



VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 11

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.*

## Outdoor Worship Returns

### Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in June and July

We will once again move the 9:00 a.m. worship hour to our front lawn in the months of June and July. We will meet on the sidewalk in front of the steps with our building as the background view for the worshippers. The service will be simple, with gospel-style music, a message of hope and grace, and an invitation to share in the Supper of our Lord. Our first Sunday will be June 5.



### New Sermon Series, CrazyBusy, Begins Sunday, June 5

Do you sometimes feel like you are overstretched, overbooked and about to snap? Our lives can sometimes overwhelm us with our busyness. The old psalm, the one that invites us to "Be still and know God," invites us to a place where we can begin to reorient our lives.

Glen's sermon series for June, *CrazyBusy* (based on the book of the same title by Edward Hallowell), will take a look at the ancient wisdom of the Bible and its invitation to a life centered (and slowed down) in the Spirit of God.



## Annual Congregational Meeting Is June 5

On Sun., June 5, annual congregational meetings will be held after each worship service to vote on next year's slate of officers, new board members, elders, deacons and trustees. Please be sure to attend worship that day so that you have an opportunity to vote!

The Nominating Committee has presented the following 2016 slate:

**Chair of the Congregational Board** – Leeann Blundell

**Chair-elect of the Congregational Board** – Scott Glasrud

**Secretary of the Board** – Kathy McDandel

**Treasurer** – Lynn Cockle

**Congregational Board Members** – Worship–Hannah Fenley; Administration–Erin Parkinson, Courtney Sullivan; At-large–Jim Wells; Spiritual Growth–Travis Wymore, Karen Carlson-Cook, Jeff Gibbs

**Chair of Personnel Committee** – Jennifer Parker. Personnel Committee Members – Amy Holmes, Amy Guthrey

**Endowment Trustees** – Katie Cronin, Paul Faucher, Charles Herbert

**Nominating Committee** – Lynn Cockle, Bobbie Vanice, Patty McComas, David Hunter (Elders); Kristin Patterson, Mark Meuret, David Showalter (Deacons)

**Elders** – E.J. Becker, Jacqueline Cyphers, David Hess, Phil Howes, Patty McComas, Kathy McDandel, Stan McManness, Jennifer Parker, Jayson Parker, Erin Parkinson, Linda Rives, Amy Rose, Jared Rose, Lauren Weinhold

**Deacons** – Tim Emerson, Mitch Feitz, Erin Feitz, Chelsea Good, Allison Hettinger, Becky Hopkins, Ryan Jones, Quinn Jones, Rick Kupzyk, Nancy Kupzyk, Becky Little, Fran Pease, Judy Pease, Rorric Pfalzgraf, Elizabeth Pfalzgraf, Shawn Symmonds, Bill Taylor; Renewing – Susan Bell, Kathy Buckley, Christa Chartier, Pat Conway, Cathy Davenport, Charles Herbert, Cheryl Herbert, Amy Holmes, Marie Hunter, Diane Jones, Phil Klever, Holly Koch, Francesca Manheim, Joe Meinhardt, Kamille Merz, Fran Rainey, Nancy Ralston, Tim Reddin, Sandra Reddin, Joseph Rei, Steve Shaw, Debbie Shaw, Steve Statler, Joyce Statler

**Youth Elders** – Margo Hunter, Ben Crocker, Sam Berry, Scott Holt, Lucy Patterson, Wynne Reddin, Ashley Bough, Caroline Brumitt, Lisa Lockhart

**Youth Deacons** – Elizabeth Crocker, Caroline Schopp, Max Patterson, Grant Bough, Aislinn Sullivan, Olivia Keller, Duncan Bennett, Breck McGuire, Luke Lopatofsky, Lauren Reddin

## New Members

Welcomed May 15



**Jennifer Moeder**  
Hosts: Matt and Valerie



**Rosie and Dick Tanksley**  
Host: Hank Riffe



**Doug Busby**  
Hosts: Linda and Denny Rives



**Sandy, Lannea, Bruce and Mariel Allen.**  
Hosts: Andy, Marcia, Jackson and Sam Berry

## Staff Change

Dr. Meredith Holladay, Minister of Spiritual Formation, has resigned effective May 22. Meredith will be pursuing her passion for teaching and looking for academic opportunities. Please say a prayer of thanksgiving for her and her endeavors.



# Now with God's Help

Dr. R. Glen Miles



A man came to see the great German theologian, Martin Luther. The young adult was afraid that he might be committing a sin and end up being punished and sent to eternal fire for something he didn't even realize he was doing wrong. He was overwhelmed with worry. Luther could hardly contain himself. He looked right at him and said, "SIN BOLDLY MY SON, SIN BOLDLY!"

Luther's point is this: A life lived in fear is no life at all. Luther, like the Apostle Paul, wants us to see that God is not some heavenly bookkeeper with pencil sharpened, keeping track of every little slip up. Luther's command to sin boldly was not a direction to live immorally but rather an invitation to live life to its fullest.

