



VOLUME 90 · NUMBER 6

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.*

## Holy Week and Easter Services

### Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday – March 20.** Families are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and our Pastors' Class participants will be baptized. Dr. Glen Miles preaching, "Last Words: Commend," Luke 23:46.

**Maundy Thursday – Mar. 24, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary.** In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion. Rev. Carla Aday preaching.

**Good Friday – Mar. 25, 12:15 p.m. (organ prelude begins at noon)** Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar with worship, readings, hymns and solos by Genaro Méndez. Dr. Glen Miles preaching, "Last Words: Finished," John 19:30.

### Easter Sunday – March 27

Celebrate the miracle of Easter at Country Club Christian Church. Dr. Glen Miles preaching, "The End is the Beginning," John 20:1-18.

### Special Service Times



**8:00 a.m.** – Worship in the Sanctuary, featuring jazz vocalist Bukeka Shoals.

**9:30 and 11:00 a.m.** – Worship in the Sanctuary, led by our clergy, the Chancel Choir and the Kansas City Brass.

Child care available for all services.

### Complimentary Easter Breakfast

**7:30-8:00 a.m.** continental breakfast, Parlor

**8:30-9:30 a.m.** – hot breakfast, Social Hall

## Lenten Lessons and Anthems: Seven Last Words of Christ

**Special Music by the Chancel Choir and Guest Musicians on Sun., Mar. 13 at 11:00 a.m.**

During this season of Lent, Dr. Glen Miles' sermon series, Last Words, has explored the final words from the cross on the day of Jesus' crucifixion. This Sunday, these words will be illuminated through readings and song as the Chancel Choir and guest musicians Bukeka Shoals and Genaro Mendez present Lenten Lessons and Anthems: Seven Last Words of Christ during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Selections from *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Theodore Dubois, as well as pieces by composers Andre Crouch, John Ireland, G.F. Handel and Gilbert Martin are featured. The music will be punctuated with scripture readings describing these iconic messages from the darkest of days. Join us this Sunday for this opportunity to experience Lent through this beautiful sacred music.

## Sign Up Now!



**April 1-3**

See page 2.



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## Via Spiritual Renewal Retreat Set for April

**For Men – Apr. 1-3 at Tall Oaks Conference Center**

Glen Miles and Joe Walker 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. Limited to 75 participants.



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 (Oct. 21-23, 2016). 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. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-retreat> or pick up a form in the Parlor and return it to Mary Margaret House.

## New Members

**Joined March 6**



Katie and Brandon Kincaid  
Hosts: Matt and Valerie Moeder



Erin and Joe Koch  
Hosts: Erin and Mitch Feitz



Callie and Ben Pendergrass with son,  
Elijah



Lee Franklin  
Host: Hannah Fenley



Bree and Jeremy Baker  
Hosts: Travis and Rachel Wymore



Susan Edwards  
Host: Shirley Hansell



Janet Ross  
Host: Mary Margaret House



## Forgiveness Is for Everyone

Dr. R. Glen Miles



In a modern translation of Mark 3, Jesus says, "Listen to this carefully. I'm warning you. There's nothing done or said that can't be forgiven." The key word in that statement from Jesus is "nothing." Paul said something similar in his letter to the church in Rome, "There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God." There is that word again, "nothing."

Jesus is clear about the universality of forgiveness but then he goes on to say, "...but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of eternal sin." That seems

contradictory to the word nothing. In a Bible study I was leading this passage came up. Someone asked, "How will I know when I am blaspheming? This is very confusing."

This seems paradoxical, all is forgiven but not this very strange thing called blasphemy. What is going on? Jesus explains it for us: "Listen to this carefully. I'm warning you. There's nothing done or said that can't be forgiven. But if you persist in your slanders against God's Holy Spirit, you are repudiating the very One who forgives, sawing off the branch on which you're sitting, severing by your own perversity all connection with the One who forgives."

