



VOLUME 90 • NUMBER 15

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.*

## Blundell and Bough to Lead Church

Leeann Blundell will serve as chair of the Congregational Board for 2016-2017. Leeann has been a member of Country Club Christian Church since 1998.



Leeann Blundell

Leeann grew up in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination in the St. Louis area. She earned a master of business administration degree at the University of Missouri - St. Louis and a bachelor of science degree in economics at the University of Central Missouri. She works at Sprint.

Leeann and her husband, Randy Blundell, were married at Country Club Christian Church in 2006 and live in Leawood, KS. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their friends and family. Together, they have two children and three grandchildren.

"I am honored to serve and am looking forward to a great year with the board, congregation and staff. Together, we will listen to what God has in store for us and explore ways to transform lives," Leeann said.

Steve Bough will chair the Elders in 2016-2017. Steve has been a member of the church for 17 years, having originally been invited to visit by Stephanie Becker.



Steve Bough

Steve and his wife, Andrea, moved to Kansas City in 1994 to attend law school. Twenty years and two kids later Steve and Andrea are Kansas Citians. Ashley will be a senior at Pembroke Hill and Grant will be in 7th grade. Steve is currently U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of Missouri. Andrea is a partner at Lewis Rice.

Steve previously served as a member of the Congregational Board in 2001 and again in 2005.

"We have a wonderful and committed group of lay leaders. I look forward to working with the church, the professional staff and lay leaders to address our goals for the year," Steve said. "I would like to revisit the church bylaws to ensure we continue to run the church in the most responsible and efficient manner. As Elder chair, I believe that we should continue to serve our members and provide moral leadership in our church and community."



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## Worship on the Lawn Continues



Outdoor worship on the front lawn continues during the 9:00 a.m. hour. We are meeting on the sidewalk in front of the steps with our building as the background view for worshippers. The service is simple, with gospel style music, a message of hope and grace, and an invitation to share in the Supper of our Lord. Please dress casually. If you are heading to a Royals game or a day of shopping on The Plaza, this is a great way for you to start your Sunday!

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### Upcoming Guest Lunch

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend our guest luncheon from 12:15-1:30 p.m. on Sun., July 24 to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and church. Lunch will be served in the Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information or to RSVP, contact Barbara George at 816-333-4917 or [barbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org).

### New Member Sunday July 31

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is July 31. Contact Barbara George at 816-333-4917 or [brbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:brbarag@cccckc.org) for more information.

### Dr. Mike Graves to Preach on July 17



This Sunday we welcome Dr. Mike Graves, St. Paul School of Theology's William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching and Worship, into the pulpit at all three services.

Dr. Graves is a member of Country Club Christian Church, and also serves as the Regional Minister for Preaching for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Kansas City region.

Dr. Graves' forthcoming book, *Eating and Talking in Church* (working title), is about early communion practices in the first century and what they might mean for churches today.



## Extravagant Love, Intimate Friendship

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



*(Note: While Glen is away on vacation we are rerunning this column from a previous issue.)*

Paul ends his letter to the church in Corinth with a blessing: “The amazing grace of Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God and the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.”

The first word on Paul’s list, grace, implies that God loves all people. To make sure we get it he adds a word about God’s extravagant love. Paul is painting with a broad brush here, so it is up to you and me to fill in the details. If grace is true, if God

is love, if we are friends of the Holy Spirit, how does that affect our lives? How does this affect what you believe?

I ask these things because our beliefs matter. If we say that grace is at the center of who we are and how we understand God, then that grace will shape the way we live. If we claim to believe that God loves every person, then our lives will reflect that belief. The concept is pretty clear but, as you surely know, the practice of it is rarely easy.

I remember preaching a sermon about this idea a few years ago. I recited St. Francis’ little proverb, “Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.” I quoted Fred Craddock who says that the work of the Christian community is to help one another live graciously. Later that afternoon I fell asleep on the couch watching golf. (Televised golf is a gift sent by God to help preachers nap on Sunday afternoons.) My kids were playing ping pong down in the basement. They got loud. They were having a great time. But I was worn out. And tired. And cranky. I went to the stairs leading down to the basement and yelled at them, “Be QUIET! I have had a long day. I have another event tonight. Be quiet.” I was angry. They got very quiet.

