



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.

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday

March 1, 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary

The season of Lent is a 40-day period (not including Sundays) that runs from Ash Wednesday to Easter (Apr.

16). 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 imposing of ashes upon an individual's forehead or on the back of their hands.

Join us on Ash Wednesday, Mar. 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a traditional imposition of ashes. Rev. Monica Lewis will preach.

Connections Launch Party/Brunch

Join us at 10:00 a.m. Sun., Feb. 26 in the Social Hall for a launch party for Connections, a new gathering for individuals ages mid-20s to mid-40s. Led by clergy and small group discussion leaders, the focus will be deeper study into that week's worship service scripture references.



Session 1 will be Mar. 5-26, Rev. Carla Aday leading, and Apr. 2, Rev. Monica Lewis leading. Session 2 will meet Apr. 23-May 21. For more information, contact Anne Haraughty at anneh@cccckc.org.

Small group discussion leaders are Matt and Valerie Moeder, Amy Holmes, Christa Jessup, Kathy McDandel and Ben and Katie Carrier (substitutes).

Save the Date for Grace at Work on April 22

Join us on Sat., Apr. 22 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.



The 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).

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 by Bukaka, David Smart, Dr. Paul Tucker and Box of Dogs.
- Wine pull. Attendees will pay a designated amount and blindly choose a bottle of wine.



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.

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, artwork 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 or Melanie Thompson at melaniethompson@aol.com.

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 website, 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.

March Collection Connection: Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

During March, 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 March 5-26. Eggs should be returned filled with small stickers, toys, coins or nut-free pre-packaged candy.



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.



Hearing a Different Voice

By Dr. Mike Graves, Guest Preacher



For the uninitiated, FaithPub consists of the potent combination of three things: beer, testosterone and spiritual conversation. Lots of bars feature the first two items, with the latter often focusing on Tom Brady's latest heroics, that sort of thing. But in this case, FaithPub is a men's group ministry of our church that meets at a pub to fellowship, drink a beer (or root beer), and hear a testimony by a guest speaker.

Glen Miles invited me a long time ago, but it was after he announced his departure, that I got to come and speak. In my case, I was to tell my story and say something about my hopes for the preaching ministry at Country Club Christian Church. I thought, then, I might share here those hopes with all of you, two broad goals as it turns out.

The first is practical in nature, namely how hearing a different voice prepares a congregation for the next Senior Minister. And by "voice," I don't just mean that literally. "Voice" includes a preacher's style of sermons, use of a manuscript or not, as well as differences between sermon series and following a lectionary. In that latter case, for the next few months, I'm loosely following The Narrative Lectionary, specifically Jesus' journey to Jerusalem found in Luke's Gospel. The next Senior Minister will be different from me, just as I am different from Glen.

The second goal is more spiritual in nature. I think of the goal of preaching in general as fostering an encounter with God. When preaching works, more takes place than words being spoken and heard; people are encountered by the Holy One. In the Old Testament, the term "word" can also be translated "deed." Something happens in the preaching moment. For me, that encounter with the Divine is a mix of exposition and experience, or teaching and touching. As I see it, the best preaching provides congregants with something to reflect upon and inspires as well, usually by means of compelling stories.

There is one other element to good preaching, one often overlooked: a good congregation. The people in the pews do not constitute a passive audience, but they participate in the preaching of the gospel themselves. At the risk of appearing to be kissing up, I have to say, I have always thought of our congregation as really good listeners. And for that, all I can say is, "Thanks be to God."

Upcoming Sermons

For the season of Lent, Mike Graves will be loosely following The Narrative Lectionary, passages from Luke's Gospel that focus on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. The theme will be "The Faces of Jesus."

Mar. 5: Luke 10:25-42, the face of God and neighbor

Mar. 12: Luke 13:10-17, a bent woman looks into Jesus' face

Mar. 19: Luke 14:1-24, the face of Jesus at a banquet

Mar. 26: Luke 15:11-32, the face of God at a party

Worship with us!

