



VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 1

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.*



### All Things New

A sermon series focused on helping you renew your heart, soul and mind for the new year.

**Jan. 10** – Finding Your Way to a New You, Revelations 21:1-5

**Jan. 17** – Developing Faith Under Pressure, James 1: 2-18

**Jan. 24** – Here is Your Life, Colossians 3: 12-17

### New Faithbook Session Begins in January

Women explore the scriptures and share in friendship and the spirit does the rest! If you don't have time for homework between your work, your family and your volunteering, then this is the class for you. Led by Rev. Carla Aday. The group meets Tuesday evening OR Wednesday morning. Pick the time frame that fits your schedule.

– Tues., 7:00-8:00 p.m., Jan. 19-Apr. 26.

– Wed., 9:00-10:00 a.m., Jan. 20-Apr. 27.

– Apr. 26/27 - Closing Parties

Sign up with Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccc.org.

#### Topics:

**The Book of Revelation.** Making all things new instead of making life seem scary!

Tuesdays – Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

Wednesdays – Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

**Why the Cross?** When faith evokes something deeper from us.

Tuesdays – Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22

Wednesdays - Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23

**Spiritual Practices.** Prayer, meditation and other ways to open up to the Holy.

Tuesdays – Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 12, 19

Wednesdays – Mar. 30, Apr. 6, 13, 20

### State of the Church

Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future on Sun., Jan. 31, at 12:15 p.m., in the Social Hall. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report. An optional box lunch will be available.



## Pathways to Learning: Love and Marriage and the Church



Join us in conversation and study on relationships, marriage and the role of the church – both for good and evil.

**Feb. 7** – A conversation with Rev. Brian Ellison and Dr. Molly Marshall. Rev. Ellison is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and is executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. He is also a frequent contributor to KCUR, Kansas City's NPR station. Dr. Marshall is the president and professor of theology and spiritual formation at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, KS.

**Feb. 14** – The role of the church and marriage in the U.S. with Rev. Ellison.

**Feb. 21** – Conversation and question and answer with Dr. Marshall.

Pathways to Learning is a series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing upon timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, and more. Ideal for those who aren't involved in a Sunday School class; entire Sunday School classes are encouraged to participate as a group. Visitors welcome. 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.



Rev. Brian Ellison



Dr. Molly Marshall

## Get Connected: InFellowship

Country Club Christian Church recently transitioned to a new membership database program that will be more efficient for members and staff alike. As we complete the transition process, we invite you to get connected so that you can benefit from the new tools the system offers.

### Why?

- Print your giving record at any time.
- Update your email, address, phone, family information.
- Confirm family birthdates so that you will receive appropriate invitations, and a birthday card at a certain age!
- Register for church events (coming soon!).
- Give access to have your name listed on small group/class rosters.
- Set up electronic giving, one time or reoccurring.

### How?

- Go to <https://cccckc.infellowship.com>.
- Click "Sign Up."
- Fill out the requested information.
- Check your email for a message with your verification.
- Complete the form from the link in the verification email.
- Login with your information and see what InFellowship has to offer!

## Collection Connection: Only One Toothbrush

What if you only had one toothbrush? Not just right now, but maybe for your whole life?

As you go to the store this month to pick out a toothbrush to send with our Nicaragua mission team, imagine handing it to a little girl



or boy who may not have ever had even a simple toothbrush until your gift. Your toothbrush is far more than bristles and a handle, it is a symbol of your compassion for that little girl or boy. When our mission team travels to rural Nicaragua in February, we will deliver your toothbrush for you. When we return, we will be sure to share with you the smiles we will be blessed to receive on your behalf.

In addition to our toothbrush collection we need your cash donations to purchase medical supplies and construction materials. Traditionally our mission team helps staff a medical clinic. This year we are blessed to be able to serve alongside a Nicaraguan doctor thereby strengthening their local health care system. We also help with sanitation needs – often digging latrines or building water filtration systems. (We will show off our callouses when we return.)

