



VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 2

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.*

## Our Church Mission Teams Experience India

Bright colors, animals, songs in Hindi and English, sounds of children and interesting foods have engaged the mission team from Country Club Christian Church in Mungeli, India. Team members have talked with families, visited schools, shared meals and toured the hospital. They traveled into the hills of Kona Park where it was cold enough to remind them it is January. Neeraj, his wife Deborah, their 3 year old son, Duguu, and Perna were the team's guides. It was an overnight trip and heavy blankets were needed at the lodge where they stayed. They looked for any of 96 tigers in the park on their safari ride. Our first team is headed home and a second team has arrived. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/cccindia> to read the blog.



### 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.



# Spiritual Renewal Retreat Set for April

**First session will be men's retreat; women's session scheduled for fall.**

**Apr. 1-3 at Tall Oaks Conference Center, Bonner Spring, KS.**

Joe Walker and Glen Miles will lead this retreat as you relax, renew and reconnect. Cost is \$125, which includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials.

This retreat is the initial session of Country Club Christian Church's new spiritual renewal retreats for men and women. Each year there will be a men's retreat in the spring and a women's retreat in the fall. Life gets busy and it is easy to drift away from the journey of faith. The 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. The retreats will be identical and led by members of the church staff. Each retreat will be limited to the first 75 participants.

## 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

## Staff Update



Jeff Sidney will join our staff in a full-time position starting Jan. 18, 2016. Jeff has worked at Country Club Christian Church as a part-time staff

member for over a year. His new hours will be 3:00 p.m. to close Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Jeff will also open and close the building Saturdays and Sundays as custodial schedules are further refined.

## Collection Connection: Toothbrushes for Nicaragua

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.

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.

For more information, contact Joe Walker at [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).



## Love Your Enemies?

Dr. R. Glen Miles



I'm working on a sermon series for later in the year or early in 2017 titled "Did Jesus Really Say That?" As a result, I've been reading through the gospels, trying to listen to the teachings of our Lord in a fresh and new way. This morning I was struck by the blunt reality of the sermon on the mount. Jesus proclaims, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

I reread it. I reviewed his words in my Greek New Testament. I looked up definitions for the words for neighbor and enemy. I was looking for loopholes. I was hoping I could find something that would indicate Jesus wasn't using the word "love" (agape) in the same way we might do so.

I could not find any way out of it. It appears he really meant what he said. In the same sermon there were instructions to turn the other cheek if someone strikes you, to give away your extra coat if someone needs it and to work for peace. There is also a note about not praying in public but instead go into your room and shut the door (finally an instruction I know I can follow!).

Honestly, I don't know how we are to love our enemies. When I play in a pick up basketball game (yes I still play – I'm slow but I can't jump) if I get shoved by a defender my immediate thought is retaliation. If I get cut off in traffic I want to blow my horn and give the guy a piece of my mind. I know these are silly illustrations but I mention them as a way of demonstrating how difficult Jesus' teaching is in the face of real enemies like those who want to attack the United States.

There are no easy answers to this hard and demanding word. There is no way I am going to try and solve this issue in a 400-word blog. Theologian Miroslav Volf reminds us, "Christians can legitimately dispute how they should love their enemies but not whether they should love them." I agree. Rather than trying to rationalize my way around Jesus' mandate, I'm going to read his words again. And again. I have made a commitment to read the sermon on the mount every day between now and the beginning of Lent as a form of prayer.

At the end of each reading I will ask, "Lord, help me, your servant, live these words in my life." There are no easy answers but there is no denying the clarity of Jesus' mandate.

## 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 Holaday, meredithh@cccckc.org.

## Looking for a Speaker?

Does your service club or social group need a guest speaker? Glen Miles would be happy to speak to your groups on topics of life, love, interfaith matters and others. Email Glen at glenm@cccckc.org with your date and suggested topic.

## Worship with us!

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

### January Sermon Series

**All Things New**

**Jan. 17**

Developing Faith Under Pressure

*James 1: 2-18*

**Jan. 24**

Here is Your Life

*Colossians 3: 12-17*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Sign Up for 2016 Christian Community Camp

Rooms are filling up fast for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO July 30-Aug. 6. For many years, families and individuals of all ages from our congregation have gathered for a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,700 for a private room; \$375 for the women's bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$85 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

*\*Note the 2017 camp dates are June 3-10.*

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## 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.

