



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.*

### Syrian Refugees Welcomed by Team from Country Club Christian Church

Country Club Christian Church will provide ongoing support for the first Syrian family to be resettled to the United States under a speeded up “surge operation” to resettle families fleeing that war-torn region. Volunteers from the church have been preparing a home for the family that arrived Wed., Apr. 6 from the Jordanian capital, Amman.



Nancy Lear, Kathy Buckley, Jackie Cunningham, Jacqueline Cyphers, Linda Rives, Diane Jones and Susan Edwards, who all worked to have a home ready for this family, are part of a team of regular volunteers who prepare homes for refugees through the church’s partnership with Della Lamb Community Services.

*continued on page 2*

### 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

*continued on page 2*

### 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.

*continued on page 2*



## Syrian Refugee Family, *continued from page 1*

The family, who is from the Syrian city of Homs, had been living in Mafraq, a town north of Amman, for three years. Since October last year, 1,000 Syrian refugees have moved from Jordan to the U.S. The resettlement surge hopes to increase that number ten-fold. A



resettlement surge center opened in Amman in February to meet President Barack Obama's target of resettling 10,000 Syrians to the United States by Sep. 30. Every day, the center interviews some 600 Syrian refugees.

Nancy Lear was interviewed by several local media outlets about Country Club Christian Church's work to prepare for the family's arrival and the church's planned ongoing support. "Greg and I were proud to represent our congregation in welcoming this beautiful family to our community. I look forward to continuing to help support this and other refugee families who have been and will be resettled in Kansas City. This is one small way we can honor Jesus' teaching to love our neighbors and welcome the stranger, remembering that Jesus was clear that our neighbors are not just people who look and think like us"



Jackie Cunningham, who watched the news coverage of the family's arrival on television, said, "Since I made up the beds for the family, I smiled as I looked at each member knowing they would be resting in the beds that I had touched with love and compassion."

The church will provide ongoing support for the family in partnership with Della Lamb.

In December 2015, the church's congregational board signed a statement of welcome to refugees, declaring that as people of faith and disciples of Jesus Christ, we are unequivocally called to welcome the stranger. The full statement can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/refugee-statement>.

## Grace at Work, *continued from page 1*

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. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/cccgaw2016> or in the Parlor on Sunday.

## Pathways, *continued from page 1*

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. This session will be in the sanctuary.

10:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.



# Holy Falling

Dr. R. Glen Miles



When have you have grown the most in your faith, in your search for something holy and sacred? When have you discovered that pearly ache for something beyond your own simple desires? Was it at a time when everything was perfect and wonderful and there was nothing to worry about or did you grow the most when you were challenged at the very fiber of your soul?

I am embarrassed to admit how many times I have been humbled and brought down low by my own foolish actions or silly mistakes only to recognize that in the humbling, in the falling apart, something new and stronger was being put in place. In these moments I find that the simplest and most basic needs, love and forgiveness, peace and well-being, are the finest gifts.

Have you been in worship when we dedicate infants? I hold the child in my arms and walk through the sanctuary with the little one and remind everyone of Jesus words: “Unless you change and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

That is not a word about who gets into heaven and who does not. It is a word about how we can experience heaven in the here and now.

As Bono sings in one of U2’s best songs: “The more you see the less you know.”

Richard Rohr reminds us, in his book *Falling Upward*, “The human ego prefers anything, just about anything, to falling, or changing, or dying. The ego is that part of you that loves the status quo – even when it’s not working. It attaches to past and present and fears the future.”

Jesus understood this better than any others. He said, “Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Here is the good news for the day: If you feel like your life is falling apart and you have no idea what to do next, maybe it is a sign that God is about to do something new and wonderful within your very life. The God of all creation is more than creative enough to turn your failure into a gracious reboot.

Grace and peace to you,

## Congregational Meeting

Join us on Sun., Apr. 17 at 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall for a quarterly congregational meeting. The topic of the meeting will be a discussion of the two questions the congregational board has been considering over the last year. Those questions are: How will we demonstrate our plan for welcoming all? How will we respond to our changing culture? Join in the discussion as we plan for the future of our church. Everyone welcome.

## Worship with us!

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

**Apr. 10**

Help, I Need Somebody!

*Acts 9:1-20*

**How Can I Keep from Singing?**

**Apr. 17**

Above Earth’s Lamentation

*Isaiah 12:1-6*

**Apr. 24**

A New Creation

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

**May 1**

I Hear the Music Ringing

*Zephaniah 3:14-16*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Collection Connection

### Jeans and Underwear for Micah

In April we are collecting men's and women's jeans and underwear for Micah Ministry. Jeans are especially important to those who are either working or living outside. Sometimes they are a requirement for employment. The greatest need is for the smaller and larger sizes. For example: men's waist sizes smaller than 36 and larger than 40; women's sizes smaller than 10 and larger than 18. Although people can survive without underwear...who wants to? Frequently Micah has no underwear to hand out. Your donations are needed during this Collection Connection and would be accepted anytime during the year.



