



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.*

### KCMSD School Partnership Announced

#### Join Country Club Christian Church in Supporting Hartman School

After more than a year of planning and research, the Task Force that has been studying the opportunity to work with the Kansas City Missouri School District is pleased to announce a new partnership between Country Club Christian Church and Hartman School at 81st and Oak Streets.

Led by Greg Bates and Linda Nixon, the Task Force has met with staff from Hartman School to determine ways Country Club Christian Church could provide support and be a hands-on presence in the school.

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### Enthusiastic Response to Town Hall Meeting

One hundred and seventy members gathered at the Town Hall meeting on Sun., Jan. 16 to hear ideas and give input into potential capital campaign projects. The room bustled with positive energy, thoughtful questions and spirited comments as each member was invited to give specific input about the priority projects. Those present expressed support for exterior improvements to the building, interior renovations to enhance worship and community building, outreach projects and technological upgrades.

The next step will be to conduct a feasibility study during which all members will be asked to fill out a survey. Watch for more information.

## Preparing for our Next 100 Years



Church members gathered Jan. 27 in the Social Hall for the State of the Church Dinner to hear Dr. Glen Miles assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future.



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## Pastors' Class to Share Experiences in Blog

Pastors' Class, for youth in grade 6 or older, is designed to help the young people of our congregation more clearly name their identity as Christians, and who we are as a congregation. Throughout the class the students will also be led to discover what God is doing in the world. They will have a chance to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and how this impacts who and how they are in the world. After the 10-week course the students will have the opportunity to celebrate these new insights and transformation through the ritual of baptism or any other way that they and their family choose.

One of the ongoing projects for this year's group will be the Pastors' Class blog. The blog is a chance for the congregation to see what is going on in the class, as well as what is going on in the lives of the young people. Every week, by the end of the business day on Monday, there will be a new posting of what the past week's class was about and what questions the students are asking. Each week a different student will write something new for the blog. As a class we ask that you read their postings and respond, to let them know that we as a congregation are thinking about them as they prepare to celebrate their faith in our community. We also ask for your prayers as we go through the process of Pastors' Class this year. If you have any questions feel free to ask Justin Zeigler, director of Middle School Ministries, at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org).

## More<sup>2</sup> Congregational Assembly Is February 22

More<sup>2</sup>, the Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity, is a coalition of 18 multi-denominational and multi-faith congregations working to resolve issues of social justice in the Kansas City region by building grassroots support among its partners to effect policy change. More<sup>2</sup> focuses its efforts on areas including access to employment, transportation and quality education.

If you are interested in learning more about More<sup>2</sup>, the next More<sup>2</sup> Task Force Update meeting is on Tues., Feb. 8, at 6:00 p.m. in Rm. 205. Or, we invite you to attend More<sup>2</sup>'s Congregational Assembly on Tues., Feb. 22 at St. Stephen Baptist Church, 1414 E. Truman Road, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Lauren Weinhold, 816-333-4917 or [laurerw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurerw@cccckc.org).

## School Partnership, *continued from page 1*

"Meetings with staff have been exciting, and Hartman offers a number of opportunities for our members to volunteer," said Bates.

The Task Force is seeking volunteers to tutor and work on other projects, such as Back Snack, a Harvesters Community Food Network program which will be led by Nancy and Greg Lear.

Support the Kansas City Missouri School District by getting involved with Hartman School. Please attend

## Children's Musical Coming to You on Sunday, March 6

We hope you can join us on Sun., Mar. 6 for the 5th Annual Children's Musical, *A Barbecue for Ben*. Our Cherubim and Children's choirs are moving into the New Testament this year, as they make the parable of the prodigal son come alive through music, action and dance (complete with trash can percussion)!



How does Ben find himself eating with the pigs? Will Mr. Jackson welcome his son home? Does Johnny ever resolve his jealousy issues? Come and find out the answers to these burning questions and more! We will have a light snack lunch in the social hall after the 11:00 a.m. worship service, and the show will immediately follow. This is a spectacular event for all ages!

an orientation meeting on Sat., Feb. 19 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Social Hall. Karen Grover, Coordinator of Partners in Education for the Kansas City Missouri School District; Jessie Kirksey, Principal at Hartman, and Sherry Schreiber, Instructional Coach, will lead the orientation.

Come and hear their story of perseverance and success at Hartman, and how we can contribute to the school's success. Please RSVP to Mary Margaret at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917 or sign up in the parlor on Sun., Feb. 6 or Feb. 13.



## Winning and Losing with Grace

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Winning and losing with grace is the key to being the kind of person that people want to be around, whether you are playing a game, working on a project or simply enjoying a cup of coffee. Learning to be gracious may be the single most important aspect of the Christian life.

