



# CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

## INSIDE

Celebration of  
Dr. Miles  
≈≈≈  
page 3

A Warm and  
Welcoming Church  
by Barbara George  
≈≈≈  
page 5

Times of Transition  
by Carla Aday  
≈≈≈  
page 7

*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.*

## 8th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction

The 8th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction is Fri., Apr. 7 at the College Basketball Experience (1401 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO).



### Tickets and Benefactor Information

Individual tickets are \$100/person and are available for purchase online or in The Well. Benefactor packages also available. Visit <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-dinner-auction/> for more information.

### New this Year:

- Students in grades 5-12 are invited to join in the fun at an event designed just for them on the first floor of the College Basketball Experience. Invite a friend for an evening of games, food and fun! Student tickets are only \$15.
- Live performances from some very talented members of our church.
- Wine pull. Attendees will pay a designated amount and blindly choose a bottle of wine. Please consider a donation to this part of the event. We are looking for wines to have a value of at least \$25. See auction donation information.

### Auction Items Needed!

Do you have an item you'd like to donate for the auction? We are looking for fun and unique items, such as vacation homes, tickets to sporting events or concerts, gift certificates, jewelry, art-work and more! Fill out the form at <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-dinner-auction/> to submit your item or contact Brian Campbell at [brian.campbell@sprint.com](mailto:brian.campbell@sprint.com) or Melanie Thompson at [melaniethompson@aol.com](mailto:melaniethompson@aol.com).



The 2016 Celebration Dinner and Auction.

### Ash Wednesday

Wed., Mar. 1, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The first service of Lent, a 40-day period that leads to Easter, invites us into this season with a traditional imposition of ashes to symbolize the fragile nature of our lives. Rev. Monica Lewis will preach.



## Senior Minister Update

By Leeann Blundell, Board Chair

We are well-positioned for this transition to “life after Glen.” We are financially sound and have committed servant leaders with very capable staff to keep things humming along. Also, our annual vision of ministry process ensures that we remain in touch with current needs.

We are taking a different (more flexible) approach by not rushing into naming an interim or conducting a national search. The Personnel Committee considered a variety of approaches and decided to take this very important task one step at a time.

1. Form a different kind of committee to discern, meaning to recognize your needs. They have been listening to the congregation – so thank you for completing the survey!
2. Once all of your input is reviewed, a job description will be drafted.
3. With that job description in hand, the Personnel Committee will first consider any interested internal candidates.
4. The Personnel Committee and Congregational Board plan to review all of the available information and meet in March to think through next steps.



## Connections

### A gathering for men and women in their mid-20s to mid-40s

This group will be led by clergy and small group discussion leaders. The focus of these classes will be deeper study into that week’s worship service scripture references.



A launch party will be Sun., Feb. 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Session 1 will be Mar. 4-Apr. 2. Session 2 will meet Apr. 23-May 21. Contact Anne Haraughty at [anneh@cccckc.org](mailto:anneh@cccckc.org) for more information.

## Pathways to Learning: Joy



Bill Tammeus will present “Joy” on Sun., Apr. 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Bill is an author and the former Faith columnist for *The*

*Kansas City Star*. He currently writes the daily “Faith Matters” blog. Pathways to Learning is a series of elective offerings open to everyone, focusing on timely topics on the Bible, spirituality, current events, family life and technology. Ideal for those who aren’t involved in a Sunday School class; entire Sunday School classes also encouraged to participate as a group. Visitors and guests welcome.

## Register for Christian Community Camp

Registration is open for the 2017 camp June 3-10. A \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Register in the Parlor on Sunday morning or online at <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-community-camp-registration-form/>

For many years, families and individuals from our congregation have gathered for a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Cost is \$1,700 for a private room; \$375 for the women’s bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$85 per person.



*June in Rocky Mountain National Park is a time of new buds, new babies, new sights, and new sounds. Many species of wildlife have new babies. They are not always easy to see, but patience can be rewarded with the sight of new coyote pups, elk and moose calves, mule deer fawns, cottontail bunnies, and occasionally bear cubs... In some years, afternoon rain showers, unusual for the park in June, leave us with much needed moisture and the wonderful feeling of a freshly washed world. Unusually large numbers of wildflowers burst into bloom as a result of the rains.”*

— National Park Service



## Guest Columnist Beginning Feb. 23



Dr. Mike Graves

Beginning with the next edition of the *Country Club Christian*, Dr. Mike Graves' words will fill this space. Dr. Graves is a member of Country Club Christian Church and serves on the faculty at Saint Paul School of Theology. He will serve as guest preacher for Sunday worship services over the next few months.

### Celebration of Dr. Glen Miles on February 5

On Sun., Feb. 5, Country Club Christian Church celebrated Glen's 14 years of ministry here with one service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a reception in the social hall. Glen will be senior minister at First Community Church in Columbus, Ohio.



