



VOLUME 91 • NUMBER 16

# 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.*

## Backpack Blessing is August 20

Save the date for Backpack Blessing, when all school-aged children (and teachers too!) are invited to bring their backpacks to worship at 11:00 a.m. for a prayer for the new year.

Event and activity calendars for middle school and high school students for the 2017-2018 school year will be available for pick up on this Sunday so you can mark your calendars for all of the fall and spring Student Ministry events.



## FESTIVAL SUNDAY

**Celebrate the beginning of a new year of spiritual growth opportunities for children, students and adults.**

- New Senior Minister Rev. Carla Aday preaching at all three services. **New Heart, New Spirit: God at Work in You**, based on Philippians 2:1-13.
- 3rd grade Bible presentations at the 11:00 a.m. service.
- Guest Musicians: String Theory Quartet at 9:00; Brian Rood, trumpet, at 10:00 a.m.; and the Kansas City Brass at 11:00 a.m.

- Picnic Lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs served by Two Guys and a Grill. Live music provided by String Theory Quartet. Bounce house, games and prizes, food and music! \$8 per person, maximum \$30 per family. Cash and credit cards accepted.
- Guests complimentary.

## SEPTEMBER 10



## Ministerial Staff Change

On Fri., Aug. 4, Rev. Carla Aday announced that the church's Minister to Children, Students and Families, Rev. Monica Lewis, submitted her resignation effective Oct. 14, 2017 so that she may serve as a full time consultant for Ministry Architects. Rev. Lewis has served the church faithfully for four years, bringing energy, insight and vision to our shared ministry with children, youth and families and to the whole church. "I will miss her compassion and creativity and I know that you will join me in wishing her all the best in her new endeavors," said Rev. Aday. Information about about interim arrangements for the church's vitally important ministry with children, students and families will be announced soon, as well as plans for celebrating Rev. Lewis' gifts of ministry and expressing gratitude for her leadership.



## Tri C's Sunday School Class Last Meeting

**Sun., Aug. 27**

The Tri C's Sunday School class, which has been meeting for 71 years, will hold its last gathering on Sun., Aug. 27, and its members will be recognized in worship at the 11:00 a.m. service that day. All current and former members of the class are invited to attend that day to celebrate this group's longevity and dedication to Country Club Christian Church.

## Dr. Mike Graves Teaching Classes Beginning in September

**"Table Talk: Rethinking Communion"**

September 12, 19, and 26, 7:00 p.m.

What if we told you that we are not just 2,000 years removed from how the earliest followers of Jesus ate the meal we call Communion, but more like light years? Based on a book he's just finished writing, Dr. Mike Graves will lead an exploration of three key dynamics of the Jesus meal: intimacy, inclusion, and joy. We've celebrated some joyful Communion services in our church, but there's more to learn about their practices back then, and about what it might mean for us now.



**"Don't Know Much about the Bible"**

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 7:00 p.m.

If there ever was a time when everyone attending Sunday services knew the Bible well, it's no longer the case. Surveys indicate we are better at naming the four members of The Beatles than the names of the four Gospels. Even entering seminarians admit to lacking basic knowledge of the biblical texts. In this introduction, we will explore the library of documents we call "Bible." We will get an overview of both testaments and discuss approaches to reading more closely and fully.

## Thank You for Giving!

A big thank you to all of our members and friends for your generosity during this year's Stewardship Campaign: A Place at the Table. Your giving has made life-changing ministries possible, including:

-More than 100 children enjoying Vacation Bible School

-Record attendance at our outdoor 9:00 a.m. worship service on the front lawn

-Student mission trips empowering the homeless and refugees both here in Kansas City and in Texas



The church ended the 2016-2017 fiscal year on June 30 in a financially strong position, and we are moving into the 2017-2018 year with an exciting, vibrant plans for our shared ministries.

If you have not yet made a financial gift to the church for the current fiscal year, you may still do so at any time by contacting Rachel Clement at 816-333-4971, emailing her at [rachelc@cccckc.org](mailto:rachelc@cccckc.org), or by visiting <http://www.cccckc.org/church-life/give/make-a-pledge/>. Every gift, no matter how small, makes a difference in our church's ability to transform lives. You may make an ongoing pledge for the fiscal year, or give as you are able. Whatever the size of your commitment, your generous gift is important and appreciated.

Thank you for helping the church set a place at the table for God's people seeking comfort, hope and new life.



