷

Our Church Family

Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the family and friends of Mary Saxton.

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.

Sam Kribbs

Cindy and Randy Irely

Tyler Moffat, for Youth Ministry

Marilyn and Chuck Dreas

Jack Waller, for Congregational Care

The Burnette Family

Jack Waller

Dwight and Donna Barrett

William and Nancy Bunce

Dana Gordon

Judy and Darren Gross

Erwin and Deloris Jagels

Kama Jagels

Ronald and Charlene McCreight

Hank and Joan Riffe

Robert and Jeanne Risser

Ann Smith

L. and A. Tile

Do You Follow Us?



Student Ministries

Youth Choir

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

Support our Students

Looking for a service opportunity that is fun and connects you with our amazing students? Contact April Booth at aprilb@cccckc.org to find out how you can get involved with Sunday School or youth group.

Middle School Youth Group

Resumes on Fri., Jan 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church.

High School Youth Group

Youth Group is off for Christmas break. Resumes on Thurs., Jan 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Waldo Pizza.

Need Service Hours? Serve at Micah Ministry!

The next service opportunity at Micah Ministry will be on Mon., Jan. 8. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m.



High School Youth Group celebrated the season with a Christmas Party Lock-In.

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

MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month during the school year, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Children's Choir

For grades kindergarten - 5th grade Rehearsals are on Sundays, 10:45-11:15 a.m., Rm. 213.

First Fridays:

Food, fun and fellowship for 3rd-5th graders on Friday, Feb. 2. Meets every first Friday of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at church. No gathering in January.

Family Worship Night

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. No gathering in January.



Grant Moeder, son of Matt and Valerie Moeder was dedicated on Christmas Eve.

Middle School Youth Group went ice skating at Crown Center.





Christmas Season

What a beautiful Christmas season it was. Peace on earth, goodwill to all.



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

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SAVE THE DATES



Congregational Meeting

On Sun., Feb. 25, noon, annual congregational meeting will be held

Guest Gatherings

Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m.

Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee in the Library.

Celebration Dinner and Auction

Fri., Mar. 2, 7 p.m. at Boulevard Brewery.

Christian Community Camp

The 2018 camp will be June 9-16. Enjoy a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies. For more information, contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org or 816-381-9252.

For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

Follow us!