Grace begins with forgiveness. Grace is founded in the ability to recognize our need for forgiveness and in the ability to be forgiving toward others. This is not only the single most important aspect of our faith, it may also be the single

most difficult thing we are ever instructed to do.

Consider this: Do you know people who do not know how to deal with mistakes graciously? Do you know the type of person I am talking about? The one who never owns up to the mistake but points his finger at everyone else or blames the weather or the moon phase, anything but graciously acknowledging their own shortcoming?

What about people with long memories, the ones who never even think to utter the words, "I forgive?"

Maybe there is some part of your own life that gets stuck in a rut like this, a part that somehow sees gracious and forgiving living as a weak way to deal with the world, whether it is business or sports or family or school.

This is where Jesus can help us. Every Sunday we pray the Lord's Prayer together but it is easy to miss the radical life that it is calling us toward. That life begins in the gracious act of forgiveness.

Forgiveness, for the Christian, is like breathing. It is a part of what we do and who we are. It has been written into the Christian's DNA. It is part of the code.

Grace and peace to you,

## Nicaragua Mission Trip Blog

A mission team is leaving Feb. 20 to conduct medical clinics and work on construction

projects among the poorest of the poor in rural Nicaragua.

You can keep up with the team's journey by checking out the mission trip blog at [www.cccckc.org/stay-informed](http://www.cccckc.org/stay-informed).



## Worship with us!

**Services at 9:00, 10:00  
and 11:00 a.m.**

**Feb. 13**

The Deep Secrets of God  
*2 Corinthians 2: 1-16*

**Feb. 20**

The Spirit in You  
*3 Corinthians 3: 10-23*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Pathways to Learning Being a Good Neighbor

Feb. 6 and 13



This four-part series looks at various perspectives on being a good neighbor. How is the United States a good neighbor in the world? How are Kansas City neighborhoods designed? What kind of neighbor does scripture call us to be?

What new neighborly programs are rising up in our own community? 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.

### Being a Good Neighbor...

**Feb. 6 ...Civil Discourse.** Jennifer Wilding and Dan Blom, The Civility Project.

**Feb. 13 ...Modern Neighbors in a New Kansas City.** Steve Weitkamp, Jewish Vocational Services.

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## Crossroads Sunday School Class Sunday Brunch

Are you married? Single? Have kids? Don't have kids? Are you between the ages of 35 and 55?? If you answered yes to any of these questions than answer this one: Have you ever heard of the Crossroads Sunday School Class?

Whether you answered yes or no to that last question you owe it to yourself to join us on Sun., Mar. 6 during the Sunday School hour (9:55-10:55 a.m.) in the Last Supper sculpture room off the Parlor for a very informal brunch. Since the Children's Musical is at noon that day this will offer you some extra nourishment before the excitement of *A Barbecue For Ben*.

You will have the chance to meet members of the class and ask questions about what we do, what our vision for the group is and how you can fit in. We want to meet you and hear your ideas! We hope you'll join us. Even if you can't stay the entire hour just drop in, grab something to eat and find out why we have so much fun together! Contact Michelle Schlatter at [michelle1@me.com](mailto:michelle1@me.com) for more information or to ask questions.

## Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Saturdays, Mar. 26 and Apr. 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Michelle Schlatter at [weddings@cccckc.org](mailto:weddings@cccckc.org) or call the church at 816-333-4917.

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## Save the Date for Grace at Work on April 9

Do you have the passion to volunteer, but don't know where to start? Do we have an opportunity for you! Join us at the 3rd annual Grace at Work event on Sat., Apr. 9, 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.



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## February Collection Connection

### Baby Yarn for Knitting Circle

The Collection Connection for February is baby yarn for the knitting circle in our church. Your contributions will help these knitters to make baby blankets and hats for Truman Medical Center where almost 200 babies are born each month. Our church members have also taken these baby items on mission trips to Nicaragua and South Dakota. Please leave your yarn in the basket provided in the parlor.



## Read Our Blogs and Comment

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



My niece, Mina, is almost 4 years old. She is a red-head with the associated firey personality, and she is surprisingly talented musically for her age. Recently Mina's folks posted a video on YouTube of her rendition of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, in which she's dressed as a pirate and is using a paper roll as a telescope. And though she is on key through most of the song, the words are her own, starting with "Port the Harold!" something about "cheese on earf" and ending with "Look! There's farried treasure!"

I have watched this video more than a dozen times, and each time it makes me laugh out loud. I've shared it with coworkers and loaded it on my Facebook profile to share with far-flung friends. And while I'm sure there are some who find such videos annoying, one of the benefits of sharing electronically through social media sites is the opportunity for those who enjoy it to comment.

