



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

VOLUME 82 · NUMBER 23

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.*

## Many Opportunities to Celebrate this Advent Season in Worship and Fellowship

### Advent Sermon Series:

#### **There's a Song in the Air**

The poetic language of the familiar Christmas hymns might be lost on us after a lifetime of sentimental repetition. The music of Christmas offers more than heart-warming melodies. The verses offer a new perspective on an old story that can open our minds to the power of hope. Nov. 30 – *Shadows Put to Flight*

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

Dec. 7 – *Beneath Life's Crushing Load*  
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Dec. 14 – *A Child for Us Sinners*  
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Dec. 21 – *Repeat the Sounding Joy*  
“Joy to the World”

### **Breakfast with Santa – Dec. 6**

Featuring a pancake breakfast, professional photo of your child with Santa, crafts and FUN! 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Social Hall. See page 6 for more information.

### **Christmas at Country Club – Dec. 7**

Choirs, instruments, and readers will lead the congregation in a joyful celebration of carols, readings, and anthems to help kick off the Advent season. 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary.

### **Chancel Choir Cantata – Dec. 14**

The Chancel Choir and instruments will present their annual Christmas cantata at the 11:00 a.m. service, Sanctuary.



### **Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 21**

Join us for a program of Christmas music from around the world. 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

### **Christmas Music for Organ and Brass featuring The Kansas City Brass – Dec. 22**

David Diebold and the Kansas City Brass present a traditional concert featuring season favorites at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception follows.

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services. Wed., Dec. 24

5:30 p.m. – Children and families service  
8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight services

### **Thanksgiving Dinner**

Join us this Thursday evening, Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. for the church's annual Thanksgiving Dinner.



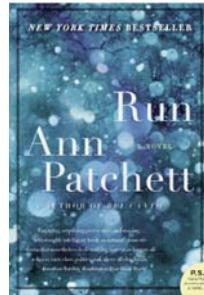
# BUILDING COMMUNITY BOOK by BOOK

**What:** Join us this winter in reading *The New York Times'* bestseller *Run*, by Ann Patchett.

**Where:** In January, attend a one-time home or coffeshop discussion group. More information forthcoming.

**When:** Meet Ann Patchett and hear her discuss the book on Thurs., Feb. 5, 2009.

**How:** Purchase your copy of *Run* in The Well for \$12. Proceeds benefit disaster relief through Week of Compassion.



On Sat., Nov. 8, the chilly temperature didn't dampen the spirits of more than 50 individuals who gathered to kick off this winter's Building Community Book by Book event with a 5K Fun Run/Walk at Loose Park. The event was in honor of the book *Run*.

## Giving with Your IRA

Have you ever wished you could stretch your dollars a little further, or find a way to do more for the people and causes you love? If you are fortunate enough to be over 70 ½ and have an IRA, our government has again opened a window of opportunity for 2008 and 2009 to allow you to easily make your wish happen.

Building on the success of the IRA charitable rollover legislation introduced in 2007, the 2008 law allows citizens, who are at least 70 ½ on the day the distribution is made, to request their IRA administrators make distributions directly to their favorite charities, including our congregation. This

distribution can be counted against your required minimum distribution if you choose; it will *not be counted as a taxable distribution to you*; and you are allowed to make distributions to charity of up to \$100,000 in any given year. In some states, making your charitable gifts through your IRA will save you state taxes, since this income will not be included in your Adjusted Gross Income. The combined impact of saving state, local and federal taxes is most dramatic for non-itemizers, who are now able to give tax-free dollars to charity – stretching their dollars by 25, 30, or even 35 percent! This opportunity can allow people to give more to our congregation at the same or

## Budget Update

By Bonnie Blythe Dee

Thank you for the strong, positive response to our request to raise funds. Your prompt action is inspiring. Many households have already increased their pledge or made a special one-time gift to help eliminate the \$50,000 shortfall in our operating budget. Together, these early donations total over \$25,000, so we are half-way to our goal!

If you haven't already done so, please prayerfully consider how you can help the church meet this financial challenge.