## Blood Drive on January 17

The Community Blood Center will conduct a blood drive on Sun., Jan. 17, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/cccblood-jan16> to schedule an appointment online. Community Blood Center is the primary supplier of blood and blood components to 70 plus hospitals and medical centers in the Kansas City region.

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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.

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## New Faithbook Session

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

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## 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!





## Children's Collection Connection

By Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



If you have not seen the new Children's Collection Connection center in the children's wing, I recommend you stop by and check it out. The children are loving putting their offering in the twirl tray and bringing items for donation based on our current project.

This month we are collecting school supplies for Syrian refugee children. Through the project by Kids 2 Kids, the children are learning ways they can help. First by praying, on their own, with friends, with adults and with our church. Second, there are suggested books for

the children to read with their families to gain more understanding in regard to the situation with refugees and what it means to be a refugee. The Well is selling a few of these titles; *The Whispering Cloth* by Peggi Shea and Anita Riggio and *Four Feet, Two Sandals* by Karen Lynn Williams.

To help those who are moving, we are collecting school supplies to make school kits for the refugees. We are collecting the following items through the month of January:

- Backpacks
- Notebooks
- Notebook Paper
- Bottles of Glue
- Packages of Crayons
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Pens

## Spring Program & 5th Grade Celebration

Sun., Apr. 24, 12:15 p.m., Social Hall

*The Big Fish: Jonah's Whale Of A Tale* is an undersea "film

noir" detective investigation of Jonah's mysterious disappearance into the belly of the whale. ... think trench coats, dark

sunglasses, dark and stormy nights, and a hint of SpongeBob. This musical is sure to have everyone swimming with joy!



Auditions for speaking parts will be Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 213 (no preparation necessary).

ALL children will be learning songs in Sunday School and encouraged to participate in the program!

Important Rehearsal Dates:

Apr. 17 – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Social Hall

Apr. 23 – 10:00-11:30 a.m., Social Hall

## Columbarium, Advance Planning

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

### Middle School Dodgeball Tournament for Grades 6-8

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

### Pastors’ Class Begins February 10

This is a class for 6th grade students that provides time, space, and tools to help students more clearly name their identity as Christians and provides an opportunity for our students to study and prepare for church membership. If you know a 6th grader who is interested, submit your completed Pastors’ Class Covenant form to [youth@cccckc.com](mailto:youth@cccckc.com). It can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/pastorsclass-16>



#### Schedule:

- Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday—attend service, which begins at 6:00 p.m. Class out by 8:00. Welcome to Pastors’ Class dinner following for students and mentors. Practice and discuss structure/purpose of worship/focus of class.
- Feb. 17 Focus: Faith and Communion (7:00-8:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 24 Focus: Relationship Building. Faith mentor session. (7:00-8:30 p.m.)
- Mar. 2 Focus: Faith and Baptism. Faith mentor session. (7:00-8:30 p.m.)
- Mar. 9 Prep for Baptisms. (7:00-8:30 p.m.). Faith statements with faith mentors.
- Mar. 20 Palm Sunday—Baptisms. Students arrive by 10:15 a.m. for prep and photos with mentors, Monica Lewis and Glen Miles. Baptisms are part of the 11:00 a.m. service.
- Mar. 24 6:00-8:00 p.m. Communion at Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. Faith mentors attend. End of Pastors’ Class party/dinner.
- May 1 Pastors’ Class Reunion, 9:55-10:55 a.m.

### 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.

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Our students will be collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring after each worship service



on Sun., Feb. 7. Our donations fund our Virginia Reed Food Drive helping local pantries feed the hungry right here in our community.

#### Ways to contribute:

- Give your cash or check to our students as you exit worship.
- Place your gift in the offering marked “Souper Bowl.”
- Drop off your canned goods at the Virginia Reed Food Drive table or the basket in our Chapel.
- Visit the Harvesters Community Food Network website ([christian-church.harvestersvfd.org](http://christian-church.harvestersvfd.org)) anytime to make an on-line donation.
- Stop by the Virginia Reed Food Drive table in our Parlor on Feb. 21 and use the computer to make a contribution.