The same is true for blogs and Facebook updates. The two-way communication provides readers, friends and fans a chance to share ideas, questions, and thoughts. If you are friends with Glen on Facebook, you might notice that he often asks for input on sermon topics. Glen and Steve Mason are both blogging regularly on the church's web site, another way for you to connect and comment. Starting later this month, the Pastors' Class participants will blog about their experiences, and the Nicaragua mission team will blog about its adventures. (And we're fortunate to have team member E.J. Becker penning the Nicaragua blog again this year. He's funny; don't miss it.)

When you comment, you provide valuable feedback to the writer of the blog. Maybe it's merely reassurance that their writing is being read. Maybe it's a well-reasoned challenge that makes the writer think. In the case of the Pastors' Class and the Nicaragua mission team, the comments are evidence of support and encouragement of the congregation as each group goes through a meaningful life transition. Having written the Nicaragua blog myself three years ago, I can say that when someone commented, we were all energized and moved. You'd be surprised by how meaningful comments can be.

So take this as an invitation and an encouragement to read our blogs, to follow the church and Glen on Facebook and to share a comment. You can find the blogs here:

Glen: <http://www.cccckc.org/about-us/senior-minister/blog.html>

Steve: <http://www.cccckc.org/stay-informed/blogs/steves-blog.html>

Pastors' Class: <http://www.cccckc.org/ministries-a-programs/youth-ministry/pastors-class/pastors-class-blog.html>

Nicaragua: <http://www.cccckc.org/outreach-a-missions/mission-trips.html>

Lara

### Bible Workbench Groups

If traditional Bible Study is not for you, consider a Bible Workbench group. This creative and interactive approach brings a refreshing look at how real life and ancient scriptures intersect in surprising ways. Designed to enhance the spiritual journey through Lent, participants will reflect on the scripture that Dr. Miles will preach about that week during worship. Classes are offered Sunday mornings, Thursday mornings, and various weeknights during Lent. See list below. All groups will meet at the church.

The book costs \$25. Library copies will be available for use in library only. Childcare will be available by reservation. Contact Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org).

#### Sunday Night Group

Leader: Julie Miles

Sundays, Mar. 6-Apr. 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

#### Mom's Group

Mom's of children (infant through elementary age).

Leader: Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn.

Saturdays, Mar. 12-Apr. 16, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

#### Men's Group

Leader: Jeff Zimmerman. Wednesdays,

Mar. 9-Apr. 13, 7:00-8:30 a.m.

#### Monday Evening Group

Leader: Rev Chuck Murphy

Mondays, Mar. 7- Apr. 11, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

#### Thursday Morning Group

Leader: Rev. Carla Aday

Thursdays, Mar. 10-Apr. 14, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

The following Sunday School classes will participate in Bible Workbench during their Sunday School Classes on Mar. 13-Apr. 17: New 20s class, Yawhose, Crossroads, Outlook, Koinonia. In addition, several small groups will participate.

# Upcoming Events for Youth

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Sun., Feb. 6

CYF (9th – 12th) will have a Super Bowl Party at the home of Meghan and Perry Jackson beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Chi Rho will have a service project with Harvesters Community Food Network as part of Souper Bowl of Caring. We will have lunch at church at noon and then depart for Harvesters to work in the warehouse. We will be back at church by 3:30 p.m. This will replace our evening gathering. Space is limited so please RSVP to Justin Zeigler at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org).

## Parents of Teenagers Gathering

Texting, emails, Facebook – there are so many electronic and immediate ways youth connect today. Come and join other parents of teenagers (and almost teens) for a discussion focused on Teens and Technology and all the

challenges this brings to life. Parents of Chi Rho and CYF youth are invited to this gathering on Sun., Feb. 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

## Parent/Son Workshop:

Sun., Feb. 13, noon-3:30 p.m.

Save the date for this workshop for 4th-6th grade boys, along with a parent. This is an opportunity to jointly explore age-appropriate issues related to sexuality. Exploring these topics together promotes open communication between boys and their parents. Presenters from the Education Programs of Planned Parenthood will lead us in discussions and activities. Cost is \$20/pair. Make reservations with Heather Rotter at [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Chi-Rho & CYF Jam Sessions

The youth group is full of talented musicians and we want to provide the opportunity for these youth musicians to play music together. On the second Sunday of each month, youth can stay after youth group from 8:00-9:00 p.m.

to jam with other youth musicians. This month we will jam on Feb. 13. Church member and musician Jim Sullivan will be present to support the musicians. Bring your musical instruments to youth group and stay around afterwards to show your talent. Questions? Contact Brandon Winstead at [brandonw@cccckc.org](mailto:brandonw@cccckc.org).

## Alternative Readings

This intergenerational group that will bring middle school students and young adults together to study the same book, from each of their particular life experiences will meet every other week from January to April. The group will first focus on Shane Claiborne's book, *Irresistible Revolution*. We will discuss two chapters each session. The group is meeting every other Thursday night through Apr. 7, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). The next session is Feb. 10. Contact Justin Zeigler at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org) or Steve Mason [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org) for more information.