## On Watching

By Rev. Carla Aday



I am writing to you from the monastery in Atchison where 125 Benedictine nuns are eagerly awaiting 600 guests who are coming to watch the full solar eclipse. An astronomer from the Vatican will be here to speak and they are serving hot dogs on the lawn. One nun giggled as she pictured people stopping on the highway to see the moment that hasn't happened for 99 years and will not happen here again in our lifetimes.

I am here to do a little watching myself. Not of the eclipse. But for something that seems also rare. I begin my watch with a peek at the Bible, and a stack of theological books that could keep my eyes busy for months. I have come to soak up some wisdom and truth so that I might have something to say when September rolls around and I am expected to show up in the pulpit weekly. Fred Craddock said that "preaching is truth mediated through personality" so I realize that I need to bring more than facts. So I pause to listen to my own heart as well. During the sung evening vespers and morning prayers led by the elderly nuns, I strain to hear the presence of the holy in communal life and within my own soul. The silence of a monastery can be deafening, leaving one no other choice but to pay attention to what is gnawing inside.

Perhaps you have had a moment this summer to take a step back from the ordinary routine of life and listen anew. Whether on a walk in the neighborhood or a family vacation, a break can pull us out of our comfort zones and awaken us to seeing in new ways. Maybe that is why we worship each Sunday, not just to praise but to ponder. To sharpen our skill of watching.

The number one thing you said in the congregational survey last winter is that you wanted outstanding preaching. And so I am here with the sisters in solitude. I feel like one of those people pulling over on the side of the highway, because they realize something extraordinary is happening in the universe. And we better watch. We don't want to miss it. Maybe the mystery happens all the time. We only occasionally watch.

## Save the Date

### Installation of Rev. Carla Aday as Senior Minister

#### September 24

Rev. Carla Aday will officially be installed as our new Senior Minister on Sun., Sept. 24. There will be one service only that day at 10:30 a.m., followed by a reception. Former senior ministers Dr. Gene Brice and Dr. Bob Cueni, as well as Regional Minister Rev. Bill Rose-Heim will join us for this special day.

Join in this historic moment as we celebrate a new chapter in our congregation's history.

## Worship with us!

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

#### August 13

Have Some Bread

*John 21:1-17*

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

#### August 20

*Exodus 3:1-15*

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching

#### August 27

*Matthew 16:13-19*

Dr. Mike Graves Preaching



# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Ready for Nicaragua?

Are you looking for an inspiring and affordable mission opportunity in a country where we have an established and successful local partner? If so, start saving your spare change and vacation days and plan to join us on our Nicaragua Mission in February 2018. We will focus on health and medical needs and either efficient, sustainable stoves in individual homes or water purification systems. Stop by our information table in the parlor on Sun., Aug. 13 or contact Rev. Joe Walker at 816-381-9249 or [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).

## Clean Water for Nicaraguan Families

Our Nicaragua mission team will be helping families build clean drinking water filters. The team hopes to make and distribute 25 filters to rural homes. The Bio-Sand filters have proven to be economical and easily maintained. Each filter costs \$40; we are hoping to raise \$1,000 to pay for the materials. You can support our mission team and provide clean drinking water to a Nicaraguan village by making a donation of any size and marking your gift "Water Filters." For information, [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org)

## Hartman Elementary School Partnership

Discover how you can encourage and support students and teachers at Hartman Elementary School by visiting our information table, Sun., Aug. 20 in the parlor. Volunteer opportunities range from one time commitments to weekly activities. Our volunteers help with reading and study skills, sports and extra-curricular activities, hosting special occasions, preparing Back Snacks, and landscaping. For more information: [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).

## School Uniforms for Hartman Elementary

Our current Collection Connection is gathering both new and gently used school uniforms for the children at Hartman



Elementary. Khaki or navy pants and navy polo shirts, in sizes 6, 8, and 10 especially needed. Please leave your donations in the basket. Monetary donations marked "school uniforms" also needed.

## FaithPub returns in September

FaithPub returns this fall, a group of men meeting the third Thursday of each month at The Well in Waldo. Speakers this fall include: Brian Ellison, Executive Director for Covenant Network of Presbyterians (Sept. 21), David May, Professor of New Testament at Central Seminary (Oct. 19), and Emanuel Cleaver III, Senior Pastor at St. James United Methodist Church (Nov. 16). Be sure to mark your calendars now.



## Via Women's Retreat is Oct. 20-22

The Via spiritual renewal retreats are designed to build friendships, provide personal reflection time, and have fun while also reconnecting with the Spirit of God. Participants will learn new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, enjoy the beauty of nature, and have time to relax and play.



Cost: \$125, which includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials. Each room sleeps 2, 3 or 4 people. Rooms will be assigned unless a roommate preference is noted. Early registration is \$110 by Aug. 15.

