



CHRISTIAN

INSIDE

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Near
by Glen Miles
~~~  
page 3

Innovation  
by Lara Schopp  
~~~  
page 5

God's Presence
by Carla Aday
~~~  
page 7

*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.*

## Voices of Hope: School Choirs to Sing at Thanksgiving Dinner

The Honors Choir from our partner school, Hartman Elementary, and the Chamber Singers from Shawnee Mission East High School will perform at the all church Thanksgiving Dinner on Thurs., Nov. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, accompanied by these beautiful voices of hope as they sing contemporary and classical favorites. Cost is \$16 for adults and \$8 for children. Sign up in the parlor Sunday or with Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org).

## Celebrating Rev. David Diebold's 30 Years of Music Ministry

Country Club Christian Church celebrated the 30th anniversary of Rev. David Diebold as Minister of Music on Sun., Nov. 6, in the Parlor following the 11:00 a.m. service.



Former member Ken Hubbell, (above right) who was the chair of the search committee that brought David to Country Club Christian Church, spoke at the reception.



David with his wife, Susie.

Randy Irey (below left), chair of the Personnel Committee, read congratulatory notes from former senior ministers Dr. Eugene Brice and Dr. Robert Cueni as David looked on.



# New Orleans Mission Team Completes Work

A mission team from Country Club Christian Church spent a week in New Orleans Oct. 30-Nov. 5, working at Beecher United Church of Christ. The crew enjoyed a wonderful week of fellowship, fun, and challenge. Much of the work involved drywalling, preparing the church for the return of its congregation, dispersed by Hurricane Katrina. Little Farms United Church of Christ hosted our team.



Betsy Wilson



Beecher United Church of Christ



Kelley Quinn

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## Celebrate with Us This Advent Season

The most precious gift this Christmas can't be wrapped with a bow. It's a gift of joy, peace, and hope. It's a gift of love. God's gift to us is all of these things – sent in the form of a baby. The gift encompasses and defines all other gifts. Forever. Join us this advent season as we celebrate The Gift.

Advent Sermon Series: The Gift

Nov. 27 – Part One: Hope

*Isaiah 64: 1-9*

Dec. 4 – Part Two: Peace

*Isaiah 40: 1-11*

Dec. 11 – Part Three: Joy

*Isaiah 61: 1-4*

Dec. 18 – Part Four: Love

*Luke 1: 26-38*



### Christmas at Country Club – Dec. 4

Get into the holiday spirit by joining us for this special service. Children's and youth choirs, instruments, and readers will lead the congregation in a joyful celebration of carols, readings, and anthems. 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary.

### Chancel Choir Cantata – Dec. 11

The Chancel Choir will present "Gloria" by Rutter. 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

### Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 18

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

### Christmas Music for Organ and Brass – Dec. 19

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

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

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

5:30 p.m. – Children and families service

8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight services.

## The Kingdom of Heaven Is Near

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



I remember one year on a mission trip to Mexico the group of 70 kids built 3 houses. They had really bonded together. It was a diverse group of athletes and geeks and cheerleaders and gang members and liberal hippies and conservative ROTC students and, well, the sort of kids you would never put in the same group for fear that they would all hate each other by the end of the week.

On our last night we had a communion service. At the beginning I asked the kids to share their favorite memory from the week. There were many stories. Tom stood up to tell his story. He was a football player, a great kid, the kind that seemed to have it all together.

He started to cry, but through his tears he said, “Back in the States everything is so confusing. Back home I’m afraid to talk with some of you guys ’cuz I’m afraid my friends will make fun of me. I have to work real hard to make sure that I am never with the ‘wrong’ kids. Back home it all feels so fake all the time. Here it is like heaven. I’m tired and sore and I can’t wait to get a real shower but this is what heaven must be like. Here no one cares about whether you are rich or poor or a ball player or a hippy or whatever. Here we are together in one cause: making the world a better place. I really think this is what heaven is all about.”

He was speaking the truth. The things that he thought were so important back in the States had melted away in his singular desire to be about heavenly things. By seeking first to do nothing more than serve the poor he found what he was looking for: inclusion, acceptance, love and grace.

