



DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST

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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.*

VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 3

# COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

## Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday

**Feb. 10, 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary**

The season of Lent is a 40-day period (not including Sundays) that runs from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Over the centuries, Christians of all denominations have developed specific and varied traditions during this period.



Almost uniformly, though, this season of the Church year brings the expectation of self-examination and personal growth toward the celebration of Easter. Some people give something up, while others might concentrate on some sort of learning experience. The options are as varied as the denominations.

The standard scripture readings for Ash Wednesday call us to turn away from that which separates us from the Divine and re-consecrate ourselves to a more spiritual life. For that reason, we usually culminate our worship by the imposition of ashes upon an individual's forehead or on the back of their hands. Join us on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a traditional imposition of ashes. Dr. Meredith Holladay will preach "We All Fall Down."

## Lenten Sermon Series: Last Words

The last words from the cross demand our attention. "Forgive them," Jesus prays. Another who is being crucified calls out to Jesus, "Remember me." In pain and agony our Lord demands, "My God, why?" The last words of the cross remind us of the very human desires to be forgiven and remembered, understood and loved.

**Feb. 14** – Forgive, Luke 23:24

**Feb. 21** – Remember, Luke 23:43

**Feb. 28** – Behold, John 19:26

**Mar. 6** – My God, Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34

**Mar. 13** – Thirst, John 19:28

**Mar. 20, Palm Sunday** – Commend, Luke 23:46

**Mar. 25, Good Friday** – Finished, John 19:30

## Holy Week Services

**Maundy Thursday** – Mar. 24, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary.

**Good Friday** – Mar. 25, 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary.

**Easter** – Sun., Mar. 27. Services at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

## 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. A light lunch will be available.



## 2016 Celebration Dinner and Auction

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

Plan to attend the dinner and auction, which not only has become an important source of funds for the church's operating budget, but has more importantly cultivated friendships that extend across generational lines and nurtured a sense of stewardship within our community. You can help ensure this year's event is a success by becoming a benefactor at one of six levels starting at \$250 or purchasing tickets to the event.

Purchase tickets online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-auction> or in the Parlor on Feb. 7, 14 and 21.



**Auction** – The committee is 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! If you have items you'd like to donate, please contact Barbara George at [barbara@pmrkc.com](mailto:barbara@pmrkc.com).

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



Join us in conversation and study on relationships, marriage and the role of the church. 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.

**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.



Rev. Brian Ellison



Dr. Molly Marshall

## Collection Connection: Toothbrushes for Nicaragua

The Collection Connection is directed toward our Nicaragua mission trip. A team from our church will travel to Nicaragua Feb. 20-28 to partner



with Nicaraguans to help improve health and living conditions of rural families. Help by donating toothbrushes (we need thousands) or money to purchase other medicines.

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 the Collection Connection basket in our parlor.

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

## Save the Date for Grace at Work on April 16

Join us on Sat., Apr. 16 for Grace at Work, a fun-filled half-day volunteer event open to all ages and abilities. Grace at Work supports our church and area organizations through our participation in various hands-on projects. Many different volunteer opportunities are available. Through your participation you will have the opportunity to experience fellowship, while assisting others in need and creating visible change in our community. Complimentary hot breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.



## Snow Day

Dr. R. Glen Miles



Last Tuesday the weather report called for flurries and maybe an inch of snow around 5:00 p.m. However, by 2:45 p.m. there was a thick and slick coat of ice forming on the sidewalks and parking lots at the church. After a brief meeting with Carla and Jason we decided to close the building and cancel that evening's meetings and programs.

I stayed on campus with Jason until all were gone and then made the very slow and crowded commute home. It wasn't too bad, though, because I arrived home about four hours earlier than I had planned. Julie and I rummaged through the fridge

and enjoyed taking time to prep a fun little dinner. After the meal we poured a glass of Coach Vermiel's wine and flipped channels looking for a good movie. We found a decent one, popped some popcorn and enjoyed a quiet evening together.

There is nothing remarkable in this story except that I've noticed in our marriage and friendships sometimes the best days come as a surprise. Between our two very busy schedules we work very hard to plan for time together. We schedule date nights and movies. We have our adult sons over for dinner often. But we've also learned to embrace the unexpected and grace filled opportunities, like snow days, that sometimes come out of nowhere.

Jesus said, "Consider the lilies..." It was his way of saying, sit up, look around, see the beauty in each day, each moment. Spiritual teachers and counsellors call this mindfulness. Sometimes my life feels like one long never ending marathon of meetings and talks, events and services. If I'm honest with myself, though, I have to admit that I'm my own worst enemy. I tend to over schedule, overdo, and keep myself over busy. Good pastors and good leaders know that mindfulness not only helps us see our way through the day; it also helps us see the things, and, most especially, the people (like you!) that need our attention.

All I need to help me remember this is a little snow and ice, a good movie and the chance to sit on the couch with my best friend. So, take a moment, consider the beauty that surrounds you even now. It is the blessed and holy work of being a child of God.