Back in my youth ministry days I told that story in the pulpit. A mom, whose wild and crazy little 9-year-old was a member of our Christian Kids Fellowship, did not like the story. She complained and said, "You've given Johnny permission to sin." I said, "Up to this point in his life Johnny has not needed my permission to be a sinner!" I softened a bit and said to her, "The good news of the Bible is the fact that God loves little Johnny, and you and me, too, no matter what."

Kathleen Norris, author of the book, *Amazing Grace*, isn't so sure that we want a God like this, a God who comes after us, a God who assaults us in the middle of the night, a God who gives us grace whether we want it or not. She writes:

*"One so often hears people say, 'I just can't handle it,' when they reject a biblical image of God as Father, as Mother, as Lord or Judge; God as Lover, as angry or jealous, God on a cross. I find this choice of words revealing, however real the pain they reflect: if we seek a God we can 'handle,' that will be exactly what we get. A God we can manipulate, suspiciously like ourselves, the wideness of whose mercy we've cut down to size."*

We don't need a safe God, we need one who is larger and holier and maybe even down-right more dangerous than ourselves. Maybe, when we are ready to wrestle with that One, we will discover the blessing that is waiting.

Too often we live in fear when in reality God simply wants us to be the person we were created to become. Soren Kierkegaard prays, "Now with God's help, I shall become myself."

Grace and peace to you,

## Annual Congregational Meeting Is June 5

On Sun., June 5, annual congregational meetings will be held after each worship service to vote on next year's slate of officers, new board members, elders, deacons and trustees. Please be sure to attend worship that day so that you have an opportunity to vote!

## Worship with us!

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

**May 22**  
Almost Angels  
*Psalm 8*

**May 29**  
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Virginia Reed Food Drive

On Sun., May 22 we will be collecting food and donations for the Virginia Reed Food Drive. A special emphasis is peanut butter, all sizes and types. We have three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community: Bring peanut butter 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)) or make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check "food drive" and place it in the offering plate.



## Global Missions Speaker

Bethany Waggoner, one of our Global Mission Interns, will speak about her work in Ecuador and Chile on Sun., June 12, 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The Anniversary Class is hosting Bethany's visit. Everyone is welcome.



A journalist by profession, Bethany recently returned to the U.S. from Chile where she produced a "popular history" book of the experiences of Chileans who survived the 2010 earthquake and their recovery in the small coastal town of Penco. Previously, Bethany created communications tools to support sustainable rural development programs in Ecuador. Her ministry is made possible through the Week of Compassion of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Bethany is a graduate of Winthrop University in South Carolina. She is a member of First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Eugene, Oregon.

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## Collection Connection: Supplies for VBS

We are collecting supplies for VBS. Please check out our "wish-list" by visiting the site below.  
[http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc/wish\\_list/](http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc/wish_list/)

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# Family Worship Night on May 15

Families gathered Sunday evening for Family Worship Night to have a Birthday Party for the Church! Together, they learned about the meaning of Pentecost through rhythms and music provided by Glenn and Tepring Crocker, participated in mission projects for the church around the world, sang "Happy Birthday" to the church with Rev. Chuck Pickrel, prayed for the church with Rev. Joe Walker and shared a meal.



Jen Parker watching her daughter, Greta, thread beads for the first time.



Roman DeMarco wraps presents for the church as he learns about what Country Club Christian Church needs to provide ministry to our world.



Ellie Kate Lewis writes a Happy Birthday card to send to our partner ministries in Nicaragua.



## Hope for the Future

By Rev. Chuck Pickrel, Director of Student Ministries



As the new Director of Student Ministries, it is my job (among other things) to plan and execute spiritually meaningful programs as well as fun activities for 6th-12th graders throughout the year. Ideally the work we do here will have a positive and lasting impact on our students.

I've been working in professional youth ministry for a little over ten years and in that time I have found that my most meaningful work is done in the summer.

With church camps at Tall Oaks (Talloaks.org), regional and national youth events, and mission trips I spend more time out and about in the world nurturing the spiritual and physical well-being of students than I do with my own family at home. While at times it feels as though I'm going in several directions at once, and I sleep in my own bed a LOT less than I'd like, the immersive environment that summer offers is great for building positive, meaningful relationships with the young people I so love to work with.

This summer promises to be especially meaningful as we spend time being the hands and feet of God right here in Kansas City and in Nicaragua. In preparing for these trips I research the areas in which we'll be working so that I have a better understanding of the people and their culture. Part of my research for our high school trip included the Nicaraguan flag: blue and white horizontal bars with the national seal of Nicaragua proudly displayed in the middle. The seal includes a rainbow and rays of sunshine that represent hope for the future. While I firmly believe that our young people are and should be a part of the church today, they are also just that, hope for the future.

As we go about our busy schedule this summer I hope we can inspire a little hope not only in our own circle, but in those we serve as well.

