



VOLUME 91 · NUMBER 5

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.*

## Celebration Dinner and Auction Apr. 7, College Basketball Experience

### Get your tickets today!

- Adult and student tickets and benefactor packages on sale in the parlor the next two Sundays, or visit <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-dinner-auction/> to buy tickets now!
- Have a group of 10 friends who want to go? Save a little money by purchasing the group ticket option for \$750.
- Student tickets are only \$15! Students in grades 5-12 will have their own event on the first floor. Bring a friend or two for a night of fun!

### Live Music

These talented musicians will provide live entertainment during the silent auction:

- Box of Dogs
- David Smart
- Country Club Singers
- Bukeka
- Dr. Paul Tucker

### Auction Items Needed!

Do you have an item you'd like to donate for the auction? Fill out the form at <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-dinner-auction/>



## Guest Gathering is March 26

If you are a guest at Country Club Christian Church, we are happy to welcome you! Whether you're a new visitor, or you've been attending for a while, we invite you to join us for pastry and coffee in the Library on Sun., Mar. 26 at 10:00 am. This Guest Gathering is designed to help you learn more about us in a casual setting. A member of our clergy will guide you through our values, traditions, and beliefs and you'll discover ways to connect with our service opportunities, classes, small groups, and of course, our members. We would love to become your church family. RSVP by contacting Barbara George at [barbarag@cccckc.org](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org) or call directly (816) 381-9251.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK

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

Members and friends are invited to read *The Well and the Mine* by Gin Phillips this spring, followed by the opportunity to attend a one-time small group gathering to discuss the book, and an evening with the author.

Sign up for a discussion group in the parlor beginning Mar. 19, and mark your calendar for the author appearance on Thur., May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Buy the book in The Well for \$16. Pick one up this weekend to read over spring break!



# Discernment Committee Report

In November the Congregational Board appointed a Discernment Committee to discern and report to the Board the qualities the congregation desires in a Senior Minister. The Discernment Committee (the “Committee”) adopted a goal of seeking the opinion of every member of the church. The Committee used the following methods to seek member opinions:

1. A congregational meeting was held on Jan. 22, 2017.
2. Committee representatives met with the Deacons and Elders on Feb. 7, 2017.
3. The Committee created an email address so that any member would be able to provide an opinion of the qualities that he or she desires in a Senior Minister.
4. An online survey (“Survey Monkey”) was sent to every member for whom Country Club Christian Church has an email address. In addition, paper copies were made available to those members who did not desire to respond online.
5. Church members were advised that any member of the Committee was available to meet individually.

The Committee is pleased to report that we received 400 responses from Survey Monkey, approximately 85 members or regular attendees attended the congregational meeting, and approximately 50 members attended the joint Deacons and Elders meeting. In addition, several members sent emails or letters. Thus, a significant percentage of our members provided their opinion of the qualities they desire in a Senior Minister. Opinions given in the congregational meeting and opinions given at the joint Deacons and Elders meeting were similar to the responses in the questionnaire.

Senior Minister Survey Results	
Question	Response
What should the top strengths be of a new Senior Minister?	Preacher 90.77% Leader 72% Visionary 40.7%
In a sermon, which of the following are most important to you?	Application to everyday life 84.62% Spiritual Nourishment 64.1% Strong biblical knowledge 39.23%
What are the most important leadership qualities that our new Senior Minister must possess?	Inspiring and challenging 89.23% Well-loved and vision-caster 53.55% Personal mentor and effective interpersonal skills 46.67%
What should our new Senior Minister focus most of their energy and time on?	Preparing and delivering 80.51% Communicating with members of the congregation 57.69% Outreach and representing the congregation 39.23%
Of the ministries in the church, which of the following should be given highest priority by the new Senior Minister?	Leadership, vision and compelling future plans for the church 64.3% Discipleship and structure formation 43.31% Living our faith in the community and caring for those in need of support 40.94%

As indicated above, there were 400 responses to Survey Monkey. Responses to our questionnaire, as shown in the exhibit (box) which ranks the top three choices in each category, indicate that the members of our congregation want a Senior Minister who is a strong speaker in Sunday morning sermons, with inspiring and challenging sermons which apply to everyday life and provide spiritual nourishment. The survey results indicate our Senior Minister should spend his or her time preparing and delivering sermons, coordinating Sunday services and communicating with members. Respondents believe the areas in which our church could use the most improvement are attracting new members, retention of existing members and strengthening fellowship.