Above, Phil Love presented Glen with a leaf from a first edition King James pulpit Bible printed in 1611. The page contains the first Bible verse Glen memorized as a child in Sunday School: 1 John 4:7 – "Beloved, let us love one another. For love is of God. Whoever loves is born of God, and knows God."



Glen's family was present including (from left) Steven, Julie and Nate.



Present and former staff participated. Back Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, Glen, Dr. George Gordon, Rev. Joe Walker. Front: Rev. David Diebold, Rev. Carla Aday, Rev. Monica Lewis.



Jazz singer Bukeka participated in the service.

### Leadership Nominations

The nominating process to fill elected positions for the 2017-2018 church year is underway. Each year we ask for our members' participation 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 members; Endowment trustees; Elders; Deacons; youth Elders; youth Deacons.

Nomination forms are available at <http://www.cccckc.org/leadership-nominations/> To locate the nominations form quickly on the web site, use this link, or use the word 'nominations' in the search box on the top right of the home page. The deadline for all nominations is Mar. 19.

## Worship with us!

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

**Feb. 12**

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*  
Choices Beyond Choices  
Rev. Joe Walker preaching

**Feb. 19**

*Psalm 139*  
Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**Feb. 26**

*Luke 9: 28-36*  
Dr. Mike Graves preaching

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## “Understanding Islam” with Mahnaz Shabbir at Faithbook

On Feb. 21 and 22, Faithbook will welcome Mahnaz Shabbir to speak about “Understanding Islam” as part of the “Jesus and Mohammad: Let’s Talk” series. All women, even those not currently in Faithbook, are invited to hear this presentation. Faithbook meets Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center.

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## Tender Loving Care for Sheffield Place

Our February Collection Connection will offer a little tender loving care to the homeless mothers and their children at Sheffield Place. Your donation of a gift bag will bring a smile to the face of a mother who is working diligently towards healing and self-sufficiency. Bags (or items for gift bags) may include women’s personal care and hygiene products and gift cards for gasoline and medicine. Gift bags and items may be placed in the basket in our parlor. Donations by cash or check, or text (816-839-9410) may be made by indicating “MetroMissions” on your gift.

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## Virginia Reed Food Drive

Our Virginia Reed Food Drive is collecting peanut butter this month. There are three ways to help feed our hungry neighbors:

- Bring a jar of peanut butter to our donation points in the parlor and chapel any Sunday.
  - Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website ([christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org](http://christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org)). On Feb. 19, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation.
  - Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope “food drive.”
- 



## Kansas City Guitar Society Concert

The Kansas City Guitar Society presents Guitarras Ibéricas on Sun., Feb. 12, at 3:30 p.m. in Combs Chapel. Guitarras Ibéricas is a trio and the backbone of Ensemble Ibérica. The group includes different styles of guitars and performs a wide repertoire of music from Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and Cuba. The event, sponsored by our Music Ministry, is free and open to the public.

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## Via Spiritual Renewal Retreats in 2017

**Men: Mar. 31-Apr. 2; Women: Oct. 20-22**

Sign up now for the men’s retreat Mar. 31-Apr. 2 at Tall Oaks Conference Center.

*“Via is one of those rare opportunities in our church life to meet fellow members from all ages and to openly discuss issues of import in an environment that is completely relaxing and enjoyable. To be able to get away and just enjoy the fellowship is a gift to life’s ruts and grinds. My suggestion – give it a try. All you have to do is enjoy yourself and learn what a rich group of guys the church really has among its members.”* — Mike Schaefer, a 2016 participant.



Mike Schaefer

The retreats are designed to build friendships, provide personal reflection time, and have fun while also reconnecting with the Spirit of God. Cost is \$125 per person.

An early registration rate of \$110 is available for women’s retreat until Aug. 15. Child care will be available at the church by reservation on the Saturday morning of each retreat.

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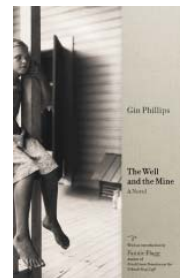
## BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK by BOOK

### All-Church Read: *The Well and the Mine* by Gin Phillips

*“After she threw the baby in, nobody believed me for the longest time. But I kept hearing that splash.”* So begins this year’s Book by Book all-church read.

Described as exploring “the value of community, charity, family and hope that we can give each other during a time of hardship,” *The Well and the Mine* transports the reader back to the coal mining region of 1930s Alabama in the manner of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Buy the book in The Well. Sign up in the parlor beginning Mar. 19 for a one-time discussion with fellow members and friends in homes and coffee shops, and be sure to hear the author on Thur., May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the church and meet her at the reception following.