Did you catch it? When you question the universality of God's forgiveness for everyone and every sin you are sawing off the branch on which you are sitting. When you do that you are making it impossible for yourself to receive the very forgiveness that you may wish to deny to another person.

In other words, the only unforgivable sin then is the failure to see that God forgives every sin, every person. The only unforgivable sin is to limit God's grace, to limit God's desire to bring all into the light of God's ongoing love for all.

CS Lewis wrote, "To be a Christian is to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

"Forgiveness," writes George Everett Ross, "gives people back their friends and neighbors."

One way to say it is this: Jesus is the Lord of the second chance. That is good news for all of us.

Grace and peace to you,

*Glen*

## Easter Yard Signs Available



Invite your neighbors to church on Easter by displaying one of our signs in your yard. Pick one up on Sunday.

## Worship with us!

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

**Mar. 13**

Lenten Lesson and Anthems at  
11:00 a.m.

Last Words: Thirst  
*John 19: 28-29*

**Mar. 20, Palm Sunday**

Last Words: Commend  
*Luke 23: 44-49*

**Maundy Thursday**

**Mar. 24, 7:00 p.m.**

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**Mar. 25, Good Friday**

Last Words: Finished  
*John 19: 16b-30*



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# Nicaragua Mission Team Experience

Our Nicaragua Mission Team enjoyed its week-long visit in February to Jucuapa Occidental, a village of 70 families in Nicaragua's mountainous north central region. The 11-member team worked with the staff of CEPAD, our ecumenical partner in Nicaragua, and leaders of Jucuapa's local organizing committee.

We were also blessed to have along with us our long-time friend, Rev. Doug Orbaker, a retired Presbyterian minister and former CEPAD staff member. During the week, team members staffed a medical clinic and taught health classes while others worked alongside village residents to build a community center.



Our team labored on a steep, rock-strewn hillside to dig holes for the foundation of a community center. Rick Cook is helping clear debris.

This year MINSA, the Nicaraguan health care agency, provided a doctor and a nurse to work with our team each day of the clinic. Anne Hannah, a Registered Nurse, observed, "I found the collaborative work with the Nicaraguan health agency to be very good. Knowing that we were able to encourage and empower them in their own communities is very exciting." The clinic served 310 patients, providing screenings, wound care, and some medications.

The mission offered bountiful opportunities to build relationships with the people of Jucuapa and for self-reflection and prayer. Betsy Wilson, mission team leader and veteran of several Nicaragua trips, wrote in her journal,

"Things I learned: I don't always need flush toilets and two-ply toilet paper, a smile is the same in any language, a smile and a hug says everything, people of all ages love simple balloon animals and piñatas, you see God at work everywhere, and we truly are all God's children."

Lori McKinley, a first-time Nicaragua visitor noted, "We were blessed to be there long enough to begin see what the people of Nicaragua have instead of only what they lack." "The name of the game for this trip is empowerment and growth," said David Showalter, another first-timer. "There is so much opportunity for each member of Country Club who goes on this trip to grow as an individual."



Anne Hannah dressed the wound on Amanda's leg every day during the clinic.

For more photos and stories from our mission, visit <http://tinyurl.com/cccc-nicaragua16>.

This summer, our high school students will travel to Nicaragua for their mission trip. Thirteen students will be led by Rev. Chuck Pickrel, Director of Student Ministries, and two adult team members. They will study agriculture and our ecosystem and build relationships with our community partners.

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## Save the Date!

Join us on Sun., Apr. 17 at 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall for a quarterly congregational meeting. Everyone welcome.

## March Collection Connection: Soap

Cross-Lines Community Outreach needs laundry soap for its Hope Totes and laundry service programs, which provide toiletry items and household goods to low-income families, and a laundry program for individuals experiencing homelessness. We are collecting both small and large bottles (powder or liquid, no pods) of laundry soap. Please leave your donations in the Parlor.