# Club Kids Tubing at Snow Creek



Club Kids and their families enjoyed a day of tubing at Snow Creek on Sun., Jan. 30.



## God in the Everyday

by Catherine Stark-Corn, Minister to Children, Youth and Families



I have always been one who likes to have a plan, for each part of the day to have a purpose, for the things that I deem important to hold a place in my life. One of the parts of my life I have wrestled with is making daily time for prayerful reflection, meditation, sitting in silence to simply be with God.

When I first began seeking to honor this practice daily, I fell victim to what Anne Lamott calls monkey mind – where in the silence my mind would jump from thought to thought, idea to idea, never settling into the stillness I was seeking. I recall another stretch when I had a young toddler and an infant. When I awoke before the children, I would make my way to my quiet space downstairs, begin my breath prayers and take time to be in the silent presence of God. My mind was definitely quieter – perhaps too much so as in these days of young children and odd sleep patterns I would often nod off. Those are just a couple of my faithful yet frustrating attempts to grow into a spiritual practice I so longed to make a part of my life.

I believe I was trying to add to my divinely inspired to do list – and what I needed was a way to weave a practice into what I am already doing. For now, I have found it. What I seek to do now is more a way of seeing the world, seeing my role as mother, wife, minister, child of God. I seek to see, to encounter God in all that I do. Brian McLaren in his book *Finding Our Way* asserts the purpose of any faith practice is not to make us more religious, but make us more alive...alive to God. “Seeing in God’s light” is what McLaren calls it – seeing the normal things of our daily lives differently – preparing dinner, folding laundry, walking the dog, getting the kids in the bath, responding to emails. Even some of the frustrating parts of our day – waiting in traffic, problems with a computer, too many snow days – can hold a different place when we seek to see with God.

I have a long way to go as my humanness often overpowers and I fail to find God in the meeting that is running too long, in the child that has been whining. But when I take a breath and work to center my heart and soul on God, these moments are changed. I will keep trying to honor what really is an ancient practice, the way of joining God in the spending of every day.

## Children and Families

### Club Kids

#### Feb. 6 – Souper Bowl Sunday

Club Kids will serve at Harvesters from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 6. We will have lunch at church at noon and then depart for Harvesters to work in the warehouse as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be back at church by 3:30 p.m. This will replace our evening gathering. Space is limited so please RSVP to Catherine Stark-Corn at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).

### Mystery Trip for 1st & 2nd Graders

Join us Sat., Feb. 19!! We will gather at the church at 10:00 a.m., then head to our “mystery” location. We will be back at church by 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 per child. Space is limited. RSVP to Karla Herrington at [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

### Parent/Son Workshop

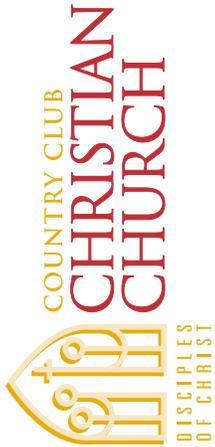
#### Sun., Feb. 13 - Noon-3:30 p.m.

This workshop for 4th-6th grade boys, along with a parent, is an opportunity to jointly explore age appropriate issues related to sexuality. See page 6 for details.

### Moms’ Group Serving in Faith

Join us in volunteering at Rose Brooks on Tues., Feb. 22 from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Childcare is available with RSVP by Thur., Feb. 17. Please email Karla ([karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org)) if you are interested in this serving opportunity.

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## Food Drive on February 20

On Sun., Feb. 20, please bring your nonperishable food items for the Virginia Reed Food Drive, our collection for local food pantries that serve the homeless and hungry. Vans will be in the parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the barrels located at the east and north doors. Food is also purchased in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

## Our Church Family Sympathy

JOHN ROBERT STARR passed away Jan. 22. He was the grandson of Martha Jane Phillips Starr. Services were Jan. 26 at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church.

## Memorials

### Charlene Puhr

Paula Lane  
Maureen McGinty  
The Sewing Group

### Rev. Jane Smith

John & Norma Tilton

## PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. R. Glen Miles**  
Senior Minister

**Rev. Carla Aday**  
Senior Associate Minister

**Rev. David Diebold**  
Minister of Music

**Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn**  
Minister to Children,  
Youth and Families

**Rev. Chuck Murphy**  
Minister of Congregational  
Care

**Ms. Karla Herrington**  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

**Rev. Steve Mason**  
Pastoral Resident

**Mr. Brian Mathias**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Lisa McCleish**  
Director of Early  
Childhood Programs

**Ms. Laine Riley**  
Associate Director of Music

**Ms. Lara Schopp**  
Director of Communications

**Ms. Lauren Weinhold**  
Director of Church Growth

**Ms. Marilyn Wimer**  
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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](mailto:laras@cccckc.org)

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538  
email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)