Remember that gifts at all levels are needed, valued and appreciated. Thank you in advance for helping to make a difference by supporting the ministries of Country Club Christian Church.

Happy Thanksgiving!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie".

reduced "out-of-pocket cost" to them. You might consider fulfilling your normal support of our operating budget with a gift from your IRA, or use this opportunity to stretch your gift for an "over and above" operating gift.

If you are over 70 ½, or will be before Dec. 31, 2009 and are interested in finding out more, please contact Sandy Eisenman at the church. We have sample request letters for your IRA administrator and more information on how this act can benefit you, and all of the charitable causes you love, in the months ahead.



## Mystery into Mystery

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The wonderful songwriter, Bruce Cockburn, upon learning of the death of a fellow musician wrote:

*There you go  
Swimming deeper into mystery  
Here I remain  
Only seeing you where you used to be  
Stared at the ceiling  
'Til my ears filled with tears  
Never got to know you*

*Suddenly you're out of here  
Gone from mystery into mystery  
Gone from daylight into night  
Another step deeper into darkness  
Closer to the light*

I found the piece above while preparing for a memorial service. Although I didn't quote the words in the service, I did use them as my prayer for preparation as I wrote the meditation. Cockburn captures both the mystery of death itself and the emptiness that we feel when one is taken from us. That emptiness might be described as the God-shaped hole within our souls. It is the place that is often filled with questions and doubts and fears and only God really knows what else.

That void is also a place where it is possible that God may be ready to do something amazing in your life. Do you remember the first story of creation in Genesis chapter one? The author tells us that the earth was a formless void. That strange land of nothingness becomes the very place where the creative activity of God begins.

There are many times, when facing the death of a church member or dealing with a serious transition or wrestling with a dramatic change, when I pause and ask God, out loud even, "Where are you? Are you paying attention? Do you have any advice? Can you see us?"

The answers? Silence, mostly. But every now and then there is a moment of grace, a step closer to the light. Following a funeral the other day a congregant said, "It's all mystery but mystery is another name for God."

There are times when I'd like something a little more concrete but in the long run the quiet assurance of a colleague, the warm hug of a friend, or the soft spoken word of mystery is more than enough.

Grace and peace to you,

## Resignation Announced

Rev. Kelly Ingersoll has resigned as Minister to Youth and Young Adults at Country Club Christian Church for personal reasons. Dr. Glen Miles will meet with the Youth Council on Thurs., Nov. 20 to provide details on the future plans for Youth Ministry. At that time, Dr. Miles hopes to announce the name of the Interim Youth Director. Please contact Dr. Miles with any questions or concerns.

## Receive the Christian by Email

Do we have a current email address for you on file? If we don't, or you're not sure, contact Jane Fletcher with the correct information at [janef@cccckc.org](mailto:janef@cccckc.org). You'll receive the newsletter early and in full color! If you prefer to receive your Christian via the U.S. Postal Service, we are requesting a "subscription" donation of \$20 a year to support printing and mailing costs, effective Jan. 1, 2009.

## Worship with us!

**Services at 8:00, 9:00,  
10:00 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Nov. 23**  
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

### Advent Sermon Series Begins

**Nov. 30**  
Dr. R. Glen Miles  
*Shadows Put to Flight*  
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**Dec. 7**  
Dr. R. Glen Miles  
*Beneath Life's Crushing Load*  
"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"  
Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn  
preaching at 8:00 a.m.

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

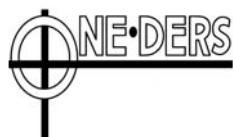
## YaWhose

### Young Adults [age 22-35] Welcoming Hearts Open to Spiritual Exploration

Join YaWhose on Sunday morning from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m., Rm. 304 for a presentation and discussion of faith issues in our everyday lives. On the first Sunday of the month, Crossroads and YaWhose meet together for a lesson in the Pine Room (Rm. 10).

**Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m.** – Monthly evening gathering. Meet at Marillac, 8000 W. 127th Street, Overland Park to do a Christmas craft project with young children living at Marillac, then have dinner together at Planet Sub.