## Student Ministries Thriving

by Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families



Over the last three months, our Student Ministry Team has been engaged in the search for a new Director of Student Ministries. During that time, I have been repeatedly and continually impressed by the dedication our lay leadership has shown to this process.

Elizabeth Pfalzgraf, who is a member of our church and serves as the chair of our Children’s Ministry Team, stepped up to the plate and has been serving as the Interim Student Ministry Assistant. Lesley Holt, Kris Brumitt and Lori Bennett are part of our Children and Student Ministries Steering Team.

They served as the search team through this process and have read resumes, interviewed candidates, prayed about our search, emailed, texted, called, interviewed some more...you get the idea.

During our search, we have seen the “system” of our ministries working! Our Student Ministry Team has been guiding our ministry, coordinating events, and keeping us looking toward the future. Our middle schoolers have been taught Sunday School each week by Julie Miles, Tina McGuire, Mary Lehoczky and Julia Bartlett! Who wouldn’t want to learn from that bunch!?

Our high schoolers have been participating in a small group Sunday School after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday mornings with Chris Howard. Chris has been so much more than a teacher or mentor to our high schoolers – he’s truly been their friend. They’ve talked about the good and bad of their weeks, laughed at viral videos and spoken quietly about the struggles they’ve had during the week.

Our Student Ministry Team worked with members of Shawnee Mission East High School’s SHARE student group to produce a benefit concert for ReStart, supporting homeless teens in Kansas City. Shelle and Charlie Jensen worked with several volunteer families including the Floras, Brumitts, Hunters and Crockers. Travis Wymore, Cindy Irey, Kurt Zschiezschmann, Kristen Patterson, John Stewart, and Karen Robinson also pitched in to serve as the students raised \$1,500 for charity!

Our students bowled, played laser tag, ate together, served together, prayed together, developed new relationships and strengthened lasting ones. Remember...it’s only been three months!

As we enter into the final days of our search process and eagerly anticipate the future of Country Club Christian Church’s Student Ministry, I am filled with so much hope! Not only do we have an incredible team of volunteers serving with our students, we have inspired students who are living into the future to which God is calling them. What a joy it will be when we get to share our ministry with someone new?!

## Children and Families Preschool and Parents’ Day Out Open House

**Jan. 26-28, 9:00-11:30 a.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 sibilings 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)

Feb. 1 - Laser Tag.

Additional dates: Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1.

### 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 Feb. 10. For more information on MOPs, check out [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).

### Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

During February, the Collection Connection will be gathering filled Easter Eggs to be used during our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Empty eggs may be picked up in the Parlor Jan. 31-Feb. 28. Eggs may be returned filled with pre-packaged candy, small stickers/toys, or coins.

Non-Profit Organization  
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Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

# Our Church Family

## Sympathy

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

**Lucille Lambert**

## Memorials

**Betty Farmer, for the Music Department**

June Turley

**Byron McDaniel**

Charles & Mark Ann Lusk

Bette McDaniel

Leawood Woman's Club

**Byron McDaniel, for the Music Department**

June Turley

**Fred Merrill, for the Music Department**

June Turley

**Tom & Mary Plucknett**

Nancy Plucknett

**Lucille Lambert**

Laurel Ann Mace

**Lucille Lambert, for Congregational Care**

Jeanne & Perry Cockayne

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Senior Minister

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans  
Co-interim Director of Music

Rev. Carla Aday  
Executive Minister

Ms. Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Meredith Holladay  
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Ms. Sally Huggins  
Assistant Director of Communciations

Rev. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Students and Families

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Rev. Joe Walker  
Minister of Congregational Care

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

Mr. Jason Ashley  
Director of Building and Grounds

Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf  
Interim Student Ministries Assistant

Ms. Rachel Clement  
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Ms. Lara Schopp  
Director of Communications

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Director of Technology and  
Administrative Services

Dr. Paul Tucker  
Co-interim Director of Music

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