



VOLUME 91 · NUMBER 12

COUNTRY CLUB 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.*

## \$4,000 to Feed Children, Seniors

Summer is always a nervous time for food pantries as they face the double whammy of school-age children who need to eat at home coupled with fewer grocery and cash donations during the vacation season.

Through your generosity, this month we are providing \$4,000 to our partners to restock their shelves.

Cross-Lines Community Outreach in Kansas City, KS, is typical of our food pantry partners, serving our elderly neighbors and families in poverty. Over this past year they served more than 4,400 individuals, 35 percent of whom were children.



Photo by David Eulitt

"Imagine trying to survive on a fixed income of \$600 a month – that is exactly the situation that many of the seniors we serve in our food pantry face," said Susila Jones, Executive Director of Cross-Lines Community Outreach, "How do you choose between paying for your medicine and buying groceries?"

"Many of the families we serve have an adult in the home who works, but they just can't make ends meet," said Jones. "Most of the families who come to us for help are just trying to survive on meager income from low-paying jobs. They are often one paycheck away from homelessness. A medical emergency, a car breaking down or a cut in their hours at work can send them into a downward spiral."

Cross-Lines Community Outreach, First Christian Church KCK Food Pantry, Iglesia Cristiana Food Pantry, and Della Lamb Community Services will each receive \$1,000 in groceries from unspent budgeted food pantry funds.

### Celebration of Service

Join us on Sun., July 9 as we celebrate all of our members and friends who have served during the 2016-2017 year. If you've participated in Grace at Work, served communion, served at Micah Ministry, tutored at Hartman Elementary, taught Sunday School, worked with our partner agencies, or any of the dozens more service opportunities, here at the church or throughout our community, we want to celebrate YOU! Special recognition in all three worship services, and fun and treats in the Parlor afterward.

Our Virginia Reed Food Drive this month is collecting donations to build a "Mac and Cheese Mountain" in our parlor. Ten dollars buys 24 boxes of macaroni and cheese mix which is easy for children to prepare. You may bring grocery donations to church or mark monetary gifts "Food Drive" and those will be received through our offering and in the parlor. To give electronically, text "Food" to 816-839-9410.



## String Theory Quartet to Play at 9:00 a.m. Outdoor Service

**String Theory Quartet** will be our musical guests during the 9:00 a.m. outdoor worship service this Sunday, June 18. String Theory features Julia Soxman, ukulele; David Soxman, mandolin; Andy Berry, guitar; Glenn Crocker, bass. They will be with us again on Sun., July 9.



## PATHWAYS TO LEARNING: Sports – Building Bodies, Minds, and Souls

This series on sports and how they can play a positive part in our lives concludes Sun., June 18 with **Dr. Andrew Jacobs**, sports psychologist and author of the book *Just Let 'em Play: Guiding Parents, Coaches and Athletes through Youth Sports*, who is speaking on the psychology of sports. Pathways to Learning is a series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing on timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. Visitors and guests welcome. 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.



## Amani Choir to sing on July 23

Our congregation, in partnership with Della Lamb Community Services, has formed a choir of refugees and church members called Amani, the Swahili word for peace. The choir will sing in worship on Sun., July 23 at the 9:00 a.m. service. There is still time to join this group. Contact Barbara George at [barbarag@ccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@ccckc.org) for more information.

Meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Della Lamb. Meet in our chapel parking lot to carpool, leaving at 6:30 p.m.



## A Place at the Table

For the last six weeks, our congregation has celebrated the way our church makes “A Place at the Table.” We are pleased to share with you the progress that has happened with our Stewardship efforts. Our Congregation has responded with great trust and support. We have received more than \$994,119.25 in pledges toward our goal of \$1,296,000 and almost half of those who have made a pledge elected to increase their giving. We are blessed to have such a supportive congregation whose members put faith into action by expressing God’s love in real and tangible ways.