Join us on our mission by placing your cash or check donation in the offertory marked "Nicaragua Collection Connection." Your toothbrush gift may be placed in our Collection Connection basket in our parlor.



## Books on Islam

Dr. R. Glen Miles



According to the Pew Research Center, only 41 percent of Americans are able to state both the Muslim name for God and the name of the Islamic sacred text. Knowledge of the basic beliefs and practices of this beautiful religion is even lower. I'm not an expert on Islam but I have read a little bit about it. The more we know about the faith of our Muslim sisters and brothers the less fearful we will be when it comes to learning how to live in community. I'm certain that you'll find we have much more in common with Muslims than many imagine possible.

Here are three books that I highly recommend:

Huston Smith's book, *Islam: A Concise Introduction*, is a great primer for anyone wanting to learn the basics without getting buried in a long and rigorous book. Many of you may recall that Smith, most recently the Visiting Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, spoke at Country Club Christian Church several years ago. This book is a rich and inviting look at the basic history and tenets of Islam. Smith has long been recognized as one of the world's leading scholars of world religions.

*Allah: A Christian Response*, by Miroslav Volf, is a scholarly yet approachable book for Christians on how to interact theologically with Islam. Volf, who spoke at our church back in 2011, presents a highly readable volume inviting Christians to begin with love toward Muslims as the primary way to engage in dialogue. He demonstrates that there is a great deal of similarity between Christians and Muslims when it come to the object of our worship. I believe this book is perfect for any who want to approach Islam from a Christian perspective, one that is based on respect and admiration.

For those of you wishing to dive deeply into Islamic history and thought Hans Küng's masterful *Islam: Past, Present and Future* will give you an in-depth look into the 1,400-year history of Islam. This book's 1,000 pages may seem daunting but Kung's willingness to continually wrestle with history and current understandings make this one of the best books one can read on this topic.

You may order these books from our bookstore, The Well. If you do read one or more of these please let me know. I'd love to host a discussion group on any or all of these excellent tomes.

Grace and peace to you,

## Upcoming Guest Lunch

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend the luncheon from 12:15-1:30 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 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 Meredith Holladay, meredithh@cccckc.org.

## Worship with us!

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

**Jan. 3, 2016**

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

Give Until It Feels Like Receiving

*Exodus 35:21-29*

Rev. Joe Walker preaching

**January Sermon Series**

**All Things New**

**Jan. 10**

Finding Your Way to a New You

*Revelations 21:1-5*

**Jan. 17**

Developing Faith Under Pressure

*James 1: 2-18*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Jan. 17. We have three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community:

1. Bring canned goods to our donation points in the parlor and the chapel, and at the doors any time. Please do not bring anything in a glass container. Cans, boxes and plastic containers all work well and are not accidentally broken as easily as glass.
2. Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website ([christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org](http://christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org)). We will have a computer in the parlor on Jan. 17 for you to make your online contribution.
3. 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.

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## Couple Communication Class

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communications skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free; for those not married at the church, the fee is \$35. The next session will be Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). Led by Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller. Contact Rachel Wymore at [weddings@cccckc.org](mailto:weddings@cccckc.org) to sign up.

## Text your Gift!

Make a contribution to the Christmas Offering or a year-end gift to the church via text from your phone:

1. Text the word CHRISTMAS or the word CHURCH to 816-839-9410 and include the amount you'd like to contribute. Example:  
Christmas \$100  
OR  
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. 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.

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## Helping Prepare a Home to Welcome a Refugee Family

Volunteers helped Della Lamb Community Center clean and prepare another apartment for a refugee family recently. Our volunteers were joined by Adam, a cousin of the Sudanese family that just arrived in Kansas City. Adam was a refugee 15 years ago. He is very excited that his cousins, who have been in a refugee camp in Egypt for 15 years, are finally able to join him in his new home country. This is part of our on-going commitment to help with refugee resettlement. To volunteer for an occasional half-day to prepare a home for a family contact Kathy Buckley at [majorbuckley@aol.com](mailto:majorbuckley@aol.com).