**Dec. 7** – Nicaraguan Mission Team Report, Pathways to Learning.



## One-ders

A diverse group of singles ages 35-60-ish, where everyone is always welcome. Focusing on developing spirituality, service to others, and providing opportunities for growth through fellowship.

**Nov. 22** – Join us for a festive kickoff for the holidays with dinner and music at the clubhouse at Talisman Apartments (104th & Wornall), with host David Showalter. Bring a side dish or dessert. Contact David at 816-941-0361 or Suzy Spencer at 913-262-0088.

## Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service

**Tues., Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 2 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

## Grief Support Group to Meet in January

A grief support group called “New Beginnings” will begin Sat., Jan. 3 and continue each Saturday through January. It will be held in the church library from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The group will be facilitated by Good Shepherd Hospice. For more information or to sign up, call Mary Linda McDonnell at 816-822-2292.

## Pathways to Learning



**Nicargagua Mission Trip Report** – See the photos and hear the stories from the summer 2008 Nicaragua mission trip. Join us Sun., Dec. 7 from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.



Families in Nicaragua wait to see the medical team.

## Winter Bible Study

### Revelation: Not Left Behind

Join Dr. Glen Miles this winter for a serious study of Revelation, the Bible’s most controversial and confusing book. The group will meet at 7:00 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2 and 9. Watch for more details.

## Crossroads

For adults ages 35-50. We each face many different crossroads in our lives. This class offers spiritual guidance, educational insights and the support of fellow travelers on the journey. Meets every Sunday in the Pine Room (Rm. 10) from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

**Nov. 30** – How to Keep the Holidays Holy. Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn will lead the discussion.

**Dec. 7** – Nicaraguan Mission Team Report, Pathways to Learning.



## Radical Hospitality

by Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



On Election Day, our church was home to nearly 2,000 voters who came here to cast their ballots. One month prior the big day, the staff began making plans to welcome our expected guests with open arms. We arranged to have refreshments for voters to munch on, newspapers and magazines on hand to help pass the time, chairs in the hallways to provide respite, flowers and music were added to set a festive mood and volunteers were scheduled to meet and greet all day.

Our beautifully orchestrated plans went off without a hitch. Everything went exactly as we designed, with one major exception. Mid-morning, an older couple made their way through the east door and down the ramp carrying a Tupperware container. As they came closer to me, I welcomed them and thanked them for coming to vote. In turn, the man extended the plastic dish to me and said, "These are for you." He could tell I was taken aback. He went on to say, "My wife and I made these cookies for the church and election workers as our way of saying 'thank you.'" After mustering enough strength to pick my jaw up off the floor, I flooded the couple with thanks and appreciation for their gesture. Internally, I was making note of the irony of this encounter. Fifty-two dozen store-bought cookies from us didn't hold a candle to this couple's two dozen homemade chocolate chip cookies. At this point, the woman chimed in, saying, "And be thinking about what kind of cookies you'd like for the afternoon, because we'll be back later with more." They turned to go vote and disappeared down the hall before I could even mutter a second round of gratitude.

As promised, later that day, the couple returned with yet another container of homemade cookies. This time, hugs were exchanged in lieu of words. When I asked them their names, the man said "Oh, we're just neighbors who live a few streets over." I didn't push them for a more specific answer, presuming they wished to remain anonymous.

Prior to this encounter, my definition of radical hospitality might have resembled something out of a Martha Stewart magazine—flowers, mood music, good food, vacuum lines on the carpet and so on. It took a few dozen chocolate chip cookies from our anonymous friends to remind me that radical hospitality is anything but.

## November Collection Connection

Metro Mission has purchased 450 pair of heel-less tube socks perfect for "stuffing" for the Christmas giveaway at Independence Boulevard's Micah Ministry this year. Stockings will be available at the church for Sunday school classes and other groups wanting to participate. The stockings will be "generic" this year, not male or female specific. Each class may purchase its own items to fill the stockings and reimburse the church at \$.70 per pair for the socks. To sign up your group, contact Chris Trout at [christ@cccckc.org](mailto:christ@cccckc.org).