It is not too late to submit your pledge, if you have not already done so. You can email your pledge to Rachel Clement, Director of Finance, or pledge securely online at <http://www.ccckc.org/church-life/give/make-a-pledge/>



# Worship Works

By Dr. Mike Graves, Guest Preacher



Ask most church-going folks what they love best about Sundays and they will likely point to two things, worship services and a day of rest (even if the latter is more idealized thinking than reality). Skimming the newspaper, listening to National Public radio, enjoying some waffles, and, oh yes, sliding into a pew for some hymns, prayers, and a sermon; what a lovely Lord's day morning.

Except whereas the morning paper, NPR, and waffles are wonderful luxuries, turns out that worship is hard work. We come on Sundays and much is demanded of us. Have you noticed? I'm not just referring to the outdoor service where folks are encouraged to return their folding chairs. No, every service of worship places demands on us. Here's a sample listing, along with some editorial comments:

Take a moment to greet those seated around you. (Can't I just sit here inside my cocoon? I don't even know some of these people.)

We are told to read responsively some words we had no part in writing. (I wonder what some of these phrases even mean.)

We are invited to sing a hymn, the choir singing the stanzas and then us joining in on the refrain. That's for the first and last stanzas only. (How am I supposed to keep these directions straight?)

Please be seated. (Why so much up and down action? Are some songs better while seated?)

The prayer Jesus taught us. (I guess I can mumble my way through this one, although I'm pretty sure as a little kid it was "trespasses," not "debts.")

Stand for the doxology, sit for the Scripture reading, stand back up for that other song, and then sit for the sermon. (I work out at the gym three times a week already. Should I purchase a Fitbit?)

Come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup, before returning by the side aisle. Unless it's the 11:00 service, in which case you need to eat the bread first, pass the tray, and hold the cup until all are ready. (Talk about bossy.)

Perhaps it helps to recall that the word liturgy does not refer to a more formal style of worship, complete with pipe organ, but literally translates as "the work of the people." We come on Sundays and go through a lot of motions so that those motions might go through us, might shape us. And sure enough, even if we suffer from dementia at the end of our days and can't recall what we had for breakfast, just hum a few notes of the Doxology and we will start singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow...." Turns out, worship works.

## Guest Gathering June 25

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 Sun., June 25 at 10:00 a.m. This gathering is designed to help you 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 at [barbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org) or call her directly, 816-381-9251. New members will be received on Sun., July 9.

## Worship with us!

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

**June 18**

John 3: 16

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**June 25**

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**July 2**

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**July 9**

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Food Drive

### Macaroni and Cheese Mountain

School is out and a lot of children are home trying to cook for themselves. This month our Virginia Reed Food Drive invites you to help build a mountain of easy-to-prepare macaroni and cheese or microwave meals. Bring your donations (or check or cash) on June 18 and let's see if we can reach the ceiling in our parlor!



## Upcoming Mission Trips

### Mungeli, India - Informational Meeting Rescheduled for July 23

In early 2018, two teams will travel to Mungeli, India to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli and the Rambo Memorial English Medium School. The first will go from Jan. 6-20, and the second from Jan. 21-Feb. 3. Each team will spend about 11 days at the Mungeli Christian Hospital complex, followed by several days of sightseeing. An informational meeting about this trip has been rescheduled for Sun., July 23 at noon in Room 201. Reservation forms and deposit checks (\$250) will be accepted at the meeting. Space is limited.

### Nicaragua

Mark your calendar for our next Nicaragua mission trip, set for the end of February 2018. We plan to focus on health and medical needs and either efficient, sustainable stoves in individual homes or water purification systems. For information: [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org)

## June Collection Connection

In June, our Collection Connection is gathering supplies for Della Lamb's summer education program. Della Lamb helps students continue to grow in their love for learning and skills during the summer months. The program especially needs notebook paper, pens and alarm clocks (because everyone has to learn how to get themselves up on time for school or work). Your gifts to our students may be placed in the basket in our parlor.

## Consider the Columbarium and Rose Garden

If you have considered cremation for yourself or a loved one, Country Club Christian Church provides two beautiful settings for cremated remains.