## Thanks for a Great Year!

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



During the month of December, I spent a lot of time working on the church's End of Year video, featuring the Country Club Christian Church clergy describing all of the things that have made this an amazing year for this church. Check it out at <http://tinyurl.com/ccckc-end-of-year> if you haven't had an opportunity to see it. On that theme, I'm taking this opportunity to recognize these highlights in my year. I am thankful for:

1. ...smart, committed, hardworking volunteers.

You'll find dozens and dozens of them in all the church's ministries, but I want to recognize the team that has been working on a redesign of the church's web site: Tepring Crocker, Tom Thornton, Amy Brown, Chris Haines, and Jenny Hobick have been planning, brainstorming, organizing, and strategizing about a redesign that will be effective and efficient for users.

2. ...the people who point out typos. Yes, we make mistakes, and inevitably someone notices and points them out. And for that, I'm grateful! Really! It means people are reading the newsletter, the bulletin and the web site, and it means that people care.

3. ...the talent that our members possess. Glenn Crocker has for years lent us his technical expertise. Serena Tsu and her enormous camera lens take amazing photos at many of our events. Lori Bennett and Courtney Sullivan share their amazing graphic artwork. We are fortunate to have all of these folks – and many more – sharing their skills with us.

4. ...those of you who take home Christmas Eve and Easter yard signs. It might seem like a simple thing, putting a sign in your yard. But what you're doing is telling your friends and neighbors that you love your church, and that is worth more than any marketing we could buy.

5. ...those of you who like, comment on and share the church's social media posts. When you share a Facebook post, you boost the church's exposure exponentially. The ripple effect is amazing. One recent post reached nearly 4,500 people thanks to your likes, comments and shares. And like the yard signs, your endorsement of the church sends a message to your friends and family.

6. ...my coworkers on the church staff. You see the big things they do: preaching sermons and planning funerals, teaching bible studies and Sunday school lessons. But there are a million little things you never see that these folks do every day.

So thanks, Country Club Christian Church, for a great year. Here's to 2016.

*Lara*

## Save the Date! 2016 Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction, Fri., Mar. 4, 2016 at Boulevard Brewery.

**Auction** – It's really not too soon! The committee will be looking for Live Auction items, Super Silent items and items by category, such as sports, electronics, jewelry, restaurants, gift packages, for the event. Creative ideas for donated items by individuals, groups working together or by Sunday School class are welcome!

## Columbarium, Advance Planning

Brightly colored leaves enflame our trees, then gently drift to our lawns. The days grow cooler and shorter. The earth invites to be mindful of our own seasons. If you would like information on a niche in our columbarium or other advance planning materials, please call Rev. Joe Walker, 816-333-4917.

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## Student Ministries News

### Yoga 4U for High School Students

All high school students (9th-12th grade) are invited to enjoy food, juice bar and relaxation. Sun., Jan. 10, 12:00-3:00 p.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205).

### Middle School Dodgeball Tournament

Sun., Jan. 24, 12:00-2:00 p.m. For more information and to RSVP contact Elizabeth Pfalzgraf at youth@cccckc.org.

### Improv Workshop for Students Grades 6-12

Get your funny on! Save the date – Sun., Feb. 21, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Improv is hilarious. Improv helps you be hilarious. It also helps with your self-confidence, helps you learn to “say yes,” helps you learn how to fail, and is BASICALLY JUST AMAZING! Bring friends for a fun night!

### Middle School Mission Trip

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. They will learn about the Northeast’s rich cultural diversity, share meals at small area restaurants, and finish up the nights enjoying fellowship in our church building. For more information, contact Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org.