# The Seven Last Words of Christ

By Paul Tucker, Co-Interim Director of Music



This Sunday, March 13, the 11:00 a.m. service will serve as the culmination of Dr. Miles' sermon series on Jesus' Last Words from the Cross. Those who have been following the sermons from the previous weeks will recognize the topics and many of the anthems that accompanied the sermons. The sermon this week will take the form of scripture and music.

The Chancel Choir will be joined by soloists Dr. Genaro Mendez from the University of Kansas, Bukeka Shoals, Tepring and Glenn Crocker, and Michael

Patch.

**First Word**, *forgive* (Luke 23:24), is illuminated by Andre Crouch's "I Find No Fault in Him." It will be sung by Bukeka Shoals.

**Second Word**, *remember* (Luke 23:43), is illuminated by Théodore Dubois's Movement 2 in his *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. Chancel Choir; Genaro Méndez, tenor; and Michael Patch, baritone, will present this piece.

**Third Word**, *behold* (John 19:26), is illuminated by Théodore Dubois's Movement 3 in his *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. Chancel Choir; Genaro Méndez, tenor; Michael Patch, baritone; and Tepring Crocker, soprano, will present this number.

**Fourth Word** and **Fifth Word**, *My God* (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34) and *I Thirst* (John 19:28), is illuminated by John Ireland's "Greater Love Hath No Man." Tepring Crocker, soprano, and Glenn Crocker, baritone, will be joined by the Chancel Choir.

**Sixth Word**, *commend* (Luke 23:46), is illuminated by G. F. Handel's "Surely, He Hath Borne Our Griefs" from *Messiah*.

**Seventh Word**, *finished* (John 19:30), is illuminated by Gilbert Martin's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

This sermon promises to be a thought-provoking and inspirational experience.

*Paul*

## Grace at Work Is April 16

Opportunities for young families to serve together and a new community partner are among the exciting news as we prepare for our Grace at Work morning on Sat., Apr. 16.



Students in 1st-5th grade and their families are invited to help clean kitchens and prepare garden and flower beds at Sheffield Place, a residence for homeless mothers and their children. Middle school and high school students will volunteer at reStart, sorting donated items and organizing the food pantry. reStart is the only shelter for homeless teens in Greater Kansas City. The Harvesters Warehouse will welcome volunteers 8 years and older with parental supervision. Volunteers will help sort food donations received from the community.

New to partner sites is Jerusalem Farm in the Historic Northeast. The farm focuses on sustainable gardening projects and light home repair so that seniors and low-income families can remain in their homes.

Other project sites include: Hartman Elementary, Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Grace United, Della Lamb, Harvesters (at church), Green Team (at church), and deep cleaning our Combs Chapel. We also need volunteers to help prepare and serve breakfast for our work crews on Apr. 16.

On-line registration and complete information about each project will be available soon. For more information, you can contact Ryan and Quinn at [graceatwork@cccckc.org](mailto:graceatwork@cccckc.org).

## Pathways to Learning: Everybody Hurts ... Sometimes



We all experience pain in our lives – physical, emotional, mental. Sometimes it feels excruciating, but most often, we deal with more “ordinary” pain – hurt feelings, a cold, feeling lonely. We’ll explore the realities of pain in our culture, and learn about how we can work through our pain and be a healing and helpful presence for others.

**Sun., Apr. 10 – Politics of Pain.** Myra Christopher,

Center for Practical Bioethics

**Sun., Apr. 17 – Being Helpful: When Children Hurt.** Dr. Rochelle Harris, Clinical Psychologist with Children’s Mercy; Julia Harkleroad, LMFT Licensed Play Therapist; Dr. Allison Hettinger, pediatrician (and church member).

**Sun., Apr. 24 – The Compassionate Response** – panel of chaplains. Rev. Beth Sonnevile, chaplain at Children’s Mercy Hospital; Rev. Lee Franklin, chaplain at North Kansas City Hospital; Rev. Chuck Murphy, Chaplain, Armour Oaks Senior Living.