In addition to the objective survey results, 184 respondents provided written comments. The comments are diverse and it is impossible to summarize them, but the following is representative of the responses.

The respondents love our church and its rich history, however they believe we must attract new members. The younger members requested greater presence online and through social media. The younger members indicate that when they are cannot attend in person they want services available on the internet which will allow members to benefit when they are unable to be in the pews. They want to watch and listen when they have available time.

Our Committee endorses one comment, “Realize the value of all members of all ages, new members bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm and longtime members who have given years of service.” One person said, “I am hoping for a Senior Minister who inspires.” One respondent desires a new Senior Minister who “connects with people, is energetic, can dream big and make it happen.”

*Respectfully Submitted, H. Elvin Knight, Jr., Chairman; Mary Dibble, Dan Jensen, Amy Rose, Matt Moeder, Amy Holmes and Betsy Wilson*



## The Christian Year

By Dr. Mike Graves, Guest Preacher



Tom Long who used to teach at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta says that for a lot of church-going folks, the Christian year with its different seasons is about as interesting as sitting down in a Chinese restaurant only to discover it's the year of the rooster. Who cares? The answer in the latter case is the Chinese. It's a traditional way for them to mark time. The answer in the former case is obvious enough too, Christians, a way for us to mark time.

While I don't know much about the Chinese calendar, I try to teach my students about the Christian version. Since the majority of them are United Methodists, they actually grew up in congregations that observed Lent and celebrated Pentecost, for example. But I soon learned that growing up with these things doesn't necessarily mean comprehending them, appreciating them fully. This strikes me as particularly unfortunate since, in my view, one of the keys to renewing worship is helping people understand what's going on in worship.

Since we are in the season of Lent now, that seems like a timely focus. The trickiest part about the Lenten season leading up to Easter is the total number of days. While 40 is the correct answer, it doesn't tell the whole story. Look at a calendar and you'll see, there are 46 days in Lent. The catch, of course, is that the six Sundays of Lent don't count.

While the math adds up, our practices may not. What I mean is that historically our ancestors in the faith understood that this solemn, penitential season shouldn't be observed on Sundays because that is the day of resurrection. So for them, Lent was observed during the other days of the week in their towns and villages, while Sundays were always a day of celebration. Fast-forward to our day and since we don't really share life together during the week the way they did, Lent becomes for many Christians a season of six Sundays, six somber Sundays.

Regardless of the number, this is a season of preparation, a time to remember that Jesus goes to Jerusalem where he will be crucified. And as the various Gospel accounts tell us, he invites us to come with him. While we know what ultimately happens on that glorious Sunday morning, for now we are on the road to Jerusalem. I hope to see you on that road this Lord's day.

## 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.

## Worship with us!

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

**Mar. 12**

*Luke 13: 10-17*

The Garden of Love

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**Mar. 19**

*Luke 14*

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

**Mar. 26**

*Luke 15*

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Register for Christian Community Camp Only Three Rooms Left!

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

## Virginia Reed Food Drive

Our next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Mar. 19. Our emphasis will be breakfast cereal. There are three ways to help feed our hungry neighbors:

- Bring a box of cereal 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 Mar. 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." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship.



For other ways to help us end hunger, contact Joe Walker at [joew@cccckc.org](mailto:joew@cccckc.org).