## A Warm and Welcoming Church

By Barbara George, Director of Membership Development



The first time I heard a visitor to Country Club Christian Church say, “this is such a warm and welcoming church,” I was caught by surprise and I thought, Well, of course it is! But what does that mean?

We create a space that invites, receives and embraces all who come through our doors for worship. Taken a step further, hospitality goes beyond being friendly. It’s welcoming guests with a warmth, openness and authenticity that significantly exceeds expectations. It’s

about connecting with one another and reaching out to those who are here, now. Some thoughts for each of us:

1. Be present in the moment. Slow down and notice who’s around you. Remember people are more important than the task you are doing at that moment.
2. Is someone by himself, or herself? Does someone need help or directions? Walking a person to where they need to go provides a great opportunity to visit and is preferable to simply pointing the way down the hall and around the corner.
3. Have you hesitated to introduced yourself to someone you may not immediately recognize, afraid you’re supposed to know him/her? Don’t let that hold you back; you won’t forget that person next time and the two of you have made a good connection! Introduce that person to someone else you know.
4. A person may choose to be anonymous initially and that’s okay, but invisible? No.

The authenticity of our hospitality is in the DNA of our church culture; it is who we are. The following is why I believe this to be true, and why I continue to be so inspired by each of you:

Recently, an elderly gentleman visited our church, but left in the middle of a service. As he was leaving, one of our members sitting in the narthex, noticed him wandering around a bit and asked if he was ok, if he needed help. The man explained he was going to catch a bus home from the stop on Wornall Road. The member of our church said, “That’s a long walk for you, could I drive you?” On the way, our member learned that there would be a long wait before the southbound bus arrived, so offered instead to drive the man to his home on 107th Street. In conversation, the gentleman mentioned that he was 91 years old and had recently lost his wife. He had left church because he wanted to go home; he was feeling sad.

Yes, we invite, receive and embrace all who walk through our doors for worship, and yes, it’s authentic.

*Barbara*

## Metro Missions Exploring Racial Issues

Our Metro Missions team invites you to a presentation, “On Race and Privilege,” Tues., Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Gem Theater. Dr. John A. Powell will speak on structural racism and inequity in early education, wage/employment, and access to healthcare. The presentation is sponsored by the REACH Healthcare Foundation and Communities Creating Opportunities.

“Dr. Powell provided me with an opportunity to rethink what prejudice truly is,” said church member Katie Allison who heard his 2015 Chamber of Commerce presentation. “His speaking from the heart with a non-judgmental approach allowed me to listen without self-generated excuses.”

Our partner organization, MORE<sup>2</sup>, has also has hosted events for lay leaders and clergy with Dr. Powell. Dr. Powell will be joined by Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr. as they invite us to explore specific actions we can take to contribute to greater equity in our society.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at [onraceandprivilege.eventbrite.com](http://onraceandprivilege.eventbrite.com) or through our office. Carpools will be available from our church parking lot. For information, 816-381-9249 or [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).

## Student Ministries Events

### **GREAT WORK!!!**

Our students raised \$1,269.88 for the Virginia Reed Food Drive at Country Club Christian Church on Sun., Jan. 29 as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Great job to all of you who helped!



### **High School Mission Trip Information Meeting**

To learn about the mission trip for 9th-12th graders to Fort Worth, TX and Texas Christian University this summer, please attend an informational meeting on Sun., Feb. 12, at noon in the Youth Center. The trip will be June 17-23.

### **Youth Music Group Beginning**

Youth Music Group for grades 6-12 starts on Sun., Feb. 12. Rehearsals will be from 12:00-12:45 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). This will be a creative and collaborative group. Vocalists and instrumentalists welcome. Come join us!

### **High School Game Night**

Join us on Sun., Feb. 12 for game night. We will gather from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205).

### **First Fridays for Middle School**

All 6th-8th graders are invited to join us on Mar. 3 for the next session of First Fridays. We will gather from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205) for food, fun and fellowship. Bring your friends.

### **High School Youth Group**

All 9th-12th graders are invited to participate in weekly fellowship gatherings over food with different topics each week. Meetings are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Depending on your schedule and location, join fellow students for fellowship and food. On Thursdays we will gather from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Spin Pizza (6541 W. 119th St, Overland Park, KS). On Tuesdays we will gather from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Panera in Brookside (6301 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, MO).

### **Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8)**

June 12-13, 2017. 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 and build memories and lasting relationships with other students.

### **Tall Oaks Summer Camp**

Tall Oaks summer camp dates are set. Camp registration opens Feb. 15. Look at the dates and start making your summer plans. Information at <http://www.talloaks.org/camp-information>.