Filled stockings need to be at the church office by Sun., Dec. 21 for distribution on Mon., Dec. 22. To create the stockings, roll up one sock and put it into the toe of the other sock. Then fill the sock with an assortment of small sized (but not necessarily travel size) toiletries, including: bar soap, shampoo, tooth brush, toothpaste, comb, wash cloth, skin lotion, lip balm or other assorted toiletries. Please tie the socks closed with a red ribbon.

## December Collection Connection

In December we are collecting items to create home health kits for the January Nicaragua mission trip. Please provide only items with an expiration date at least one year from now.

We need adult, prenatal and children's vitamins (no gummy vitamins), adult and children's acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil), antacids (Tums), cough drops, toothbrushes—children and adult, and antibiotic ointment (Neosporin). We also will accept cash donations to purchase additional items.

Please place your items in the collection bin in the parlor.

## Breakfast with Santa

**Sat., Dec. 6 –  
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

You are invited to Breakfast with

Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 6. From 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., children will have an opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa by Salt Photography, enjoy pancakes by Chris Cakes and make Christmas crafts. Breakfast is served until 11:30 a.m.



Cost is \$7 for adults and for children 2 and older. Tickets are available Sunday mornings in the Parlor, at the reception desk or preschool office.

## New Member Sunday

**Sun., Nov. 23**

Are you interested in becoming part of the Country Club Christian Church family? Next Sunday, Nov. 23, is a New Member Sunday. If you are interested in joining the church that day, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).

## CYF and Chi Rho Veterans Project



Chi Rho and CYF youth made more than 150 cards during their youth meeting on Nov. 9. The cards were delivered to the Veterans Administration Hospital in time for Veteran's Day on Nov. 11.

Around the table above from the left, Ben Giguere, Perry Jackson, Allyse Hackler, Alli Wendorff, Betsy Dee, Lucy Lehoczky, Jack Dee, and Megan Jackson decorate cards for veterans.

Jay Lehoczky and Andrew Garner, right, put the finishing touches on cards.



## Family Caroling and Christmas Parties

**Sun., Dec. 14 – 3:30-6:30 p.m.**

Chi Rho and CYF youth and their families are invited to join families with children 5th grade and under as we spread holiday cheer by lifting our voices! We will carol in groups to area residential care centers and to some of our homebound members. We will gather at church at 3:30 p.m. and ride buses to carol, returning by 5:30 p.m.

Following the caroling, Chi Rho and CYF youth will enjoy their annual Christmas party and gift exchange. Youth should bring a snack to share and a unisex gift of \$10 value or less for the gift exchange. More details coming soon.



## A Reflection of God

by Dr. Charles Rolen, Interim Minister of Congregational Care



There is a clever commercial on television being run by a large pet store company. The setting is a room with a huge mirror propped against the wall. A tennis ball goes bouncing by and a dog trots by, pursuing the ball. As the dog passes the mirror it catches a glimpse of itself, turns and comes back to stand and admire its reflection. The announcer, plugging the grooming service offered by the pet store company, says: "Your pet knows when it looks good!"

Over the course of the past month I have had the opportunity to shadow Dr. George Gordon and to join the ranks of an extremely dedicated and brilliant staff. I deeply appreciate Dr. Gordon's ministry and celebrate how Country Club Christian Church has affirmed his well-earned retirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Minister as we journey this "in between" time of discovering and preparing for the next generation of congregational care at Country Club Christian Church. I look forward to the new relationships and opportunities for ministry that lie ahead.

Over the past few weeks I have learned many wonderful things about our congregation. From hands-on ministry such as feeding hungry persons through Micah Ministries, to watching a mission team be commissioned, or experiencing the musical offerings of our great singers and musicians ... it is obvious faith is being discovered and lived in and beyond our midst.

I have discovered that Country Club Christian Church is about the God-inspired vision and challenge of nurturing us to "look good," that is, to faithfully live the life God offers. Faith is real in our church. God's investment in our personal lives and our communal life as a church is truly being lived in abundance!

