



COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH

April 20, 2018 | Vol. 92 No. 8

COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Senior Minister Legacy of Love



Rev. Carla Aday

My 3-year-old grandson walks over to his 1-month-old sister, picks up her hand, wraps her tiny fingers into a fist and reaches out

his clenched hand to give her a little fist bump. Then he kisses her on the head and runs off to play Spiderman. She does not yet know his name or who he is and yet his small acts of love are shaping her life already. Psychoanalyst Christopher Bollas says “We learn the grammar of our being before we learn language.”

Neuroscientists tell us that during the first year of life, an infant forms 10 million new synaptic connections per second. Then the brain begins a pruning process that lasts throughout childhood. Though we are each born with a genetic code, the experiences we have in life also shape the development of our minds and impact this process of synapse connections and synapse pruning. That is why it is easier for you to become fluent in a foreign language if you are exposed to it as a toddler. If I learn Chinese now, I will always speak it with an accent. Too much pruning has happened in my brain already!

One foreign language I learned early on was generosity. I call it that because 44.8 percent of Americans

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2018 Stewardship Campaign: Legacy of Love

The Legacy of Love Stewardship Campaign began last Sunday with a beautiful musical offering from jazz and gospel musician Bukeka, whose mother, Joan Newby, was a member of our Chancel Choir for more than 10 years. Stewardship of our church is a response to God’s generosity... an act of faith; a recognition of the presence of God in your life; an appreciation for the gift of grace. Our generosity shares with the world a Legacy of Love for worship, spiritual growth and service, and with this legacy, lives are transformed, relationships are born, forgiveness is received and joy multiplies to change the world. As our campaign continues, we ask you to prayerfully consider making or increasing your financial commitment to your church. Because of the generosity of our members and friends, children are baptized, couples are married, grieving families are comforted, students serve on mission trips, elderly folks receive visits, the hungry are fed, and good news of God’s love is proclaimed.



The campaign continues this Sunday with our very own Kevin Briggs offering solos in all three services. Please pick up your stewardship packet in the Parlor on Sunday morning. Packets not picked up Sunday will be mailed.

April 29 – String Theory Quartet: Andy Berry, guitar; Glenn Crocker, bass; David Soxman, mandolin; Julia Soxman, ukulele. A coffee cart will serve specialty coffees in the Parlor all morning.

May 6 – Pledge Sunday Enjoy a light brunch in the parlor between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Music featuring soloist Shelle Jensen; the Sticks and Phone Orffestra; and the Country Club Singers with Youth Choir.

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From the Senior Minister

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give no money to any charitable cause and 79 percent give no time (Generosity Survey). And less than 30 percent of American Christians contribute more than two percent. As a toddler I watched my parents place money in the offering plate and serve on church committees and service projects. And here at 61st and Ward Parkway, I have been immersed in a community of folks who sort food at Harvesters food bank, rehab houses for homeless single moms, write large checks to support the church's mission, teach toddlers Sunday school teachers, mentor teens, and serve bread and wine to elderly members.

I am immensely grateful to have lived my life inside the church which has always felt to me like an ocean of generosity. Here we learn to share the gifts of life that God has lavished upon us. Here we learn the joy of giving. Here we have the privilege to pass on this legacy of love.

Carla

Sunday School Guest Speaker

Join us on Sun., May 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Solarium (Rm. 309), for a program presented by Blanca Puma, Executive Director of FEDICE, a Global Ministries partner in Ecuador. FEDICE, an organization working to empower indigenous and marginalized communities, is being considered as a mission trip destination for our congregation.



Max Dewese Golf Tournament

Attention all golfers: We are pleased to announce the inaugural Max Dewese Golf Tournament on Fri., Sept. 21, at Swope Memorial Golf Course. Beginning with lunch, this 1:00 p.m. shotgun will be a great time of fun, but will also raise funds for the Veterans Community Project, providing shelter for veterans here in the Kansas City area. Make plans now to sign-up (\$150 per person), form a team, and sponsor a hole (\$750). All are welcome. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Graves at mikeg@cccckc.org.

Cathedrals and Courses of Scotland Trip in 2020

Make plans now to travel to Scotland, as we explore our religious heritage as Disciples of Christ and the home of golf. This 10-day trip (June 29-July 8, 2020) will include visits to key religious sites in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Iona, as well as historic golf courses for those so inclined.

