



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.

Easter Offering to Help Homeless

This year the Outreach Grants and Special Offerings Team has designated housing for homeless veterans and Haitians as the recipients of our Easter offering.

Homelessness often breeds hopelessness and a downward spiral that rarely ends well. This year's Easter offering will be used to give hope and a lift to two communities that are homeless: veterans in our community and families in Haiti whose homes were destroyed by Hurricane Matthew.

Locally, the Veteran's Community Project is working to build a community of tiny houses that will be provided to homeless veterans. The tiny houses will provide more than shelter and an address. They will provide a community of support and hope for a better future. Half of our Easter offering will be given to this tiny house project. \$15,000 will build and furnish a tiny house and provide utilities and other services for a veteran for a year. With your generous support, we can build a tiny house. For more information visit: <http://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/services/>.



Tiny house for homeless veteran

Last September a community of 30 families in Haiti was almost completely destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, leaving 200 plus people without shelter. House of Hope has been providing food and helping with temporary shelter while helping the community rebuild. They need our support to help supply building materials for this effort.

This Sunday, see a tiny house prototype in the Chapel parking lot, and on Sun., Apr. 2, attend a presentation about the program in the Social Hall at 10:00 a.m.

House of Hope is a priority project of Global Ministries and you can find out more about the work they do by visiting the Global Ministries web site: http://www.globalministries.org/house_of_hope_haiti.

Please support the Easter offering with a generous gift. Mark your gift "Easter Offering" and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Lenten Lessons and Anthems

On Sun., Apr. 2 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the Chancel Choir will be offering music of the Lenten season through a series of anthems and scripture readings. The choir will be joined by saxophonist Vince Gnojek, who will also play during communion with Dr. Paul Tucker. Rev. Carla Aday will preach at the 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. services.



Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday – April 9. Families are invited to join the Palm Parade at the 11:00 a.m. service, and our Pastors' Class participants will be baptized. Dr. Mike Graves preaching. Easter egg hunt at noon on the Combs Chapel and east lawns.

Maundy Thursday – Apr. 13, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary. In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion. Rev. Carla Aday preaching.

Good Friday – Apr. 14, 12:15 p.m. (organ prelude begins at noon)
Experience the darkest day on the Christian calendar with worship,

readings, hymns and solos. Dr. Mike Graves preaching.

Sunday – April 16

Celebrate the miracle of Easter at Country Club Christian Church. Dr. Mike Graves preaching. Luke 24: 1-12.

Special Service Times

8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Sanctuary.

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

Child care available for all services.

Complimentary Easter Breakfast

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

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

Guest Gathering 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 a.m. 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 or call directly (816) 381-9251.

Deadline for Tickets to Celebration Dinner and Auction

March 26 is last day to purchase tickets for the 8th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction on Fri., Apr. 7 at College Basketball Experience. Adult and student tickets and benefactor packages on sale at <http://www.cccckc.org/2017-dinner-auction/>

This year's auction features Royals and Sporting KC ticket packages, wine dinners, artwork, jewelry, stays in vacation homes and more! Plus, this year's interactive venue offers uniquely fun opportunities to Get in the Game, and don't forget the live music portion of the evening featuring Bukeka, David Smart, the Country Club Singers, Box of Dogs and more.

Memorial Easter Lilies

Deadline to order is March 26

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. Pick up an order form in the parlor. Please return the completed form, with payment to The Well on Sunday. Your payment is the confirmation of your order. If you have questions, contact Paul Cutelli, paulc@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Refugee/Church Choir Forming

Picture a group of singers from Kansas, Somalia, Syria, Mexico and Missouri singing together "Let there be peace on earth." Would you like to add your voice to this chorus of hope? Our congregation, in partnership with Della Lamb Community Services, is forming a choir comprised of refugees and church members. The choir will sing humanitarian music in the community as well as at our church. The first rehearsal is Sat., Apr. 1 at Della Lamb (500 Woodland Ave, Kansas City, MO 64106). Amanda Spies, a masters level student at KU, will lead the choir. Please email Barbara George at Barbarag@cccckc.org if you wish to join. Space is limited.