The world around is certainly changing. The good news – as I witness it in the community of faith that gathers and worships at 6101 Ward Parkway – God, Christ, faith, hope, and love ... remain! The reflection of God conveyed in and through Country Club Christian Church is shining through each of you. Go take a look in the mirror!

Blessings,

## Children and Families

### Advent in Advance

**Sun., Nov. 23 – 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

The season of Advent is quickly approaching and families with children 5th grade and younger are invited to join us in preparing for Advent. Join us for a light lunch and a make-n-take session which includes adding to (or beginning) your block nativity set; creating items to decorate your home; making gifts for our homebound members and more! Cost is \$15 per family, which includes lunch and all activities. Please RSVP to Mary Margaret at [marymargareta@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareta@cccckc.org).

### Family Caroling Party

**Sun., Dec. 14 – 3:30–6:30 p.m.**

Families with children 5th grade and younger are invited to join us as we spread holiday cheer by lifting our voices! We will carol in groups to area residential care centers and to some of our homebound members. We will gather at church at 3:30 p.m. and ride buses to carol, returning by 5:30 p.m. for a chili supper in the Social Hall. Childcare available for children 3 and under. Make reservations with Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or [marymargareta@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareta@cccckc.org).

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

**Sun., Nov. 30**

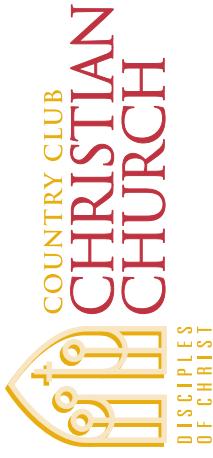
1st – 5th graders will be in the Social Hall for a combined session on Sun., Nov. 30. We will explore the "secret of saying thanks" and have activities to help us prepare items for sharing with our homebound members during Advent.

### Club Kids Schedule

Nov. 23 – Regular session from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 30 – No meeting

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## PROGRAM STAFF

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

**Rev. Carla Aday**  
Senior Associate Minister

**Rev. David Diebold**  
Minister of Music

**Rev. Cynthia Heller**  
Minister of  
Parish Visitation

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

**Dr. Charles Rolen**  
Interim Minister of  
Congregational Care

**Mr. Brian Campbell**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Sandy Eisenman**  
Director of  
Financial Services

**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**  
Director of  
Administrative Services

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

## Thank You from the Gordons

To the members of  
Country Club  
Christian Church:  
May we take this  
opportunity to  
thank each of you  
for your friendship  
and support over  
the years and for  
your many kind  
thoughts and for  
your wonderful  
generosity over this

final month of George's ministry at Country Club  
Christian. We could not imagine feeling more blessed  
and loved. We will always remember our time with  
the church with the utmost fondness and gratitude.  
You will be in our prayers always.



Dr. George Gordon and his wife,  
Suzanne, in front of the new George  
Gordon B. Prayer Room on the  
south side of the Sanctuary.

Sincerely, Suzanne and George Gordon

## Our Church Family Congratulations

Congratulations to Tracey and Rob Ridle on the  
birth of daughter Eva Josephine on Nov. 7.

Congratulations to Tanya Leek and Brian Lore who  
were married Oct. 18 in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to Andi Selzer and Randy Shahan  
who were married Oct. 25 in Combs Chapel.

Congratulations to Cindy Foreman and Jonathan  
Brancato who were married Oct. 25 in the Sanctuary.

## Sympathy

LEE E. WELLS passed away Oct. 31. He is survived  
by his wife, Donna, and son Edward Lee Wells and  
daughter Betsy Wells. Services were Nov. 6 in the  
Sanctuary, Dr. R. Glen Miles and Dr. Charles Rolen  
officiating.

UMATILLA ARNOLD passed away Nov. 5. She is  
survived by daughter Julianna A. Zimmer and son  
John J. Arnold. Services were Nov. 10 in the  
Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

ELIZABETH JENKINS passed away Nov. 4.  
Services will be Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary,  
Rev. Carla Aday officiating.