Then one of them came upstairs. He said, “Nice sermon today. What was it about? Being kind and gracious?”

Ouch.

This love and grace stuff ain’t easy! The idea that God loves everyone and expects us to treat the world the same way is hard to put into practice. But in the long run it is the only way to live.

*Glen*

### New Sermon Series: Unlovable

Dr. Glen Miles begins a new series, “Unlovable: Loving the Worst in the World, Your Community, Your Family and You,” on July 24.



## Worship with us!

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

**July 17**

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**Sermon Series**

**Unlovable: Loving the Worst in  
the World, Your Community,  
Your Family and You**

Begins July 24

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## The Well Clearance Sale

Please stop by The Well, our book and gift store, beginning Sun., July 17 for the summer clearance sale on selected items. The Well is open 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sundays. All proceeds benefit Week of Compassion.



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## Collection Connection: School Supplies

We are collecting school supplies for Della Lamb Community Services charter school. We are collecting spiral notebooks and 3-hole loose leaf paper, and 3-ring plastic binders. Della Lamb Charter School is located in the Northeast Kansas City area. The K-8 school serves about 600 students; 97 percent at the poverty level. Of these 600 students, 70 percent are English Language Learners using 19 languages beyond English.

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## Join the Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir invites you to visit choir rehearsals this summer so you can see if you would be interested in joining the choir. The Chancel Choir sings each Sunday during the 11:00 a.m. service. No audition is necessary. During the summer, the choir will meet once a month – on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Guests are invited to the rehearsal on Aug. 3. Weekly Wednesday rehearsals resume on Aug. 17. Contact Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans for more information.



## Via Retreat for Women

### Early Registration Savings

Early registration savings. Register by Aug. 1 for Women's Via spiritual renewal retreat Oct. 21-23 for the discount price of \$110 (regular cost \$125). Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-women>. The women's retreat at Tall Oaks Conference Center is designed to foster renewal, relaxation and reconnection. Cost includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials. It's not too early to register.



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## Overseas Ministries Speaker



Rev. Julia Brown Karimu, President of the Division of Overseas Ministries of our denomination and the co-executive of Global Ministries, will present a program on Sun., July 24, in the Social Hall. The Koinonia Class is hosting Julia and everyone is welcome. She will provide an update on all that Global Ministries is doing in the overseas mission work of our denomination.

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## Helping Prepare a Home to Welcome a Refugee Family

We have committed to try to provide teams of three to five people to help prepare each home in the Della Lamb Refugee Resettlement program, a part of our Northeast PartNERship. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kathy Buckley, the point person for our congregation, at [majorbuckley@aol.com](mailto:majorbuckley@aol.com) to be placed on a list for the next opportunity.





## Wave of God's Amazing Love

By Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



As always, we had a very fun filled week of Vacation Bible School at our Surf Shack this year!

Words cannot express the gratitude to all the volunteers who stepped up to make the week happen. We had over 100 children participate each night, and I hope many of you were able to partake in the festivities on the front lawn for the Family Fun Day on June 26.

The children went through rotations of music, science, art, Bible and recreation, all while catching the wave of

God's amazing love!

"Remember that the Lord is great and awesome!" Nehemiah 4:14b

*Lindsay*



## Text Giving

Make a contribution to the church via text from your phone:

1. Text the word CHURCH to 816-839-9410 and include the amount you'd like to contribute. Example: Church \$100
2. You will receive a reply text. Click on the link.
3. Fill in your name, email, address and your credit or debit card. It's fast and easy.
4. You will receive an email receipt and your gift will be applied to your giving record at the church. You must complete your transaction within 15 minutes.

## Virginia Reed Food Drive

Our Virginia Reed Food Drive is collecting cold cereal for the hot month of July. There are three ways to donate:

- Bring a box of cereal to our donation points in the parlor and chapel any Sunday.
- Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website. On July 17, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation. ([christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org](http://christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org)).
- Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope "food drive." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship.