Holy Land in 2019

Make plans now to visit the Holy Land in 2019. Dr. Mike Graves, Rev. Carla Aday, and Dr. David May will be leading a trip to Israel, starting in Galilee, coming down the Jordan valley, and culminating with some of the most cherished sites in and around Jerusalem. Departing May 20 and returning May 29, 2019, the cost for this 10-day trip is \$3,400 per person, double occupancy, and it includes round trip airfare, ground transportation, hotels, and two meals per day, as well as entrance into all the sites and gratuities. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Graves via email. A \$300 deposit is required and space is limited. Visit <http://www.cccckc.org/holy-land/> for more details about the trip or to download reservation form.



"And" Is the Key Word

Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence and Minister of Spiritual Formation



As many of you know, my title at the church is Scholar in Residence and Minister of Spiritual Formation, a title with “and” in there. But that’s not the “and” I mean to reference in the title of this article. When I think about spiritual formation, I think naturally about how persons mature in their faith, which for me implies “and” in the process. Specifically: learning and doing.

Learning sounds like something I would stress given my 30 years of teaching in seminary. For centuries now, rabbis have claimed that an hour spent in study is an hour spent in prayer. Amen. I take seriously Jesus’ teaching that the first commandment about loving God includes doing so with our minds (Matthew 22:34-40). I also recall the biblical scholar James Sanders’ line about how he learned that the tomb was empty but his head need not be. Spiritual formation entails learning, and we have lots of opportunities to do that in our church—classes on Sunday mornings, different nights of the week, small study groups at various times, too.

Doing makes perfect sense as well. Christianity is not just a topic of study but a way of life. Scholars in spiritual formation refer to “practices,” time in prayer, meditation, volunteering at Micah Ministry to feed the poor. These are all ways to grow in faith. In that passage in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love God and neighbor, which sounds like two things, but he makes them into one. Spiritual formation entails a lifestyle, of doing things in the life of the church and working for justice in the world. We also have so many wonderful ministries for people to be involved with, Sheffield Place, Harvesters, and so on.

But for some reason, it’s easy to pick learning and neglect doing, or the other way around. I think in part it’s because of how each of us is wired. I know folks who prefer a book club over soup kitchen, and vice-versa for others. If you’ve been pondering lately how you might grow more in your faith, here’s a modest proposal: Identify which one of these spiritualities is your natural inclination. Then find ways to get involved in the other. If you’re attracted to learning, try signing up for Grace at Work when we will take on all sorts of hand-on projects. Or if you’re into doing, try attending a class at the church, maybe the one on Monday nights in April in which we’re closely studying the Lord’s Prayer.

“And” is the key word. ☩



Join us for worship!

Sunday Service Times

9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

April 22

Jeremiah 31:28-34

Legacy of Love Part 2 -

Large Scale Dreams

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

April 29

Legacy of Love: Part 3 - Courage

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

May 6

Legacy of Love: Part 4 - A Growin'
When I'm Sleepin'

Rev. Carla Aday Preaching

Do You Follow Us?



Adult Classes and Group Fellowship Opportunities

Contemporary Spirituality Speaker Series

Rethinking Communion and Community

The Contemporary Spirituality Speaker Series will host a program led by Dr. Mike Graves based on his book, *Table Talk*, on Sat., May 5 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. The registration is \$15; fee is waived for members of Country Club Christian Church. Register at: <https://contemporaryspirituality.eventbrite.com>.

Table Talk Book Signing

Mike will sign copies of *Table Talk*, in The Well on Sun., May 6. The book is available for purchase in The Well, and Mike will be available all morning that day.

Rethinking the Lord's Prayer

Led by Mike Graves. Mondays, Apr. 23, 30, 7:00 p.m. Scholars in the area of worship note that even when we go through the motions on Sundays, it's ok because the motions go through us.

The Lord's Prayer could be a good example since it's easy to mumble our way through, not paying attention to its meaning. In this three-week class, we will look more closely at this beloved prayer Jesus gave us, line by line. It might make a difference the next time we pray it.

Pathways to Learning in April:

Don't Know Much about the Bible

Led by Dr. Graves, Sundays, Apr. 22, 29, 10:00-10:55 a.m.

If there ever was a time when everyone attending Sunday services knew the Bible well, it's no longer the case. Surveys indicate we are better at naming the four members of The Beatles than the names of the four Gospels. Even entering seminarians admit to lacking basic knowledge of the biblical texts. In this introduction, we'll explore the library of documents we call "Bible," with an overview of both testaments, and discuss approaches to reading more closely and fully.