The Meaning of Stoles

By Dr. Mike Graves, Guest Preacher



For the uninitiated, stoles are those colorful pieces of cloth ministers wear around their necks when robing for worship. I wear one every week at the 11:00 a.m. service, and even if you don't attend then, you've seen them before. The practice is an ancient one, the Greek word meaning "garment," although they are just small bands of cloth, not really a whole garment these days. There are lots of theories as to how the practice originated and what they might symbolize, probably the most common explanation being the towel Christ

wrapped around his waist when he washed the disciples' dirty feet (John 13). If that's the case, ministers wear stoles as a reminder they are servants of Christ and his church.

That history aside, one of my favorite stories about a stole happened in a Presbyterian church where I was preaching some years back. A woman came through the line after church, and pointing to the stole I had on, she asked, "What exactly is the meaning of this?" I gave the briefest of histories, including the idea of serving others like Christ, and so forth. After I finished, she said, "No, I mean why is yours hanging crooked?" Apparently, she was a symmetrical Christian and my fashion sense had slipped up, tripping her. She said it bothered her throughout the service.

My other favorite story about stoles has to do with the purple one I'm currently donning during Lent. Carla joked recently that we may have to take up an offering to get me a new purple stole. To say it's tattered would be an understatement. But I'm glad it is. Actually, it was tattered when I first purchased it at a used bookstore near Westminster Abbey in London. I thought it was beautiful, but more than that, I appreciated the tatters, very symbolic of our lives and the journey of Lent. I tried to imagine the Anglican priest who upon retirement or being defrocked, had sold it. I wondered what his life and ministry had been like. Heaven only knows, but on the Sundays in Lent when I place it around my neck, I sometimes think about his life and ours. Tattered, sure, but still of use. Or so we hope, ministers and congregation alike, still serving others.

Easter Yard Signs Available



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

Worship with us!

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

Mar. 26

Luke 15:11-32

Three Looks at a Masterpiece
Dr. Mike Graves preaching

Apr. 2

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

Rev. Carla Aday preaching
9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Luke 18: 9-14

Palm Sunday, Apr. 9

Luke 19: 28-44

Dr. Mike Graves preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK *by* BOOK

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

Sign up for a one-time discussion of the book “The Well and The Mine” by Gin Phillips with fellow members and friends in homes and coffee shops. Then attend Phillips’ presentation on Thur., May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The book is available in The Well for \$16. Go to <http://www.cccckc.org/book-book-discussion-groups/> to sign up or on Sunday in the parlor or the chapel.



Virginia Reed Food Drive

Our next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Apr. 23. Our emphasis will be canned tuna and canned chicken. There are three ways to help feed our hungry neighbors:

- Bring a can 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). On Apr. 23, 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.

Your gifts support the five area food pantries that our church supports: Community Christian Church, La Gloria de Dios Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services and Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

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. 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.

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/> Cost is \$1,700 for a private room; \$375 for the women’s bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$85 per person.



History Has Its Eyes on Us

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



At the beginning of March, I was fortunate enough to travel to Chicago to spend a weekend with my best friend and to see a little show called *Hamilton: An American Musical*. No doubt you've heard of it and its creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda. (If you haven't, where have you been?) I'm a sucker for Broadway musicals and I'm fairly easily impressed, but I was absolutely stunned by this masterpiece.

By layering modern musical genres like rap and hip hop on top of important moments in our nation's history, and adding a crazy-talented multi-ethnic cast, Miranda has created a work that surprised me in two distinct ways. One, I had forgotten (or maybe was never really taught) how much political turmoil surrounded the founding of our country. Given how different our world is now, with our technological advances and smart phone existence, it's hard to believe how many parallels there are between that story and today's. And two, while Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote the musical roughly between 2009-2013, there are lines in it that you'd swear were written in direct reference to tweets and headlines from last week.

Since that weekend I've been struck by the parallels between the historic and the modern. Even the day of the show, we walked into the majestic 111-year old theatre but used electronic tickets on our smart phones. Unrelated to the show but in a similar paradox, my husband has been researching generations of his family tree—hundreds of year's worth of ancestors—using modern online technology.

And here at church, we are approaching our 100th anniversary as a congregation, with nearly that many years of history inside the brick and mortar structure we call our home. But today we use electronic technology to plan and execute our ministries. We produce videos. We digitally edit photos. Some music is created electronically. You might be surprised by all the things you can do at our website, www.cccckc.org: listen to a sermon, make a prayer request, make a pledge, give to the Easter offering, sign up for any number of special events or a service opportunity, and much more.