Your gifts support the five area food pantries that our church supports: Community Christian Church, Alta Vista Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services and Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

## Students Recap Nicaragua Experience

High school students who went on the mission trip to Nicaragua in June shared photos and talked with the congregation on Sun., July 10, about their experience. Pictured above, left to right, Chuck Pickrel, Taylor Corn, Sam Berry, Jackson Berry, Charlie Jensen, Wynne Reddin, MaKenna Lockhart.



## Middle Schoolers Serve in Northeast Kansas City

Students in grades 6-8 worked with our partners in the northeast on June 17-19. Below, left to right, Kathy McDandel (chaperone), Duncan Bennett, Breck McGuire, Caroline Schopp, Elizabeth Crocker, Olivia Keller and Chuck Pickrel.



## Student Events

### Mark Your Calendars

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

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

### 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

### Church Hosts Mission Teams

In July about 75 people from Middletown Christian Church in Louisville, KY, and Simpsonville Christian Church in Simpsonville, KY, participated in MissionKC, an opportunity provided by our church to serve and make a financial impact in Northeast KC. One group served with Grace United Community ministries helping with its summer program for children while the other built trails and cleaned along Cliff Drive in the Northeast. They even made the news for helping achieve 10,000 volunteer hours at Kessler Park while they were here. Read the article at <http://northeastnews.net/pages/?p=32447>.



Above, the group who cleaned up along Cliff Drive. Below, a group of students and chaperones who worked at Grace United.







## Our Historic Ride

by Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care.



I was McKenna's age when the Golden Age of the Kansas City Streetcars coasted to a halt. So, last Saturday's ride on the new streetcar with her provided an illustrative historic vantage point.

Last Saturday we were delighted to host some much-beloved extended family members, including 1-year-old McKenna, visiting from Wisconsin. We took them to the River Market to shop and play and, of course, we had to ride the new streetcar.

I called the earlier streetcar era the "Golden Age" because I am informed by real transit aficionados that Kansas City trailed only Los Angeles in track miles in our heyday. A lot of folks just a little older than I am recall the streetcars as efficient and egalitarian.

Everyone reading this knows that a whole lot of complicated social, economic, and political changes occurred over the last 60 years and those are chronicled elsewhere. To stay with my timeline – and my point – I simply put another pin in my high school years. By that time we knew that there were significant concerns about how urban and suburban planning impacted our neighbors living in poverty, inter-ethnic relationships, our environment, food production, the economy, and international politics. As an idealistic youth I was drawn to groups seeking to engage our communities in those important, complex, and difficult conversations.



With some exceptions, I am still waiting for those conversations. In part, the inability of our neighborhoods to engage in respectful and wisdom-filled dialogue back then helped lead me to the ministry and shape my ecclesiology. I remember in my formative years a professor analyzing John the Baptist's message observed that "hearts must change before kingdoms can change."

My brief but historic streetcar ride with young McKenna reminded me afresh of the important role our church plays in nurturing the spiritual maturity that is necessary if we are to successfully address difficult issues and in providing safe spaces for neighbors to gather as we prayerfully discern how best to organize our lives together.

Joe

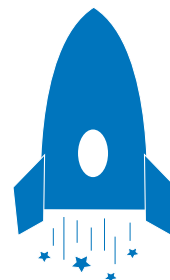
## Children and Families

### Leadership Launch

Sun., Aug. 28, 12:15-2:00 p.m.

Youth Center (Rm. 205)

Did you know that in the beginning of each school year volunteers in our Children and Student Ministries gather together for training on curriculum, safety policies and procedures and to learn about our children? If you volunteer throughout the year in any capacity, we'd love for you to join us



to find out more about what you'll be doing! Contact Monica Lewis at [monical@cccckc.org](mailto:monical@cccckc.org) for more information.

### 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).

## Infant Dedication



Emmersen Aleine Bandy was dedicated on Sun., July 10. Parents are Jason and Crystal Bandy.

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Executive Minister

Rev. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Students and Families

Rev. Joe Walker  
Minister of Congregational Care

Mr. Jason Ashley  
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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](mailto:laras@cccckc.org)

816-333-4917

email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)