Tom was a new Christian. He had been part of the church for just a few months. But he had discovered that the things that we put so much faith in, the things we want so badly at times in the here and now, really amount to nothing in the long run. Tom did not know Paul from Mary but he would have agreed wholeheartedly with Philippians 3:20, “Our citizenship is in heaven.”

Do you want to know how to find heaven? Find a way to serve among the “least of these” and you will most likely see that heaven is near.

Grace and peace to you,

### Breakfast with Santa

Sat., Dec. 3 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 3.,



10:00 a.m.-noon. Enjoy pancakes by Chris Cakes and make Christmas crafts. **Bring**

**your camera and take your child’s picture with Santa.** Breakfast is served until 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$7 for adults and children 2 years and older. Tickets are available Sunday mornings in the Parlor, and during the week at the reception desk or in the preschool office.

## Worship with us!

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

**Nov. 13**

We Get the God We Believe In  
*Matthew 25: 14-30*

**Nov. 20**

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**Nov. 27**

**Advent Series: The Gift**

Part 1: Hope  
*Isaiah 64: 1-9*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Sign Up for Christian Community Camp

Sign up beginning Sun., Nov. 13 for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2012 camp will be July 28-Aug. 4, 2012. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,400 for a private room; \$225 for the bunk room. Each private room sleeps a maximum of six people. A bunkroom contains all bunks and sleeps eight. Food and activity fee of \$75 per person. For more information, stop by the Last Supper Sculpture Room on Sunday to pick up a brochure or ask questions. Or contact Rev. Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.



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## Collection Connection

### Health Supplies for Nicaragua

Country Club Christian Church is sending a group to Nicaragua to provide medical and construction work to the poorest of the poor. This group will be leaving Feb. 11 and returning on Feb. 19.

As part of this trip, the group will be providing home health kits to local families. They will provide the most basic of items we all take for granted for the most simple of everyday health issues. We are collecting the following items during January to take with us to Nicaragua: acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil), antacids (Tums), cough drops, antibiotic ointment (Neosporin), bandages, toothbrushes, adult vitamins, children's vitamins (no gummies – they melt), prenatal vitamins (no softgels – they melt). Our greatest needs are for prenatal vitamins (no softgels – they melt in the heat) and antibiotic ointment. These two items are among the most expensive items we take with us and are of great importance to the people we will be visiting.

Due to restrictions on what we are allowed to bring into Nicaragua, we will be purchasing soap and toothpaste in Nicaragua to include in each kit.

If you would like to donate any of the above items [Note: All expiration dates must be no earlier than October 2012], or cash to help with the purchase of items in Nicaragua, please place your donations in the Parlor during the month of December.

## Fill Stockings for Micah Ministry

It's time once again to make Christmas stockings for the guests of Micah Ministry. Our goal is to distribute over 600 Christmas stockings. You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of tube socks from the church at a cost of 75 cents per pair. Please purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Heather Rotter at [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org) or Lauren Weinhold at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org)



Each stocking should be filled with items that can be used by either men or women:

1. Roll the other sock and place it in the toe.
2. Fill the stocking with small sized toiletries such as shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, washcloth, and hard candy.

Simply tie the tops of the filled stockings with a ribbon and bring them to church no later than Sun., Dec. 18. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! Please contact Lauren Weinhold or Heather Rotter with questions.

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## Pumpkin Pies for Micah Ministry

We have had a great response to our request for pumpkin pies for Micah Ministry's annual Thanksgiving dinner. But if you would like to donate a pie and have not signed up, drop off the pie at the church kitchen on Sun., Nov. 20. We will serve more than 600 people.

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## Christmas Trip to Branson

To celebrate the Christmas season, please join energetic seniors as we travel to Branson, MO, on Wed., Dec. 7-Fri., Dec. 9. Entertainment includes shows, shopping and fellowship. If interested, please contact Rev. Chuck Murphy at [chuckm@cccckc.org](mailto:chuckm@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917 or Wilda Zollars at 913-451-0684 for more details.

## Innovation

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



I want a new iPhone. I already have an iPhone, but I want a new one. Oh sure, my old phone has lots of bells and whistles. It takes photos and connects me to Facebook, Twitter and the internet. I can do math and access weather reports and get directions. I can listen to music and read the *Kansas City Star* and check in on football scores. I can make restaurant reservations and play games and track exercise and calorie intake. So what could the new iPhone possibly do that this one can't?