Grace and peace to you,

## Leadership Nominations

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2016-2017 church year is underway. Your participation is invaluable in identifying a diverse representation of leaders from our congregation. We need members who are energetic, dedicated and motivated to serve. The Nominating Committee is soliciting names for the following positions: Congregational Board: Chairperson-Elect, treasurer, secretary, and Board members; Personnel Committee at-large member; Endowment trustees; Elders; Deacons; youth Elders; youth Deacons.

The deadline for all nominations is Feb. 29. Nomination forms are available in the church office or at <http://tinyurl.com/2016nominations>.

## Worship with us!

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

**Jan. 31**

The Trouble with God

*Jeremiah 1: 4-10*

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**Feb. 7**

Unmasked

*Exodus 34: 29-35*

**Lenten Series: The Last Words**

**Feb. 14**

Forgive

*Luke 23:24*

**Feb. 21**

Remember

*Luke 23:43*

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## 2015 Christmas Offering Raises More Than \$27,000

This 2015 Christmas offering raised \$27,253 as of Jan. 21, which was directed to Week of Compassion's relief projects, the Syrian refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe. The United Nations has said this is the largest refugee crisis since World War II.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq and Somalia are flooding into Greece, Serbia and Hungry.

The refugees arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Families are sheltering on open beaches waiting for registration and help. Winter is coming and they need warm clothing, shelter and food.

Week of Compassion is working with the World Council of Churches and other partners to provide aid to not only the refugees arriving in Europe, but those arriving in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey as well. Thank you for your generous support of the Christmas offering.



## 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](mailto:monical@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Via Spiritual Renewal Retreat Set for April

Apr. 1-3 at Tall Oaks Conference Center

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 Via 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.

## Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Feb. 21. 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 Feb. 21 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.



# Make a joyful noise unto the Lord ...Psalm 100

By Dina Pannabecker Evans, Interim Co-Director of Music



I'm not a very good singer. But just because I'm not good at it doesn't mean I don't enjoy or appreciate singing. During a recent solo driving trip, I found that the longer I was in the car, the more I sang . . . and sang. (The trip repertoire was a mix of Robert Shaw's *Songs of Angels* and Billboard Top Ten from my high school years.) And because I was anticipating loved ones at both ends of the trip, my singing definitely qualified as a joyful noise – a reflection of gratitude for special people, great traveling weather, and a safe trip.

Here at Country Club Christian Church, we want to encourage a singing congregation, with each person expressing their faith musically, and actively participating in the worship service. Paul Tucker, Glen Miles and I have a standing weekly meeting. We debrief regarding the previous Sunday, and then look farther down the road to coordinate music with the message. There are a couple of resources that I use in anticipation of those meetings. One of them is "David's Bible." Owned by David Diebold, who has very kindly loaned it to us, it's not really a Bible. It's a *Chalice Hymnal* that David got at a conference after the hymnal was first published. In it are signatures and well-wishes from other Disciple musicians – many of the notations are on the front and back inside covers, but others are on the page of specific hymns. In some cases they are favorite hymns of the signee, and in others the signee was the composer of the hymn.

Acknowledging the important sentimental value, there is another reason the book is special. That hymnal reflects your institutional music memory since the *Chalice Hymnal* was adopted. David carefully notated the date each hymn was used on its respective page. This is particularly helpful to Paul and me because we know immediately what is and is not part of the congregation's hymn repertoire.

There are church members who have been in contact with Paul and me regarding the Sunday morning hymns – some like to look at the hymns ahead of time and study the history/background of each. Another likes to print out the hymns in a larger size font, so they are easier to read. If you find that this information would be helpful, please let me know: [dinae@cccckc.org](mailto:dinae@cccckc.org).

Sincerely,

*Dina Pannabecker Evans*

## 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

## Infant Dedication

**Jan. 13**

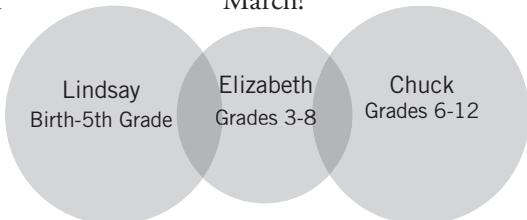


Caroline Ann Nixon. Parents are Jonathan and Haley Nixon.

# Staffing Update

Our Children and Student Ministries Steering Team is very excited to announce the new staffing structure for Country Club Christian Church's Ministry to Children, Students, and Families! March 28 we will welcome to the staff Rev. Chuck Pickrel as Director of Student Ministries (25 hours), serving students 6th-12th grades. March 15 we will officially welcome to our staff Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries, Elizabeth Pfalzgraf (12 hours). This new Assistant Director position will serve 3rd-8th graders as they make the transition from Children's Ministries to Student Ministries as we continue to work toward creating a "Sticky Faith" for our children and students. Current research shows that a targeted emphasis on 3rd-8th graders will help build within them a faith that will "stick" as they enter into adulthood. Lindsay Howes will continue as Director of Children's Ministries. Please join us in welcoming Chuck and Elizabeth to our staff and look for opportunities to meet them in

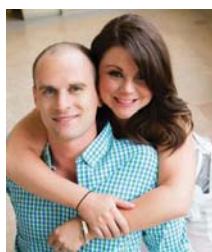
March!