Music Series

KC Guitar Society Casual Concert Series

in the Chapel on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Apr. 22, Daniel Krieg with Cynthia Egger, guitars.

Ignea Strata, women's four part vocal ensemble, a subset of KC VITAs), Fri., May 4, Chapel 7:00 p.m.

All performances free and open to the public.



Faith and Grief Lunch

Join us Tues., May 1 at noon for our Faith and Grief Lunch. We begin with prayer, then a guest speaker shares her/his experience of loss, grief, and healing. The remainder of the lunch hour is filled with sharing and remembering in our informal table conversations. Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by Country Club Christian Church and four other congregations, the complimentary lunch is hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. For information: (816) 381-9249 or joew@cccckc.org.

Meditation

Meditation is offered in our George Gordon Prayer Room on Wednesdays at noon. Everyone is welcome. The session begins with a brief introduction to meditation, followed by 20 minutes of meditating and five minutes of sharing the experience. Those who are able may choose to spend a few more minutes on reflection.

Faithpub

Hosted by Dr. Mike Graves, May 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m. This men's group meets for beer and conversation on a host of spiritual topics. This spring we will be in our new location at Bier Station, 120 E. Gregory Blvd, Kansas City, MO, with a guest speaker each session.



a message from staff

Thankful

By Paul Tucker, Co- Director of Music



On Jan. 7, I was leaving the 10:00 a.m. Chapel service, having participated by playing for Kevin Briggs' offertory solo. I was feeling quite good that morning. It had snowed, but everything had been taken care of by the facilities crew. I was walking on what seemed like a perfectly cleaned brick walkway. As I walked away from the chapel, I was singing along with the Doxology while thinking about rehearsal with the Chancel Choir. In a split second I became aware that I was airborne. I did not notice the patch of ice, and I only had time to tuck my head to keep it from striking the walkway. I hit the ground with such force that it felt as if I had fallen from a much higher elevation. In seconds, J. J. Jones was standing in front of me asking "What can I do?" He helped me to my feet and soon I was on my way to the hospital. At the hospital I found out that I had five broken ribs but no damage to any internal organs.

After spending two and a half days in the hospital I was released, but not before being visited by my church colleagues. As I recuperated, I was told that the members of the various music groups at Country Club had arranged to prepare and deliver meals. I had visits from ministers, musicians, and church members. I did not know that such a thing as a meal chain existed. I was very appreciative of the effort by so many friends to help me in my recovery. I know Vicki was even more grateful for the help taking care of such a miserable patient.

After what seemed like a lifetime I was able to return to church. I am so thankful for those who filled in for me when I could not be there. Tepring Crocker filled in beautifully and led the Chancel Choir, Dina Evans kept me informed, and Carla Aday brought me a recliner when I did not want to lie in bed anymore.

On Apr. 15, more than three months after my fall, I returned to the Chapel. The same church family that had cared for me during my convalescence welcomed me back. I have had an up-close view of a truly caring church family. I thank everyone who assisted me, prayed for me, and wished me well.

I must also thank Lara Schopp for suggesting I write about this experience. I did not know it then but writing about it has been therapeutic for me. ☺

Our Church Family

Memorials and Tributes

Memorial gifts and gifts honoring loved ones 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.

Donnis Clark, for Sewing Ministry
Randy and Cindy Irely

Carol Anderson
Sheila Bolte

Metro Mission Serve and Share

Collection Connection

Our April collection is new clothing for Della Lamb's Operation Santa. Specifically we are collecting girls' extra small sweatshirts, girls' medium sweatshirts, boys' large underpants, boys' large sweatpants. Della Lamb can also purchase items at a lower cost by buying in bulk, so if you wish to donate money instead of clothing items that is appreciated.

Special Donation Request

Our partners at Della Lamb are in need of portable sewing machines for their sewing program as a way for refugees in Kansas City to earn income. If you have a working, or repairable, sewing machine please bring it to the church. They can be cleaned and adjusted as needed.

Serve at Micah Ministry on Mon., May 14

Country Club Christian Church provides volunteers to serve dinner at Micah Ministry on the second Monday evening of every month, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The next opportunity will be on Mon., May 14. Meet in the chapel lot at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. Return to church at 7:30 p.m.