Contact Anne Haraughty for more information at [anneh@cccckc.org](mailto:anneh@cccckc.org), or register online at [cccckc.org](http://cccckc.org)

*I had never attended an overnight church retreat before, so I wasn't sure what to expect. I brought my sister-in-law with me--who, like me, is a private person. I figured that we would at least be able to lean on each other for support if need be. But any trepidation quickly vanished upon arrival at VIA... Anne welcomed us in, and away we went to enjoy fellowship with women of all ages and to dive deeper into our collective & respective faith journeys! We both learned a lot about ourselves, including how past events in our lives have informed how we experience our faith today.*



*If you're wondering whether to sign up for VIA, I suggest you go for it--my sister and I are glad we did!*

—Patty McComas, fall 2016 Via participant



## Moving Day

By Paul Cutelli, Director of Technology



Is there anything quite as unsettling as moving? Up until a year ago, I was blissfully ignorant of the logistics of relocating my family of three roughly fifteen blocks south. It felt like the world got turned upside down, put into boxes, and we shoved them wherever they would fit so the floors could be finished and the shelves installed in the basement. For that whole period of time, “home” was not a place, but something we—as a family—were discovering.

I find a number of parallels from our move to South Hyde Park to my recent office relocation and change in role at the church. In the literal sense, the transport of the myriad of files and binders, shelves and furniture to room 109 was almost the same as when Kae and I were hauling our books and clothes into our newly purchased house... both processes were tiresome and left me wondering if I just had too much stuff.

The more apt observation, however, comes from the metaphor of the moving. My comfort zone—my work “home,” as it were—had changed just as much as my physical location. I was scared (being the worrier that I am) that with this new role I would show vulnerability or some flaw, and that it would reflect poorly on me. I am eternally grateful that this has not been the case; in fact it has been quite the opposite. I feel as though the shift in responsibilities has given me a challenge that has nurtured me, as cheesy as that might sound.

To each and every one of you who have visited with me these last few weeks and given me words of encouragement and cast a vote of confidence at me as the Director of Technology of the Country Club Christian Church: I give you my heartfelt thanks. You have all helped me on my “moving day.” You have helped make my new role home.

## New Member Sunday is Aug. 27

Do you know someone interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? Are you a visitor or a guest who would like to connect with our church community on a deeper level?

We would love to become your church family. The benefits of becoming a member of the church are many, including being paired with a New Member Host to help you get connected, opportunities for service and classes to help you get involved at a level that works for your schedule and lifestyle, and the support of a diverse and dynamic congregation to deepen and enrich your faith journey.

The next New Member Sunday is Aug. 27. Please contact Barbara George, 816-381-9251 or [barbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org), for more information.

## Back to School Shopping Can Benefit Week of Compassion

Are you doing back-to-school shopping via Amazon.com? When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the same prices and selection as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to The Well for Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) using your regular account from Amazon.com. Your shopping cart and other account settings are the same. Select Country Club Christian Church as your charitable organization to receive donations before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.



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## Middle and High School Events

A new year of activities for Middle and High School ministries kicks off soon! Mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

### Mark Your Calendar

Backpack Blessing - Sun., Aug 20

Festival Sunday - Sun., Sept. 10

Serve at Micah Ministry - Mon., Sept. 11

High School BBQ Tour - Sun., Sept. 17

Middle School Pizza Tour - Sun., Sept. 17

2018 High School Mission Trip to Nashville - June 10-16, 2018

### Youth Group

High School Youth Group starts meeting weekly on Thurs., Sept. 21 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Waldo Pizza

Middle School Youth Group starts meeting weekly on Fri., Sept. 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the church.

### And more!

Service projects, lock-ins, holiday parties and more are on the schedule for fall. Pick up a calendar at Backpack Blessing on Sun., Aug. 20 or at Festival Sunday on Sept. 10.

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## Food Drive is August 20

The next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Sun., Aug. 20. A special emphasis is cold cereal. There are three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community: Bring nonperishable goods to the donation points at the doors; make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website ([christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org](http://christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org)); make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope “food drive” and place it in the offering tray or in the box in the parlor.

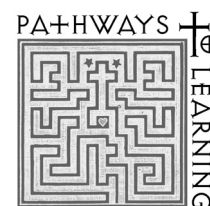


## Faithbook Starts in September

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. Fall session begins Sept. 19/20 and concludes Nov. 14/15. The first six sessions of fall will be based on *More than Words: 10 Values for the Modern Family* by Rev. Erin Wathen, Senior Pastor at St. Andrew Christian Church. These sessions will be led by Rev. Carla Aday and Rev. Monica Lewis. The topic for the last three sessions is “How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor,” led by Dr. Mike Graves. (Dr. Graves will also present a Pathways to Learning series on this topic. See description below). Winter/Spring begins Jan. 9/10 and concludes Apr. 24/25.