### **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

## **Baby Dedication and New Members Welcomed**

### **Ken and Tarah Jackson**

On Jan. 29, Ken and Tarah Jackson were welcomed as members of Country Club Christian Church and their daughter, Olivia Dorothy Jackson, was dedicated. The Jacksons enjoy travel, sports and their dog Ghost. Tarah is an anesthesiologist at Lakewood Anesthesia and Ken is a physician with St. Joseph Surgical Associates. New member hosts: Phil and Lindsay Howes



## **Middle School First Friday**



Middle School students gathered in the Youth Center to kick off First Fridays on Feb. 3 with fun, food and fellowship.





## Times of Transition

By Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



Why is change so hard? I remember when I was in 6th grade my parents announced that we were going to join a new church, the Christian church. “Why, I asked, would we do that? We are Methodist.”

“Well Carla, you have been going to the youth group at the Christian church for a year now so we thought you’d be happy that we are going to join that church together as a family.”

Even when change is rational and good, we sometimes resist it. It means letting go of something that is known and opening our hearts and minds to an uncertain future.

As a congregation we are now in that “in between” time. Sunday we celebrated the 14-year tenure of Dr. Glen Miles as our leader/pastor/preacher. Now we wait. We know that at some time in the future a Senior Minister will be called to serve and a new chapter will begin. As we navigate this or any other transition, it is natural for anxiety to arise and worry to creep in.

I am reminded that our forefathers and foremothers in the faith faced similar times of transition. “Go from your country . . . to the land I will show you” God told Abraham who stepped out in faith wondering what God had in mind. “Let my people go” Moses told Pharaoh as he led the people of God from Egypt and into the promised land with a slight 40-year detour into the wilderness where everyone complained profusely. Jesus began his life with transition: born in Bethlehem but fleeing to Egypt for safety and then returning with his parents to Galilee. But he didn’t ever settle down and instead wandered from village to village. And just about the time Jesus’ disciples begin to give their whole hearts to him, he vanishes, leaving them looking up to heaven in disbelief. Paul also refused to stay put, always saying goodbye to one set of friends and hello to a new set of God’s faithful.

Perhaps what makes transition difficult is not exactly the change itself. But rather the lingering questions. “Will God go with us? Will we go with God?” Times of transition force us to trust, to trust that the God who has carried us thus far, will carry us still. Just as our ancestors continued to find that the Holy Spirit guided them, our lay leaders at Country Club Christian Church will lead us faithfully into the future that God holds in God’s wise hands.

Theologian Hans Kung wrote: “If the Church really sees itself as the people of God, it is obvious that it can never be a static...phenomenon .... It is essentially an interim Church, a Church in transition, and therefore not a Church of fear but of expectation and hope: a Church which is directed towards the consummation of the world by God.” (from *The Church*)

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Family Worship Night

Sun., Feb. 19, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

### Children’s Choir

Rehearsals Sundays, 11:00-11:30 a.m., Rm. 213.

### Easter Egg Hunt on April 9

Join other children and families for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sun., Apr. 9 at 12:00 p.m. on the Combs Chapel and east 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.

### 3rd-5th Grade Events

**Mar. 3 – First Friday**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

**Apr. 1 – Zoo Trip**, 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Day trip to Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo. Cost is \$30 per child. Please contact Lindsay Howes (lindsayh@cccckc.org) to reserve your child’s spot or to volunteer as a chaperone!

**Apr. 7 – Celebration Dinner and Auction Event**, 7:00-10:00 p.m., 5th-12th grade, College Basketball Experience.

**May 5 – First Friday**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Social Hall.

### Vacation Bible School

Register now for Vacation Bible School, June 19-22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Family Fun Day Sun., June 25. For children ages 2 through 5th grade.

Sign up in the parlor or online at <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/cccckc>



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## PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Sara and Alex Goering Associate Directors of Music for Children and Students
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Anne Haraughty Ministries Coordinator
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communications
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans Co-Director of Music	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
Ms. Barbara George Director of Membership Development	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
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# Our Church Family

## Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:  
**Adam Maximus Leamen.** Parents are Claire and Alex Leamen.

## Sympathy

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

**Dale Wittenborn**

## Faith and Grief Lunch

### Losing a Loved One to Disease; Remembering Who They Were Before

Steve Gorny, whose father suffered from Parkinson's Disease for 11 years, will share his story at the Faith and Grief Lunch on Tues., Mar. 7 at Village Presbyterian Church. Gorny says, "Some of the greatest advice I received after his death was to focus on the person my father was before the disease. That has been instrumental in my grieving."



The Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. The meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. Everyone is welcome – those of any faith as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. The complimentary lunch is provided by the sponsoring churches. A free will offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry.

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

To register: (469) 251-9612 or [www.faithandgrief.org](http://www.faithandgrief.org).  
For lunch information, contact 816-381-9249 or [care@cccckc.org](mailto:care@cccckc.org).