In the grand scheme of things, probably not much. Still, the new one is shiny and...well...new.

I'm a sucker for new technology, and I'm not the only one. I know people who have stood in line for hours for the newest products from Apple Corporation. There are those who have multiple "smart" devices at their fingertips. Even my 4-year-old niece, who can't resist the games on my phone, and my 3-year-old nephew, who will surf his mom's iPad for hours, are junkies.

When Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, died last month, there was a worldwide outpouring of grief. Why did millions express support for a man they didn't know, a man who by many accounts was kind of a prickly guy? Because he was creative. He was the ultimate innovator. His products have heart, design, and personality. Not to mention functionality.

I don't want to sound like a commercial for Apple, because there are other companies and products that are equally innovative. But there's something to be said for an organization that prides itself on a quality product accompanied by advances in technology backed by a leader and staff who wholeheartedly believe in the product.

Innovation is hard to design and hard to quantify. And innovation merely for innovation's sake may not be purposeful or strategic. But I think the church can learn a few things from Steve Jobs and trendsetters like him, particularly when it comes to communications. In this smart phone world, old methods and strategies for reaching you with information may not suffice.

There may be some irony in the fact that I've just written a column about innovation, when God's message of grace, forgiveness and peace is certainly not new or innovative. And yet, when I think about it, perhaps it is both of those things for some. And for all, my challenge is to get that message to you and others in the most innovative way I can.

Lara

## Holidays at The Well

This season The Well, the church's book and gift store, features gifts for everyone, including wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world. The proceeds go to Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world, so you can make shopping easy for yourself and help others at the same time. Shoppers will find Advent calendars, jewelry, scarves, ornaments, CDs and a host of other things that would be perfect gifts.



Or you can shop at home through **amazon.com** Amazon to benefit Week of Compassion. If you use the Amazon search function on The Well's web page, a percentage of the purchase price is directed to Week of Compassion. Go to [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org) and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.

### Gifts that Make a Difference

During Advent in Advance (see page 7) children will have an opportunity to shop in The Well for their loved ones. Parents may fill out a form specifying how much children may spend, and children will be paired with a helper to do their shopping. Contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org) for more information.

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## Women's Ensemble Seeking Additional Voices

The Women's Ensemble will be singing this year at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sun., Dec. 18. We would like to invite both women and men to sing in the ensemble for this performance. Rehearsals will be the following days/times:

- Tues. Noon, Nov. 15 and 22 and Dec. 6, noon-12:30 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 22, 7:00 -7:30 p.m.
- Wed., Nov. 16 and Dec. 7 and 14, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

The rehearsal schedule is designed so that people can come for the ones that work into their schedule. All participants are asked to come to the Dec. 14 rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

## Christmas at Country Club Rehearsal Schedule

Christmas at Country Club is coming very soon and every voice is important. Fellowship Singers and Children's Choir have a few very important rehearsals coming up. The concert will be Sun., Dec. 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

For Children's Choir, during the week of Christmas at Country Club, we are meeting on Wed., Nov. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, 10:00-11:30 a.m., and Sun., Dec. 4 at 5:15 p.m.

Fellowship Singers will meet on Wed., Nov. 30, 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 3, 10:30 a.m.-noon, and Sun., Dec. 4 at 4:45 p.m. We are down to our final three weeks of rehearsals so it is very important to be at every one.



## Infant Dedications on December 4

We joyfully welcome new babies and young children into our congregation through special recognition during a



worship service. Infant dedications are scheduled as part of the 11:00 a.m. service on specific Sundays during the year. The next opportunity to have your child dedicated is Sun., Dec. 4. If you are interested in having your baby dedicated that day, contact Heather Rotter at 816-333-4917 or [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org).

## Fountains of Faith Rotation Jeremiah Calls Us to God



1st -5th graders are learning about the prophet Jeremiah in a rotation that runs through Nov. 20. Delivering God's words to others and calling people back to faithfulness were some of Jeremiah's tasks. Children will see God's faithfulness in the midst of what seems like utter devastation. Join us on Sunday mornings to find out as we come to know Jeremiah through story telling, art and cooking.