## Connections Topics for Session 1

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



### Session One Topics:

Mar. 12 – Luke 13: 10-17, a bent woman looks into Jesus' face – led by Carla Aday

Mar. 19 – Luke 14:1-24, the face of Jesus at a banquet – led by Carla Aday

Mar. 26 - Luke 15:11-32, the face of God at a party – led by Carla Aday

Apr. 2 – led by Monica Lewis

Session Two will be Apr. 23 and 30 and May 7, 14 and 21.

## 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.

*To be honest, when I saw Kumbaya in the opening night bonfire song book, I thought I had made a bad decision. Fortunately, it was quite the opposite. VIA was the perfect escape, to a place that feels like you are much farther away than you are. It was a great opportunity to unwind, revitalize, make new friends, and enrich old ones. — Ryan Holmes, 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.

A women's retreat will be Oct. 20-22.



## First Fridays

By Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



We kicked off our new and exciting First Friday programming last month and just held our second event on Mar. 3.

First Friday is a time for 3rd-5th graders and 6th-8th graders to come and enjoy community, food and fun. Last month we had a great movie night, complete with a pizza bar, popcorn bar, hot cocoa bar and, of course, twinkle lights for an "outdoor movie feel."

This past Friday, we hosted a "Minute to Win It" game night, this time complete with cookie face, chocolate unicorn and my personal favorite, Elephant – Riley, Vada, Gray and Maria know what I'm talking about! It was also extra special because Jeff Sydney brought in his incredible marble collection and explained the amazing dynamics to the art of marbles. They were super cool and brought up some great conversations.



All of these fun details make First Fridays great, but what really makes them incredible are the conversations. This past week as a small group of us were sitting down to enjoy our game



night dinner of hot dogs, nachos and cotton candy, one child brought up why she loved our church. "There are three things I love about this church. 1. I made friends the first time I came, 2.



Advent in Advance (of course!) and 3. Getting to know and understand Jesus since church was not a part of my

life before I got here." There is so much more to this wonderful conversation but some things are meant to be kept just between those of us who were there.

Great and exciting things continue to happen in our Children's Ministries and I love the chance to get to share a small portion of those with you a few times a year. For those of you with children in 3rd-5th or 6th-8th grade, mark First Friday on your calendar now. We will meet again on May 5...I'm thinking a taco bar will be involved.

## Faith and Grief Lunch

Alice Levy will present "A Heart Full of Memories" at the Faith and Grief Lunch on Tues., Apr. 4 at Village Presbyterian Church.



As a young mother in her 30s, Alice lost her mother, sister, and an aunt who was like a second mother, in rapid succession. Alice will share how she experienced loss and grief but also discovered her heart was full of love and special memories. Alice is now a grandmother of two baby girls. She is a retired teacher, having worked with hearing impaired students and other third graders. Alice is a member of Rolling Hills 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](http://www.faithandgrief.org). For lunch information, contact 816-381-9249 or [care@cccckc.org](mailto:care@cccckc.org).

## 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.

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## Student Ministries Events

### Pastors' Class in March

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.

### Middle School Youth Group

Fri., Mar. 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Youth Center. Middle School Youth Group meets on the first and third Fridays of the month during the academic year.

### Night of Improv

Sun., Apr. 9 - 4:00-6:00 p.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205). Come for snacks, games and laughs!

Follow us on social media for more info!  
Twitter: @cccckc\_students  
Instagram: cccckcstudents

### 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 Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Panera in Brookside (6301 Brookside Plaza, Kansas City, MO).

### 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

### 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

Registration is open. Look at the dates and start making your summer plans. Information at <http://www.talloaks.org/camp-information>.

### Memorial Easter Lilies

Honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial Easter lily. The lilies will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, Apr. 16 and may be taken home after the 11:00 a.m. service or donated for our homebound members. Cost is \$25. The deadline for ordering lilies is Mar. 26. Pick up an order form in the parlor. Please return the completed form, with payment, to Paul Cutelli by Sun., Mar. 26. Your payment is the confirmation of your order. If you have questions, contact Paul, [paulc@cccckc.org](mailto:paulc@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

### March Collection Connection: Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

During March, the Collection Connection is 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.