## Filled Socks for Micah Ministry

Tom and Cindy Thornton with help from Jason Ashley loaded the filled socks for delivery to Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Darrell Cantrell, who helps organize volunteer activities at Micah, wrote to us: “Thank you all at Country Club for such great support for Micah Ministry.” In addition to our annual sock drive volunteers help provide meals and serve in the clothes closet. We have also provided outreach grants to fund Micah’s many programs.



### Family Worship Night

A worship experience for the entire family. Sun., Jan. 31, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. 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.

### Restart the Music Proceeds Presented to reStart Inc.



Country Club Christian Church students Charlie Jensen and Margo Hunter presented a check to reStart Volunteer Director Tim McMahon for the money raised at the Restart the Music concert in November. The money raised will go toward renovations at reStart’s teen shelter in Kansas City, MO.



## A Galaxy Far, Far Away

by Dr. Meredith Holladay, Minister of Spiritual Formation



I married into Star Wars nerd-dom. Growing up, *Star Trek: Next Generation* was about the only sci-fi that entered our house, thanks to my dad. Sure, I'd seen the movies, but I was not a passionate follower of The Force by any means. Then, Zach and I got married, and I moved in, which meant my *Babysitters Club* books found a home next to his Ewok Village. It's not hard to get swept up in *A Galaxy Far, Far Away* when the one you love is such a devotee. Suffice it to say, we saw the new movie, *The Force Awakens*, soon after it came out – leaving behind moving boxes and painting projects in our new home.

If you were in worship on Dec. 27, you heard me reference the film. One scene in particular caught my attention in the theater, and has stuck with me. Here's how I discussed it in my sermon: In a scene towards the beginning of the movie, the main character, who is reluctant to get involved in the conflict between the Force and the Dark Side, has a conversation with Maz – think female Yoda with glasses and better grammar. Maz tells her, “Dear child, the belonging you seek is not behind you... it is ahead of you. ... The light – it's always been there. It'll guide you.”

The sermon was about the first chapter of John's Gospel – particularly these words: “What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:4-5) These words from John and from *Star Wars*, I think, offer us wisdom as we enter the new calendar year. If you're like me, you've begun to tune out the news – it's just so grim so much of the time. And often we look so far back to the past that the light gets shut out by the shadows of what has already been.

As we journey into 2016, as we ask the questions about “what is next?” and “what am I to do?” may we be reminded of the light – the light that is always near us and ahead of us – guiding us into our shared future.

*Meredith*

## Children and Families

### MOPs Group

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The next meeting is Jan. 13. For more information on MOPs, check out [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).

### Preschool and Parents' Day Out Open House

**Jan. 26-28, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.**

Prospective families can visit the program while currently enrolled families can see the room their child will go to next year. Parent Board members will be giving tours. Registration for currently enrolled families for preschool, transition and PDO siblings will be Mon., Feb. 1, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. PDO families will enroll Tues., Feb. 2, 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Registration will be open to the general public for preschool, transition and PDO on Thurs., Feb. 4, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

### Family Worship Night

Sun., Jan. 31, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

### Club Kids (3rd-5th Grade)

Upcoming dates: Feb. 7, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1.

### Deep Blue

Deep Blue 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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## Our Church Family Sympathy

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

**Diane “Dee” Benton**

### Memorials

**Marjorie Hagstrom**

Debby Hodges Williamson

**Paul A Jordan & Virginia Tanzey Jordan, P. Roy Jordan & Mayne Jordan, and Dr. Hugh Tanzey & Eunice Tanzey**

Dorothy O’Sullivan

**Janet Ludwig**

Martha Jo Strickler

**Fred Merrill**

Hannah Fenley

**Fred Merrill, for the Music Department**

Anonymous

Mark & Amy Dobbins

Courtney Earnest

Pat Martin

Bill & Mary Jean Shoop

Doris Thompson

**Helen Wooster**

Ann Elliot

**Michael Worley, for Congregational Care**

Jill Reynolds

**Michael Worley, for Micah Ministries**

Kelley Quinn

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