Even so, there's no substitute for good old-fashioned fellowship on a Sunday morning. Like the first members of our church did so many years ago, we still gather to share a simple meal, listen to an historic verse, sing familiar tunes, and share words of support and encouragement.

History has its eyes on us; the future awaits... and still we hear these words from Matthew 18:20: *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

Last Chance to Register for Men's Spiritual Renewal Retreat

You still have time to sign up for the men's retreat Mar. 31-Apr. 2. The retreat is designed to build friendships, provide personal reflection time and an opportunity to reconnect with the Spirit of God. Cost is \$125 per person. Register in the parlor on Sunday or online at <http://www.cccckc.org/via-spiritual-renewal-retreats-2017/>

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. For lunch information, contact 816-381-9249 or care@cccckc.org.

Student Ministries Events

Pastors' Class

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

Apr. 5 – Prep for Baptisms, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Faith statements with Faith Mentors.

Apr. 9 – Palm Sunday Baptisms, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Students arrive by 10:15 for prep and photos.

Apr. 13 – 6:00-8:00 p.m.

- 6:00 p.m. End of Pastors' Class party/dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Communion at Maundy Thursday service. Faith Mentors attend.

Apr. 30 – Pastors' Class Reunion, 9:45-11:00 a.m.

Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday during the academic year. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Youth Center.

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: cccccstudents

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.

Grace at Work Is 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.

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.



One Foot in Front of the Other

By Rev. Joe Walker, Minister of Congregational Care



*Shards from shattered bottles glistened
as we approached on crumbling sidewalks,
then crunched under our feet
as we passed,
trying not to notice –
or, perhaps, to notice inconspicuously.*

A few weeks ago I received an email from colleagues: newly inaugurated Missouri Governor Eric Greitens was coming to Kansas City and they had arranged to take him on a night-time walk. The message to me was straightforward, “Grab your stole and come walk with us.”

The Governor had agreed to accompany neighbors down Prospect from 28th to 35th Street at about 8:00 p.m. The walk would allow Gov. Greitens to meet residents, hear their stories, and see – up close – the needs in our central city.



I have good friends who serve in our city and I participate in prayer services and workshops in our central neighborhoods as often as my schedule will allow. I’m very familiar with the “walk and talk” introduction to a neighborhood. But, somehow this night seemed different.

I had no responsibilities; other clergy were in charge and needed to be “up front” with the Governor. I strolled along chatting casually with strangers. I had time to attend to all that was going on around me. Questions rose from within, hung in the cold night air, and were left behind, unanswered.

How does this mother with whom I am walking go on with her life after losing her young son to a random drive-by shooting? How long has that grocery store been closed and where do our friends buy real food? Why are streets like Prospect lined with payday loan shops and liquor stores and collapsing houses? Will this walk really influence the Governor’s policies? Are my colleagues feeling hopeful or “here we go again”?

Even thinking those questions made me uncomfortable. What was I supposed to be feeling – outrage? hope? Was I supposed to be “doing” something – besides walking.

It occurred to me that Jesus’ earliest disciples must have felt similar confusion as they trailed their Rabbi. They were surrounded by unfamiliar sights and sounds and jostled by strangers. They must have wondered what they were supposed to be doing and where all this might be going. Questions notwithstanding, they responded to His invitation to “follow me” by putting one foot in front of the other.

As I looked south down Prospect, I remembered that is what we are all called to do.

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.

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.

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 family will have a petting zoo and Easter Bunny. Bring your cameras. Lunch provided. The egg hunts will be age-specific for children birth through 5th grade.

Children’s Music Presents “Lessons Over Lunch”

Sunday, April 23

The Children’s Choir will present “Lessons Over Lunch” on Sun. Apr. 23 at noon in the Social Hall.

Students learn valuable lessons about God’s love while enjoying their “daily bread” . . . in this case, covered with peanut butter and jelly! Rehearsals 11:00-11:30 a.m. Sundays.



Family Worship Night

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

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

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/ccckc>

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Our Church Family

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

Wayne Heady, for the Music Department

Norma Lewis

Marianne See, for the Building Fund

Norma Lewis

Lloyd Wilkerson, for Congregational Care

Perry & Jeanne Cockayne

Norma Lewis

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