The first is the Columbarium located on the west side of the George Hamilton Combs Chapel. The second is the Rose Garden located on the northeast side of the Chapel. Both locations invite meditation and prayer to honor and perpetuate cherished memories of the deceased, and provide a beautiful resting place for the cremated remains of past or present church members or their immediate family.

Niches with urns and inscribed memorial markers are provided for in-ground inurnment in the Columbarium, and ashes may be scattered in the Rose Garden. Both locations allow for the church's ministry of care for the remains of departed loved ones and comfort to the bereaved.

Please contact Rev. Joe Walker at [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org) or 816381-9249 for additional information.



## On Listening

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



Andrew Forsthoefel had just graduated from college when he decided to walk across the country. He had no goal – he wasn’t raising money or awareness. He was walking to listen.

He literally carried a sign that read “Walking to Listen,” and along his journey he found that indeed, people along the way had stories to share. He became sort of a mobile one-man talk therapy session, and as people talked, and he listened, he found what he called the “extraordinary in ordinary folks.”

Drawn to him, mile after mile, strangers fed and clothed him, celebrating his trek and sharing the stories of their lives.

One day, deep in the desert near a Navajo reservation, he met another young man walking, and asked his story. It was the young man’s first day in the desert but he seemed determined. “You’ll think I’m delusional,” the man said, “but there’s this Hopi prophecy, about the coming of a Messiah, a white man to lead the people and well, I think it’s me.”

Indeed Andrew thought he was crazy, but they continued walking together, until the young man revealed deeper, crazier layers of delusion, and suddenly Andrew realized he did not have the bottomless well of patience and compassion he thought he did, and decided to walk on alone.

Later, though, Andrew ran into the young man again. Now sunburned and looking totally dejected, the young man shared more of his sad life story. “And I realized that the feeling that he was something great, that was the thing I was walking to listen for,” said Andrew. “That’s what people were giving me as I walked.” Andrew realized that somehow this young man had slipped through the cracks; he had no community. He was alone, delusional in the desert.

The art of communication requires a sender, a message and a receiver. It’s a two-way interaction that involves talking and sometimes more importantly, listening. If you’ve heard Carla’s Vision of Ministry presentation, you know that listening is imperative in this ministry we share: the church staff listening to our congregation; pastors listening to individuals who are hurting; all of us listening to each other when we’re feeling lost and alone, when we have something to celebrate. Those listening moments bring us into each others’ stories; help us share our humanity.

Or, as Andrew Forsthoefel puts it: “I realized that the burden and privilege of listening to people in this way had to be shared among all of us... and until it was, there would continue to be people alone in the desert. It had to be all of us. It *has* to be all of us.”

## Flower Ministry Seeks Donations

Our flower ministry welcomes your donations of small glass and plastic flower vases. Every Monday we rearrange the memorial flowers from our sanctuary into smaller vases and deliver those to members and friends who are hospitalized or shut-ins. Vases may be left on the table in the reception area.

We also invite volunteers to help make one or two floral deliveries on Monday afternoon or evening. For more information [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org)



# Student Ministries

## Middle School Mission Team Serves in Northeast Kansas City

Our Middle School students participated in their annual MissionKC mission trip June 12-13, serving at Grace United Community Ministries, Micah Ministries, and Sheffield Place through our PartNERship agencies in the historic Northeast. They also ate meals and supported the economy in Northeast Kansas City, in addition to fun and fellowship.

Participants are (in photo at right, left to right): (Kneeling) Liam Petrie, (Middle row) C.J. Olivarez, Breck McGuire, Lauren McGuire, Riley Zschoche, Ahna Chang, Duncan Bennett. (Back row) Mark Lopatofsky, Caroline Schopp, Abby Lopatofsky, Elizabeth Crocker.



## Christian Community Campers Enjoy a Week in Colorado

The 2017 Christian Community Camp concluded on June 10 after an amazing and remarkable week of seeing wildlife and breathtaking scenery, and enjoying mild weather and great people to share it with.