**New Children and Student Ministry Team Structure**



Chuck is a lifelong Disciple of Christ who has served churches in Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. He has a passion for quality and uplifting ministry with young people. Chuck's wife, Lara, is also a minister and currently serves First Christian Church in Smithville, MO. They live in Liberty, MO with two dogs (Shelby and Faith) and a cat (Hanna). In his down time (who are we kidding...all the time!), Chuck loves collecting Legos, playing video/board games, and drooling over all things automotive.



Elizabeth is the ultimate Husker fan and has been a member of Country Club Christian Church for two years. You'll consistently hear her talk about how her faith has been strengthened thanks to our church family. She's currently a supervisor for the State of Missouri's Children's Division, where she's worked for four years. She loves spending time with her husband and best friend, Rorric. Elizabeth is excited to join the staff and says "giving to others always makes me feel like I'm receiving. Joe Walker's last sermon literally plays in my head daily. Thank you Joe!"

## 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.

## 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. Bring friends for a fun night!



## Lederhosen or Kilt?

by Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



I love that TV commercial where Kyle talks about believing his family was German but discovers (thanks to Ancestry.com) that he's actually Scots-Irish.

That funny, sentimental 60 seconds reminds us that we humans have always intermingled, sharing dreams and discoveries and DNA. We are richer for the experiences of interactions between peoples and cultures.

As disciples we are called to be “out there” interacting with our neighbors. After all, if you really want to hear and respond to Jesus’ call to love your neighbor, you have to get to know your neighbor.

In recent weeks some of our members, friends and partners have been blessed with opportunities to be part of diverse peoples gathered for fellowship and learning. For instance, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City hosted the Kansas City Public Schools Partnerships Forum. We spent a morning exploring how businesses, neighborhoods and organizations can better support quality education for all the children of our community. Another example was the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce’s Racial Equity Forum where Prof. John A. Powell challenged us to “a conscious effort to create a space that makes others feel like they belong.”

Such events are a slightly different and important facet of our service alongside people living in poverty and our partnerships. Rather than going to “do” something, in such conversations we can just “be” together and experience one another as beloved children of God.

Of events on the horizon, here are three that look particularly helpful:

- On Sat., Feb. 6, the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center is hosting the 4th Annual Community Development Workshop. We already have folks signing up for this workshop (<http://bit.ly/1OLx482>)
- Project Equality is sponsoring “From Conversation to Collaboration” on Fri., Feb. 19. (<http://projectequality.org>)
- The National Convocation is our Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) organization representing African-American congregations. The Convocation is having its North American meeting here July 21-24 at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel. (<http://nationalconvocation.org>)

Imagine how our congregational life and mission might be enriched if each of us made a commitment to attend one or two diverse conversations a year and bring back our insights to share in Sunday School classes, ministry meetings, or over coffee in the Parlor.

*Joe*

## Children and Families

### 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.

### 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

## Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:  
**Campbell and Graham Talley**, born to Jennifer and Kendall Talley.

**Caroline Ann Nixon**, born to Jonathan and Haley Nixon.

## Memorials

### Lucille Lambert

Randy & Cindy Irey

Mary Ella Klingsporn

Willard & TJ Snyder

Sewing Group of Country Club Christian Church & Friends

TRI-C's Sunday School Class of Country Club Christian Church

## PROGRAM STAFF

|                                                                           |                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. R. Glen Miles<br>Senior Minister                                      | Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans<br>Co-interim Director of Music      |
| Rev. Carla Aday<br>Executive Minister                                     | Ms. Lindsay Howes<br>Director of Children's Ministries          |
| Dr. Meredith Holladay<br>Minister of Spiritual Formation                  | Ms. Sally Huggins<br>Assistant Director of Communications       |
| Rev. Monica Lewis<br>Minister to Children,<br>Students and Families       | Ms. Lisa McCleish<br>Director of Early Childhood Programs       |
| Rev. Joe Walker<br>Minister of Congregational Care                        | Mr. Michael Patch<br>Director of Children's and Youth<br>Choirs |
| Mr. Jason Ashley<br>Director of Building and Grounds                      | Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf<br>Interim Student Ministries Assistant |
| Ms. Rachel Clement<br>Director of Finance                                 | Ms. Lara Schopp<br>Director of Communications                   |
| Mr. Paul Cutelli<br>Director of Technology and<br>Administrative Services | Dr. Paul Tucker<br>Co-interim Director of Music                 |

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