## Supplies for VBS

For the month of April, we are also collecting supplies for VBS. Please check out our "wish-list" by visiting the site below.  
[http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc/wish\\_list/](http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc/wish_list/)

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## FaithPub Continues

FaithPub is a new men's ministry led by Dr. Glen Miles with a focus on spiritual reflection and biblical study. The group meets each week in a private room at The Well (7421 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO), where participants can enjoy a beverage, appetizer or light meal, and connect with other men looking for sacred conversations around stuff that matters. No reservation necessary; just show up with an open mind and a willing heart. Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. through May 12.



## Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Apr. 17. This month the emphasis is on peanut butter, any size.

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 Apr. 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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## Ministry Fair on Sun., Apr. 17

**Parlor from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Stop by the parlor to tour the various booths to sign up to serve with your time and talent in the church and community.



## Catch the Wave

By Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



Country Club Christian Church invites all children to *Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love* Vacation Bible School. Discover how to surf through life with God and others! The fun begins Mon., June 20 and ends Thur., June 23, 5:30-7:30 pm. Family Fun Day will be Sun., June 26 following the 11:00 am worship service.

The adventure includes energizing music, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, hands-on mission work, delicious dinner and more. To be a part of all

the excitement at Surf Shack, visit the church website [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org) or call Lindsay Howes, 816-333-4917.

For the month of April, we are collecting supplies for VBS through the Collection Connection. Please check out our "wish-list" by visiting the site below.

[http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc/wish\\_list/](http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ccckc/wish_list/)

VBS is such an exciting event at Country Club Christian Church and I am always blown away by the level of commitment from our volunteers and congregation during this time. We plan to host over 150 children the week of VBS and would love your help either prior, during or following with supplies, dinner service, preparing materials and leading the children.



## Faith and Grief, New Luncheon

Grief doesn't own a watch.

The loss of a loved one or friend may have been very recent and your grief may be very immediate and intense. Or you may have lost someone years ago and an anniversary or similar event has reawakened that pain.

Our new Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. Participants gather around tables for a simple box lunch and sharing guided by a trained facilitator. You may attend one time or for as long as you find the lunch helpful. The meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m., making it accessible for those who work. Lunches are offered the first Tuesday of every month. The next session will be May 3. Everyone is welcome – those of all faiths as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. The lunch is free, provided by the sponsoring churches. A free will offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry.

The ministry is a collaboration of five churches – St. Andrew's Episcopal, St. John's United Methodist, Second Presbyterian, Village Presbyterian, and Country Club. Lunches are hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village.

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

To register, call 469-251-9612 or click the link at:

<http://tinyurl.com/faith-grief-lunch>

## Student Events

### Middle School Bowling Grades 6-8

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

### Pastors' Class Reunion Breakfast

Sun., May 1, 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 202 - For Faith Mentors and students who participated in Pastors' Class 2010-2016.

### 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

### Via Retreat for Women Scheduled for October

#### Oct. 21-23 at Tall Oaks Conference Center

Carla Aday and Meredith Holladay will lead the women's Via spiritual renewal retreat, designed to foster renewal, relaxation and reconnection. Cost is \$125, which includes lodging for two nights and all meals and program materials.



The first Via men's retreat concluded on Apr. 3. Nearly 40 men, led by Glen Miles and Joe Walker, had the opportunity for personal reflection and reconnecting with the Spirit of God while also connecting with new friends, learning new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, and enjoying the beauty of nature. The women's retreat will follow the same curriculum.



It's not too early to mark your calendar. Watch for information about online registration.

## Infant Dedication



Charles Travis Holt. Parents are Travis and Kaitlin Holt.

### 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



## Children and Families

### After the Hallelujah Chorus

by Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



After the Hallelujah Chorus, then what? Oh, I know, brunch and hunting for eggs. But what about the next day? If Easter is more than a day, then surely this season invites us to make room for the Spirit of God to rise within our lives.

I've been busy reading maps. On June 1 I will begin sabbatical and the first step will be to walk 111 kilometers across Spain to Santiago, to the church where the bones of St. James are enshrined. For hundreds of years, Christians have taken this walk as a spiritual pilgrimage. You may have read about this "Camino" or

seen the movie about it called "The Way" starring Martin Sheen.

So I was startled recently when I came across this poem that begins "If you have a compass smash it" and goes on to say that you should "tear up your map." The poem reminds me that sometimes in order to "truly see" we must first get lost. The poem, by Jose Alcantara, summoned me to reflect on the spiritual journey, not just the physical journey.

Those who followed Jesus were not initially called "Christians" but those who were on "the way" (see the book of Acts). They were, like us, trying to walk in "the way" of Jesus. So as you think about your own journey, what helps you walk in the ways of compassion, courage, peace? And are there times when the compass and the map need to be discarded so that you can just listen to the voice of love and grace within your own heart?

In his own journey, Jesus often took some time away from the crowds and busyness of his life to be alone and pray. Sometimes it is just easier to accomplish what is on the to-do list for the day. But if we want to follow in Christ's ways, we may need to turn off the cell phone and tear up the list of chores and sit in the chapel, or take a walk in the park or call a friend to share lunch. Blessings on the way. . . .

*Carla*

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

May 1 – Foot Golf/End of Year Party.

### Family Worship Night

Sun., May 15, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

A worship experience for the entire family. 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. Social Hall.

### 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.deep-bluekids.com](http://www.deep-bluekids.com).

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## Our Church Family Sympathy

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

**Sue Deweese**  
**Jet Rawlings**  
**Lora Moses**

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