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

Feb. 26

A Different Kind of Dream
Luke 9: 28-36

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**Lent: A Journey to Jerusalem via
Luke's Gospel**

Mar. 5

Luke 10: 25-42

Dr. Mike Graves preaching
Special Music by Youth Choir from
Church of the Resurrection

Mar. 12

Luke 13: 10-17

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

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 Rock-

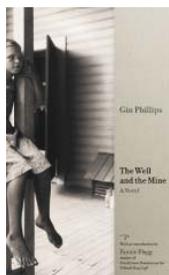
ies in Estes Park, Colorado. Cost is \$1,700 for a private room; \$375 for the women's bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$85 per person.

BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK

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

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 for \$16. 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.



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. You can register online at <http://www.cccckc.org/via-spiritual-renewal-retreats-2017/> or in the parlor on Sunday. Cost is \$125 per person.

Top 5 Reasons to Register for the Men's Retreat

1. FREE CHILD CARE on Sat., Apr. 1
2. Develop relationships with other men from Country Club Christian Church
3. Change of pace in the great outdoors
4. Disconnect from the stresses of everyday life
5. Deepen your faith

“The Via Retreat gave me a chance to get out in the calm, peaceful serenity of nature and glimpse into my past to better understand myself and I emerged with greater focus and direction to spend on the present and in building my future.” —Kurt Zschiezschmann, a 2016 participant.

The men's retreat will be led by Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care, and Dr. Mike Graves, St. Paul School of Theology.

“When God Talks Back” Book Discussion

Do you have a family member or friend who is an evangelical Christian and you would like to better understand their experience of God? Join us for a facilitated discussion of the book *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God* by T.M. Luhrmann. This will be an opportunity to compare your faith experiences and spiritual practices with those of our evangelical brothers and sisters. The six-week discussion begins Mar. 1 and meets on the first and third Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Rm. 202. Contact Joe Walker at joew@cccckc.org for more information.



So What Comes Next?

By Elizabeth Pfalzgraf, Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries



While our students (6th-12th graders) may not seem very vocal in large group settings, if you get them in their element, you can't get a word in edge wise! This is something I absolutely love about them; their personality, their independence, their voice. But until this past week, I've gotten minimal feedback on their input for the survey regarding the search for a new Senior Minister. During a Sunday School discussion last week, mid-faith lesson, one student raised a hand and asked me "what is the update on the search for

a new Senior Minister? What is to come next for our church?" Luckily, I had paid attention to the newsletter and other announcements to report to them what the Discernment Committee has stated to be the process.

I jumped at the opportunity to hopefully get group discussion going. Many of the students discussed that they are worried that Dr. Miles has been their Senior Minister their entire life and that they will not have the same connection. They discussed that their hopes for the new Senior Minister would be "someone that just comes and hangs out with us (the students)," "someone that knows my name," "someone who can make us laugh and tell us stories," and "someone who knows God and just cares." This discussion made it clear that these students are smart, caring, insightful and that they hope to find this connection after what shows to be a big change in their church life. My personal reflection on this conversation is that not only will the Senior Minister be lucky to have these students wanting to have that connection, but that I am already that lucky to have this connection with them.

Church/faith development to me really has looked different since joining this remarkable church. For me, it focuses on the relationships that are built with our amazing church members, those inside jokes you have with certain 7th graders, that amazing food train after you have a baby (because face it, you would otherwise just starve), listing your church members as emergency contacts for your child's daycare because your family is too far away, that shy/intellectual and beautiful student you love standing in front of an entire congregation reciting such powerful words they have written, and just having a place where you can express your own struggles and real life challenges that is matched with "that's completely normal."

While I hope that the students feel a little comfort knowing their hopes/ideas for the search committee have been reported, biasedly I hope they see how much more lucky our Senior Minister will be to have them, than they are to have the Senior Minister!

Faith and Grief Lunch

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.



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. To register: (469) 251-9612 or www.faithandgrief.org. For lunch information, contact 816-381-9249 or care@cccck.org.

Trip to Israel

This spring Dr. Mike Graves and Dr. David May will be leading a trip to Israel, departing May 23 and returning June 1. If you've ever wanted to see the Holy Land, this is your opportunity, including visits to Caesarea, Sepphoris, the Mount of Beatitudes and Philippi in the Galilee region, Beth Shean in the Jordan river valley, culminating with some of the most cherished sites in and around Jerusalem. The cost for this 10-day trip is \$3,659 per person, double occupancy, and it includes roundtrip airfare, ground transportation, hotels, and two meals per day, as well as entrance into all the sites and gratuities. The deadline for registering has been extended but only for another couple of weeks. For more information, contact Dr. Graves at mike.graves@spst.edu.