## 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. Visitors and guests welcome. 10:00 a.m. Social Hall.



### How to Read the Bible like a Seminary Professor with Dr. Mike Graves

**Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12**

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.



## This Future Can Be Different

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



Do you remember what the world was like before the internet?

Depending on your age, you may never have experienced the pre-internet era. ("Pre-internet era" - that even sounds odd now, doesn't it?)

I vividly recall the first time I saw something called a "Macintosh," a product of an unknown start-up Apple Computer. This little ivory-colored box was in a friend's basement office and was only connected to the electrical outlet. As we huddled around its tiny black and white screen, it came to life with a little smiley face. Something in my very being sensed that we were peering into a window on the future. We were.

"Halt and Catch Fire" is a TV show on the AMC Network that tells the story of fictional characters in the 1980s inventing the primitive predecessors of the internet. Fans can marvel at the characters' creative genius and celebrate their breakthroughs as the World Wide Web begins to emerge from some combination of math and magic. We also wince at the toll that the long hours and setbacks take on their lives and relationships. I'm not a computer geek but I know enough to recognize insider jokes, including the series' title, a reference to an operating system command.

Like every great drama, "Halt and Catch Fire," invites us into its story, but also prompts us to reflect on our own story. As the fictional characters make choices - for better or worse - we watch the consequences of those actions ripple through their relationships. Perhaps we pause to be grateful for a path chosen, or to rue a dead-end. Maybe we squeeze the hand of the person next to us, or wish we could extend a hand in a gesture of reconciliation.

As we ponder how our past has brought us to where we are now, we are alerted to the potential (and responsibility) to use the present to shape the future not only for ourselves but for all those around us. In one episode, Cameron dejectedly posits that the future will simply be an endless loop of challenges and failures. Joe, believing that the team can recover from earlier mistakes and build on what they have learned, delivers a confident line to Cameron and to all of us: "This future can be different."

(For my friends who are history buffs and/or computer geeks, #HaltandCatchFire begins its fourth and final season on Sat., Aug. 19 at 9/8c. I'll bring the popcorn.)

## Children and Families

### Backpack Blessing

Sun., Aug. 20

Save the date for Backpack Blessing, when all school-aged children are invited to bring their backpacks to worship at 11:00 a.m. for a prayer for the new year.

### Leadership Launch is Aug. 27

Leadership Launch for student and children's volunteers is Sun., Aug. 27 from 12:15-2:00 p.m. (Please note change in date.) Lunch and child-care provided. If you're interested in getting involved with Children's Ministries, contact Lindsay Howes at [lindsayh@cccckc.org](mailto:lindsayh@cccckc.org)



### 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.deepbluekids.com](http://www.deepbluekids.com).



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## 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

Mr. Jason Ashley  
Director of Building and Grounds

Ms. Rachel Clement  
Director of Finance

Mr. Paul Cutelli  
Director of Technology and  
Administrative Services

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

Ms. Barbara George  
Director of Membership  
Development

Sara and Alex Goering  
Associate Directors of Music for  
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Ministries Coordinator

Ms. Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf  
Assistant Director of Children and  
Student Ministries

Rev. Chuck Pickrel  
Director of Student Ministries

Ms. Lara Schopp  
Director of Communications

Dr. Paul Tucker  
Co-Director of Music

## Our Church Family

### Sympathy

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

Joyce Minor

### 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.

#### Cindy Stewart, for Congregational Care

Marjorie Kilpatrick  
Maureen McGinty

#### James B. Nutter, for Food Pantry Ministries

Brucie and Bill Hopkins  
McGilley Midtown Chapel

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

Tom and Cynthia Enstrom

#### Joyce Minor, for Micah Ministries

Steven and Cimeyce Alley  
Margaret Brinkman  
Nancy Corbin  
Kenneth and Ann Corso  
Demaris and Kenneth Davis  
Jan and Ed Eilert  
John and Sarah Guilford  
Randy and Cindy Irey  
Gary and Mary Legler  
Martha and Thomas Lieser  
Jane and John Marty  
Cathy and Terry Matlack  
Maureen McGinty  
Lori McKinley  
Sharon and Calvin McBride  
Lewis and Janice Merriman  
Mary Jane Nance  
Jill Reynolds  
Carol and Carl Runge  
John and Doris Soltys  
Loxie Stock

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