## Chi Rho and CYF Youth Group Sunday, November 20, 6:00 p.m.

Make plans to join us for a special celebration and meal. Our Minister to Youth, Justin Zeigler, is celebrating a birthday and what better reason for us to have a special outing. We will gather at church at 6:00 p.m. and return by 8:00 p.m. Contact Catherine Stark-Corn at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org) for full details!

## God's Presence

by Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



The leaves have turned orange, the chill has arrived, and so Thanksgiving lurks just around the corner. For many, Thanksgiving signals that season of holiday festivities where the family tensions rise. The newlyweds try to figure out how to celebrate with his family and her family even though both families eat at the same time. The parents of young children find themselves caught between pleasing their own children who want to open Santa's presents at home and satisfying the grandparents' wish to see the grandchildren on Christmas day. The brothers and sisters, aunts

and cousins negotiate whose turn it is to host the next event. It gets complicated. And figuring it out once doesn't mean that it's figured out for good. For life changes. Folks move, grow up, get sick, even die. And the shape of the family and its rituals for celebrating need revisions.

Why is it that the time of the year that focuses on thanksgiving, joy, love and peace can awaken in us the most anxiety, fear, resentment, and even anger and bitterness? Why does the holiday never seem as complete as a Martha Stewart home entertainment book or as idyllic as a Norman Rockwell painting?

For years I thought that we had simply lost our focus on what really mattered. That if we could somehow prioritize the relationship over the decorations, the being together over the gifts, the affection over the food, then we'd experience the promised joy of the season. But I've had too many of my own holiday mishaps and walked too many painful paths with friends negotiating the struggles of family dynamics to keep believing that we can actually do something to "fix" this.

What if the tensions in families are not what threaten the holidays but instead are what enable us to see the holy-days. After all, the first Thanksgiving was celebrated at a moment when families had known horrific loss and painful transitions. And the first Christmas occurred when Mary and Joseph were far from home unable to find a decent hotel in which to give birth. In the very midst of these challenging tensions, God did appear. The pilgrims gave thanks and the angels sang, not because life was perfect but because God's presence entered, God's peace invaded. Maybe it can still happen, even with us.

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### Advent in Advance

Sun., Nov. 20, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Families with elementary age children and younger are invited to prepare for the season of Advent through this make-n-take workshop. Children will have opportunities to make decorations for the home and a family keepsake ornament. Begin or add to your family's block nativity set. A light lunch will be served. Join us in the Social Hall for this annual event. Suggested donation is \$15 per family. Please RSVP to Karla Herrington, [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

### Club Kids

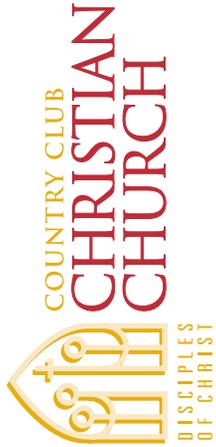
**Sun., Nov 13 – Please note time change**

Club Kids will meet 5:30-7:30 p.m. that evening to make the time match our screening of *Race to Nowhere*. The Club Kids (3rd-5th graders) will NOT be attending the screening but will have activities and a light supper in the Youth Center.

### Are You Getting the Weekly Children and Families or Youth Email?

Each week an email is sent to families with children 5th grade and under or to youth (6th-12th grade) families. If you are not receiving these, please let Heather Rotter know at [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917 and we will make sure you are on the list.

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## Virginia Reed Food Drive on Nov. 13

On Sun., Nov. 13, please bring your nonperishable food items for 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. We also purchase food in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

## Our Church Family

### Memorials

**Eleanor Hardy**

Leone Park  
Daisy MacDonald

**Allen Smith**

Wilda Zollars  
Chuck & Janet Roberts  
Sue Durrett  
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Woosley

**Capital Campaign**

**Judge AJ Higgins**

James & JoAnn Higgins

## 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

Mr. Justin Zeigler  
Minister to Youth

Mr. Rob Gilkerson  
Business Administrator

Ms. Karla Herrington  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

Rev. Steve Mason  
Pastoral Resident

Mr. Brian Mathias  
Associate Organist

Ms. Lisa McCleish  
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Ms. Laine Riley  
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