If you'd like to join the fun next year, we welcome you! We'll return to the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO June 9-16, 2018. Registration for 2018 is open via our website: [www.ccckc.org](http://www.ccckc.org). All are welcome to come, members and non-members alike.

If you have any questions, contact Monica Lewis at [monical@cccckc.org](mailto:monical@cccckc.org) or Anne Haraughty at [anneh@cccckc.org](mailto:anneh@cccckc.org).





# Our Response to Music in Worship

By Dr. Paul Tucker, Co-Director of Music



In the past I have used this space to discuss musical ideas. My hope has been that our mutual understanding of how we approach the choice and execution of music in the service would produce a more effective worship environment. In this column, I would like to deal with the subject of our response to musical offerings in the service.

In the secular world, musicians and listeners alike have become accustomed to hearing applause after every musical rendition. The act is undoubtedly one of showing appreciation for the work done by the musician, or a way of saying thanks for the musical performance. And here, the word "performance" becomes our point of focus. Most of us instinctively do not offer applause in certain situations. For example, we do not applaud after a musical presentation in a memorial service, or other overtly solemn occasions. We accept that in those moments applause would disrupt the solemnity of the service. I would like to suggest that the Sunday morning worship is another such time.

Most experienced musicians know the difference between participating in a worship service and performing on the concert stage. We learn the difference through experience and practice. In fact, even in the concert hall, the most dramatic response to a performance is one of sustained silence following the rendition. The musician understands this response as the audience's unwillingness to disrupt the mood with clapping. Worship at its best, I believe, will be a time where an environment of reverence, solemnity, and joy is nurtured. The smooth flow of the service, with each presentation serving to advance the message, might be a way to maintain the mood, rather than treating each item as its own performance.

There is a way to keep our focus on connection with the holy and to show appreciation for the musical performances, also. Our ministers have tried, in the past, to encourage that we wait until the end of the service to show our appreciation. This approach may be the most effective way of doing fostering the mood for the service, and still allowing the congregation to show their appreciation.

We look forward to continued conversations with clergy, staff, and the congregation as we work together to reinvigorate our worship.

## Children and Families

### Vacation Bible School

Register now for Vacation Bible School, June 19-22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Family Fun Day Sun., June 25. For children ages 2 through 5th grade. Sign up in the parlor or online at <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/cccckc>. Adult volunteers also needed.



### Sunday School

Deep Blue curriculum 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. Parents, please check out the site, [www.deep-bluekids.com](http://www.deep-bluekids.com).

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## PROGRAM STAFF

|                                                                           |                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Carla Aday<br>Executive Minister                                     | Sara and Alex Goering<br>Associate Directors of Music for<br>Children and Students  |
| Rev. Monica Lewis<br>Minister to Children,<br>Students and Families       | Ms. Anne Haraughty<br>Ministries Coordinator                                        |
| Rev. Joe Walker<br>Minister of Congregational Care                        | Ms. Lindsay Howes<br>Director of Children's Ministries                              |
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| Ms. Rachel Clement<br>Director of Finance                                 | Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf<br>Assistant Director of Children and<br>Student Ministries |
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| Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans<br>Co-Director of Music                        | Ms. Lara Schopp<br>Director of Communications                                       |
| Ms. Barbara George<br>Director of Membership<br>Development               | Dr. Paul Tucker<br>Co-Director of Music                                             |

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# Our Church Family

## Sympathy

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

**Donald Landes**

## 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.

**Diane Fitzpatrick**

Martha Jane and John Stewart

**Mary Louise Knutson**, for the Music Department

Peggy Johannsen

**Shirley Mills**

Maureen McGinty

Janet Roberts

Howard and Mary Gay Woosley

**Cindy Stewart**

Mike and Nancy White

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

Ken and Barbara Davidson

Jeff and Cynthia Henning

The Hook Family Foundation

Margot Matteson

Carolyn Mollers

Martha Jane and John Stewart

Howard and Mary Gay Woosley