### Join Green Team This Season

Is gardening your thing? Or have you always wanted to learn how to garden? The Green Team Gardening Group helps care for the church grounds to make them beautiful and welcoming to all. Groups meet in the chapel parking lot on Monday evenings at 5:30 and Tuesday mornings at 8:30. Come enjoy some fresh air and exercise with the team for an hour or two whenever you can beginning Mar. 20 and 21. Questions, contact [MaryMcClure@me.com](mailto:MaryMcClure@me.com).



## Why Participate in Church Activities?

By Dr. Paul Tucker, Co-Director of Music



The smooth functioning of any church depends on the willingness of its members to volunteer their time and talents to keep the various ministries going. Each volunteer makes a decision about their area or areas of involvement based on their own interests and the needs of the church. For an individual to be deeply invested in serving in a given volunteer group, the rewards must be tangible. A feeling of a job well-done, or the satisfaction of seeing the positive results of one's actions can

sometimes be all that is critical to keep someone volunteering. As human beings, we frequently display a desire to be necessary and useful in whatever we do. Any endeavor that proves to be both useful and effective may be all that is needed to keep us engaged in that activity.

The number of opportunities available in our church are almost endless. I am amazed at how many small groups exist at Country Club Christian Church. I have the privilege of working, on a weekly basis, with many volunteers in musical groups. Each volunteer exhibits varying degrees of expertise in their chosen area, whether it be singing in one of the choirs or ringing with the Jubilee Ringers. One of my greatest pleasures each Wednesday evening is to watch how many of the singers in Country Club Singers and Chancel Choir come to rehearsal (even though they arrive tired from a full day of activities) eager to learn new things and to improve on their abilities. The energy level of each member, at the end of the evening's rehearsal, is always greater than at the beginning. I know that these members think about being effective in their performances when they sing for the congregation, but I also know that they benefit, personally, from each rehearsal. I can't help thinking that each member takes some sustaining inspiration with them away from each rehearsal. I believe this because I leave each rehearsal excited and renewed.

I recommend that, if you have an interest in music, speak to one of the members of Celebration Singers, Jubilee Ringers, Country Club Singers, or Chancel Choir about the personal benefits of participating in music at Country Club Christian Church.

## Children and Families

### 3rd-5th Grade Events

**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. 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.

Non-Profit Organization  
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Permit No. 1498



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Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

# Our Church Family

## Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:

**E.J. Becker IV**, son of Stephanie and E.J. Becker III

**Audrey Grace Jamour**, daughter of Kristin and Justin Jamour

**Grace Leigh Cobb**, daughter of Natalie and Wyatt Cobb

## 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.

### Margaret Algie, for Congregational Care

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

### Carol Hartley

Terry Snyder

### Linda Beebe Mogue

Anonymous

### Lloyd Wilkerson, for Congregational Care

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

## PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Carla Aday  
Executive Minister

Rev. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Students and Families

Rev. Joe Walker  
Minister of Congregational Care

Mr. Jason Ashley  
Director of Building and Grounds

Ms. Rachel Clement  
Director of Finance

Mr. Paul Cutelli  
Director of Technology and  
Administrative Services

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans  
Co-Director of Music

Ms. Barbara George  
Director of Membership  
Development

Sara and Alex Goering  
Associate Directors of Music for  
Children and Students

Ms. Anne Haraughty  
Ministries Coordinator

Ms. Lindsay Howes  
Director of Children's Ministries

Ms. Sally Huggins  
Assistant Director of Communications

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf  
Assistant Director of Children and  
Student Ministries

Rev. Chuck Pickrel  
Director of Student Ministries

Ms. Lara Schopp  
Director of Communications

Dr. Paul Tucker  
Co-Director of Music

## Save the Date for Grace at Work

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.

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