10:00 a.m., Social Hall. Everyone welcome.

## Spring Program and 5th Grade Celebration

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

Save the date for *The Big Fish: Jonah’s Whale Of A Tale*, 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!



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

## Student Events

### PowerPlay for Students

#### Grades 9-12

April 3, noon-3:00 p.m. at PowerPlay Family Entertainment Center. Bring \$20 for food and fun.

### Middle School Bowling

#### Grades 6-8

Apr. 10, noon-3:00 p.m., Ward Parkway Lanes. Meet at church to ride together.

### 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).

### 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



## Be Better Than You Used to Be

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



As with most parents of young children, I generally stumble upon pop culture about a year after the fact. That's the case with an article I read recently. But it's great. So if you read it, you get a refresher. If you haven't, you're welcome.

Last April David Brooks wrote "The Moral Bucket List," where he talked about traits people who are on a journey toward their best inner life embody. What stuck with me from the article was his image of "the stumbler." A lot of times I read articles like this and (wrongly) think, "Oh yeah! I'm like that. I'm a

[insert whatever characteristic is needed for the pinnacle of success at life]." But this time I identified with his image on a much deeper level. I really think I'm a "stumbler."

Here's what he says: "The stumbler scuffs through life, a little off balance. But the stumbler faces her imperfect nature with unvarnished honesty, with the opposite of squeamishness. Recognizing her limitations, the stumbler at least has a serious foe to overcome and transcend. The stumbler has an outstretched arm, ready to receive and offer assistance. Her friends are there for deep conversation, comfort and advice."

I don't always think I have it right. In fact, I'm never really certain I do. But, as Brooks points out, "The stumbler doesn't build her life by being better than others, but by being better than she used to be." And that's what I hope to teach our babies. Our toddlers. Our tweens. Our teenagers. That's what I hope to offer you when I'm sitting with you in your joys and tragedies.

Last week our high school students gathered at Tepring and Glenn Crocker's house to meet our incoming Director of Student Ministry, Rev. Chuck Pickrel. Several of them were sitting around the kitchen table talking about real stuff with us. Drugs. Bullies. Social media's harm. Social media's good. Things that are tempting as a teenager that can also destroy your life. Big stuff. I left there so prayerful for them. Wanting to hug them and look them in the eyes and tell them that all they can do is be better than they were yesterday.

And last week, as I sat with our 6th grade Pastors' Class as we talked about baptism and how they would be changed the moment they came up from the water. I wanted with all of my being to hold them and tell them that life would not instantaneously be different...that all they can do is be better than they were the moment before I baptized them.

My prayer for you this week is the same. May you be better today than you used to be.

*Monica*

## Children and Families

### Easter Egg Hunt on March 20

Join other children and families for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sun., Mar. 20 at 12:15 p.m. on the Combs Chapel lawn. This event for the whole family will have a petting zoo and the Easter Bunny. Please bring your cameras to take pictures with the Easter Bunny. Lunch provided. The egg hunts will be age-specific for children birth through 5th grade.

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

Apr. 2-3 – Overnight at Kansas City Zoo.  
May 1 – Foot Golf/End of Year Party.

### Kansas City Zoo Overnight

**Sat., Apr. 2–Sun., Apr. 3**

All 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us for an overnight in the "wild." We will participate in an after-hours program at the Kansas City Zoo then spend the night in the Polar Bear Pavilion. We will conclude our program with a brief Sunday morning worship time. Sign up in the Parlor on Sunday.

### 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 Apr. 13. For more information on MOPs, check out [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).

### 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).



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## Sale in The Well

Selected winter merchandise is discounted 40 percent now. Please stop by the gift and book store on the main floor on Sunday morning.



## Our Church Family Sympathy

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

**Ruby Jane Scott**

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Senior Minister

Rev. Carla Aday  
Executive Minister

Dr. Meredith Holladay  
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Students and Families

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