Student Ministries Events

Pastors' Class in March

Mar. 1 – Ash Wednesday. Attend service which begins at 6:00 p.m. (class out by 8:00 p.m.)

Mar. 8 – Focus: Faith and Communion, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Mar. 22 – Focus: Relationship Building, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Faith Mentor session.

Mar. 29 – Focus: Faith and Baptism, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Faith Mentor session.

First Friday 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 all on Thursdays now. Depending on your schedule and location, join fellow students for fellowship and food. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Spin Pizza (6541 W. 119th St, Overland Park, KS), and 2nd and 4th Thursday, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Panera in Brookside (6301 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, MO).

Youth Music Group

Youth Music Group for grades 6-12 meets on Sundays from 12:00-12:45 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). This is a creative and collaborative group. Vocalists and instrumentalists welcome. Come join us!

High School Mission Trip

June 17-23. High school students (9th-12th grade) will travel to Fort Worth, TX and Texas Christian University this summer.

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>.

Family Worship Night on February 19



Russell and Olivia Smith and Roman and Albert Nemarco worked together using the theme Jesus Was a Refugee. See page 7.



Nancy Lear explained to children about the journey of refugees.



Russell Smith and A.J. Zschietzschmann



Family Worship Night Magic

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



Family Worship Night this past Sunday was one of the best ever! No offense if you weren't there. That's not what made it so great. But you did miss out if you weren't!

You may not know what Family Worship Night is. And if you don't, the best way to know is to just come see it happening. I'm warning you now, it is chaos... but the good kind of chaos! We gather together a few evenings during the academic year for fun, to share a meal, and to engage in mission, worship and prayer as a family. We have activities that speak to children from birth to about 4th or 5th grade and even middle school students enjoy it. We typically focus on a theme or a specific story from the Bible. One time it was "Breakfast on the Beach," another it was "The Five Senses," and last week it was "Jesus Was a Refugee." I always tell parents that one of the best parts of it is a free meal that you don't have to cook. Believe me, that's a huge perk!

I'm not sure what it was about the last one that made it so great. Maybe it's because it's freshest in my memory. Really, I think it's several things.

I think it's that Nancy Lear took the time to share with the children the journey a refugee family takes from their home country to their new home in Kansas City. She used bean bags tossed on building blocks to demonstrate war. She used a toy boat, train, car, and airplane to show all of the types of transportation they have to find along the way. She made tents out of construction paper (complete with green grass floors) to show the children what a refugee camp looks like. And she had the children put together a house for the refugee families using toy food, a tea set and doll house furniture. They loved it! I loved it.

I think it's that children understand that something is happening in our world now. They hear their families talking. They hear and see the news on our devices. They go to school with people who are from other countries. They read books that teach them about refugees. They're aware. And I think their minds are ready and waiting to learn and to grow.

I think it's the game we played guessing which names were in the Bible and which weren't. I think they saw their parents cracking up because they had no clue whether they should put their thumbs up or down. I think it's because there were three pastors in the room who got most of the answers wrong...and they thought that was hilarious.

We had fun. And we learned. And we ate. And we grew together. And, I don't know about you, but I think that sounds a whole lot like the meals Jesus shared with those others had cast aside.

Children and Families

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. Contact Lindsay Howes (lindsayh@cccckc.org) to reserve your child's spot or to volunteer as a chaperone! Deadline is Mar. 15 to register.

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.

Family Worship Nights

Sun., Mar. 19, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Sun., May 21, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

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 lawns. 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.

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>



Children's Choir

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

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Our Church Family

Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:

Owen Pearce Taylor, son of Ingrid Larson and Mike Taylor

Memorials

Memorial gifts are placed into the Church's Endowment Funds, which are used to support the church now and into the future. The Endowment Trustees disperse the funds according to the Declaration of Trust approved by the official Congregational Board.

Wayne Heady, for the Music Department

John & Erma Hess

Peggy Johannsen

Carlene Neihart

Richard & Linda Bell

The New Reform Temple

Marianne See, for the Building Fund

John & Erma Hess

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Minister to Children,
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