To get involved and for more information please contact Corey Meyer at coreym@cccckc.org. Children must be at least 12 years old to serve.

Student Ministries

Middle School Mission Trip

Sun., Aug. 5 - Wed., Aug. 8, St. Louis, MO

Students completing grades 6-8 this school year are invited to attend the service/learning trip to St. Louis. The group will be staying at the Urban Mission Inn housed at Union Avenue Christian Church. We will be serving with partner organizations of the church. For full details, email April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

High School Mission Trip

Sun., June 17 - Sat., June 23, Nashville, TN

Youth completing 9th - 12th grades this year are invited to join in the trip to Nashville where we will work the City Service Mission. We'll work with local organizations and learn about challenges facing many families. Registration limited. For more information, contact April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Senior Sunday May 6

Graduating seniors will be honored at the 11:00 worship service and enjoy a celebration brunch following worship.

Senior Brunch

May 6, 12:15 pm. For graduating seniors and their families.

Youth Choir

All youth ages 6th- 12th grade are invited to come to choir rehearsals from 12:00-12:45. The youth choir is preparing to sing in worship on May 6.

Middle and High School End of Year Parties

Save the Date – Fri., May 18. Watch the weekly youth email for full details

Sunday School for 6th-12th Graders meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 205 and 202.

High School Youth Group meets every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. at Panera. Dinner provided!

Middle School Youth Group meets every Friday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Center. Dinner provided!

Want to volunteer with Student Ministries?

Contact Lori Bennett, Chair of the Student Ministries Team, at lorib77@me.com.

Children and Families

First Friday

Food, fun and fellowship for 3rd-5th graders. Join us in the Social Hall on May 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner provided.

Children's Choir

For grades kindergarten - 5th grade Rehearsals are on Sundays, 10:45-11:30 a.m., Rm. 213. The choir is preparing to sing in the 11:00 worship service on May 13.

Family Worship Night

Sun, May 20 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

All ages of children are invited to come with their families. Sing, pray hear a bible story and create worshipful items to use at home. Free dinner provided. RSVP to April at aprilb@cccckc.org.

Club Kids Zoo Trip

Sat. June 9 - Sun. June 10, Zoo Overnight at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo for grades 3-5. We will be meeting at the church at 12:00 p.m. on Sat., June 9 and returning for parent pick up in the afternoon of Sun., June 10. Open to those who have completed grades 3-5. Cost \$90.

Save the Date for VBS

Save the date for Vacation Bible School, June 25-27. For children ages 3 through 5th grade.

MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month during the school year, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Tall Oaks Summer Camps

Time to start thinking about camp!

Tall Oaks is our denomination's camp and conference center in Linwood, Kansas. For many years it has offered summer camps ranging from single day camps for younger ones to overnight camps for 2nd grade and up. Youth have a fun-filled experience meeting other youth from the region while swimming, horseback riding, playing games, attending meaningful worship and so much more. Check out the dates and all the details at www.talloaks.org



Family Worship Night



The April Family Worship night celebrated Earth Day with a visual worship experience, led by Lauren Weinhold. Live music was provided by Paul Tucker. After worship, families enjoyed making bird feeders, creating prayer booklets focused on Earth prayers and creating kid packs for students at Hartman Elementary.

Welcome New Member Rebecca Worden



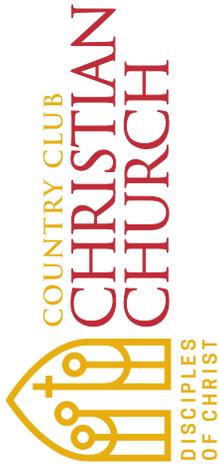
Rebecca grew up in Wellington, KS, and graduated from Kansas State University. She is vice president of operations at Hermeris, Inc., providing business and government documents and filing services. Rebecca and her husband, Chris, have a cabin in Arkansas and enjoy travel with friends, yardwork, running, and outdoor activities. Rebecca is joining Country Club Christian Church for the worship experience, inclusive theology and adult programs.

New member host is Amy Holmes

Guest Gathering

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 May 6 at 10:00 a.m. 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 members. RSVP to Barbara George, 816-381-9251.

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The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday
ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

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SAVE THE DATES



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Youth Year End Party – May 18, Time and location TBD

Vacation Bible School – June 25-27. For children ages 3 through 5th grade.



For the full church calendar, visit our website at

CCCCKC.org

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