## Faith and Grief Luncheon

The Rev. Ronald Verhaeghe, Chaplain at St. Luke's South Hospital, will offer a brief reflection on loss at our next Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry, Tues., June 7, at Village Presbyterian Church.

Our Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. The meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. Lunches are offered the first Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome – those of all faiths as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. The lunch is free, provided by the sponsoring churches. A freewill offering basket is available for those who wish to

## Via Retreat for Women

**Oct. 21-23 at Tall Oaks Conference Center**

The women's Via spiritual renewal retreat is designed to foster renewal, relaxation and reconnection.

Cost is \$125, which includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials. It's not too early to register. Register by Aug. 1 for the discount price of \$110. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-women>.



The women's retreat will follow the same curriculum as the men's, opportunity for personal reflection and reconnecting with the Spirit of God while also connecting with new friends, learning new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, and enjoying the beauty of nature.

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# Student Events

## Mark Your Calendars

**Family Movie on the Lawn.** Sat., July 8, (6-12th graders and families)

**High School BBQ Tour.** Sun., Sept. 18

**Middle School Food Tour.** Sun., Sept 18.

## Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8)

June 17-19, 2016. Middle School students will engage in mission in Northeast Kansas City in cooperation with Country Club Christian Church's PartNERship. This will be an opportunity to learn about the needs of our own city, build memories and lasting relationships with other students, and invest in our community. For more information, contact Monica Lewis at [monical@cccckc.org](mailto:monical@cccckc.org).

## Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Rm. 202

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

## April 14 Car Wash a Success for Nicaragua Mission



Last Saturday, May 14, high school students who will be participating in the June 2-8 Nicaragua Mission Trip held a benefit car wash in the Combs Chapel lot. The students raised over \$700 to purchase recreational equipment to take as gifts to the children in Nicaragua.



## A Palace in Time

by Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



“The seventh day is like a palace in time with a kingdom for all” wrote the Jewish mystic Abraham Joshua Heschel. The Sabbath, the seventh day, was distinguished from all of the other days because on this day God created “tranquility, serenity, peace and repose.” Rather than doing more, we are invited to revel in the joy of life on the seventh day. In our culture that prizes busyness, it can be challenging to carve out time to pause; to savor the sacred beauty and wonder of life. How do we find time for worship, for family, for renewing our souls? Where is that “palace in time” in your life?

Sabbatical is based on the word “Sabbath.” I eagerly await the sabbatical that the Personnel Committee has approved for me from June 1-Sept 1. I am tempted to read every new theological book, research every new church trend and visit every cutting edge faith community. But I am trying to remember what Heschel said, that the Sabbath is a time to discover a “palace in time.”

When I begin to talk about sabbatical, my husband gives me a funny look. “I’ve worked for 35 years and I have never had a sabbatical” he says with words that are tinged with anger and dripping with envy. His resentment is understandable. We all long for freedom, the same freedom that those ancient followers of God sought when they escaped slavery in Egypt and fashioned a new way of life with God that included “Sabbath rest” every seven days.

I am grateful that my husband supports my sabbatical journey and even more grateful that our church sends its pastors out every seven years to renew. Heschel writes “Labor is a craft but perfect rest is an art.” My prayerful hope is that my time of sabbatical will not only restore me, but also empower me to faithfully lead our church to connect with the sacred one we name God.

Your prayers for a safe journey are appreciated. I begin with the last section of the pilgrimage to Santiago, Spain, following in the footsteps of St. James and millions of pilgrims over thousands of years. I will also spend time volunteering with Mediterranean Hope, a refugee resettlement arm of the church with outposts in Sicily and Lampedusa. (Learn more about Mediterranean Hope here: <http://tinyurl.com/med-hope>) There will be time for reading, family reunions, prayer. But more than anything, I pray that all of us will glimpse a bit of that “palace in time” where all are included in God’s kingdom.

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Vacation Bible School

Register now for Vacation Bible School, June 20-23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Family Fun Day Sun., June 26. For children ages 2 through 5th grade. Sign up in the parlor or online at <http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc>



### 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).

## Infant Dedication



Campbell Linden Talley and Graham Allen Talley. Parents are Kendall and Jennifer Talley.

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# Our Church Family Sympathy

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

**Rev. Lynn "Wally" Brown**

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Senior Minister

Ms. Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Rev. Carla Aday  
Executive Minister

Ms. Sally Huggins  
Assistant Director of Communications

Dr. Meredith Holladay  
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Rev. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Students and Families

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

Rev. Joe Walker  
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Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf  
Assistant Director of Children and  
Student Ministries

Mr. Jason Ashley  
Director of Building and Grounds

Rev. Chuck Pickrel  
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Director of Communications

Mr. Paul Cutelli  
Director of Technology and  
Administrative Services

Dr. Paul Tucker  
Co-Director of Music

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans  
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](mailto:laras@cccckc.org)

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