



# 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.*

## Celebrate with Us This Advent Season

**Advent Sermon Series: like a child**  
Advent invites us to bring a child-like spirit as we reconnect with the joy, peace and hope of the season. Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13, 20.



**Christmas at Country Club – Dec. 6**  
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. 13**  
The Chancel Choir will be joined by orchestra and soloists to present Johann Sebastian Bach’s magnificent Christmas work *Cantata No. 191: Gloria in excelsis Deo*. 11:00 a.m. service, Sanctuary.

**Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 20**  
Join us for a program of Christmas music from around the world. 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

**Christmas Music for Organ and Brass – Dec. 21**  
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. Thur., Dec. 24  
5:30 p.m. – Children and families service  
8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight services.

## Christmas Offering Focuses on Self Sufficiency

The Outreach Council has chosen two organizations as recipients of this year’s special Christmas Offering: the Women’s Employment Network and the Ecumenical Foundation for Integral Development, Training and Education (FEDICE) Chicken Project.

The 2009 special Christmas Offering provides our congregation an opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others. The season’s outreach theme, *Self Sufficiency*, describes the core mission of the organizations that have been selected to receive support through this offering.

**Women’s Employment Network** is dedicated to providing Kansas City women the skills and confidence to achieve economic independence for themselves and their families. Since 1986, Women’s Employment Network programs have realized success



by concentrating on the “whole woman.” With a focus on self-esteem, personal responsibility and skill development, WEN provides job search training and resources, individualized coaching, career clothing, and professional case management to help women achieve employment suc-

*continued on page 6*



# Holiday Shopping at The Well

## Shop Amazon.com Via [cccckc.org](http://cccckc.org) through The Well

Have you visited The Well gift and book store recently? If not, you're missing out on lots of unique gift items perfect for the holidays! Purchases at The Well directly benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to individuals around the world.



Use The Well's page on the church's web site, [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org) under the Stay Informed tab, to do your shopping at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and a



percentage of the purchase price is directed to Week of Compassion. The Well is located on the ground floor of the church and is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Staying Alive Spiritually

Join us for an all church spiritual life retreat Feb. 19-20, 2010 at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Members of the planning team are working with enthusiasm and eager anticipation of this first weekend in Lent where we can pause to renew our spirits and focus on our journeys of faith. Here are just a few of the reasons we think this retreat will be worth attending:

- learn ways to nurture spiritual health and vitality
- walk in the woods, roast marshmallows over a crackling fire
- an opportunity to get to know other members of the church
- reflect, renew
- a great way to begin the season of Lent
- time to get away from the busy routine
- time to ponder what matters most
- connect with others on a spiritual path.



Members of the retreat team: First row: Michelle Schlatter, Susan Garner, Jim Sullivan, John Trewolla. Second row: Susan Thorne, Chair; Cherie Asante, Jan Zimmerman. Not pictured: Wayne Heady, Marjorie Jump.

Cost for the retreat is \$65 per person (triple occupancy), \$75 double occupancy, and \$40 for those who do not plan to spend the night. All prices include three meals: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Contact Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) to register.

## Surprise Gift Received For Hallway Carpeting

Christmas has come early in the church hallways with new carpeting being installed. A generous, unsolicited gift was received by an anonymous member of the congregation to purchase new carpet for the ground and first floor halls. The donor was concerned about the old carpet's wear and safety issues. A new stone floor for the east entrance is also included.

The downturn in the economy has resulted in several items from our list of building and renovation needs being put off until funds are available. This surprise gift is very welcome and much appreciated. The installation will be completed by early December so we will be able to enjoy the new fresh look during the Advent season.

## Infant Dedications on Dec. 6

We joyfully welcome new babies 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 infant dedicated is Sun., Dec. 6. If you are interested in having your baby dedicated that day, contact Chris Trout at 816-333-4917 or [christ@cccckc.org](mailto:christ@cccckc.org).



## The Adventures of Advent

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



I have a secret for you. Ministers and musicians do not always get excited about Advent and Christmas.

This malady may begin when men and women are studying for the ministry in seminary. I remember a seminary intern who was dismayed. She said, “It never even occurred to me that we would lose Christmas to the church.” I don’t think she realized the irony of that statement.

Sometimes this dismay turns into a problematic approach to ministry. I knew a minister who decided to quit working on Christmas Eve, period. He told his church one Sunday: “You all get to enjoy the holiday while I have to work. I’m done with it. That is not fair.” Needless to say his church was not happy about his decision.

I have a minister friend in another church who decided to give in to the comments in his congregation about not singing enough Christmas carols. You know what happened don’t you? Others complained about singing TOO MANY Christmas carols! He was tempted to stand up on Christmas Eve and proclaim “Bah Humbug” and sit down.

I think Ebenezer Scrooge may have been a former minister.

So maybe you’ll understand why every July when David Diebold and I sit down to work on the December preaching and worship schedule one of us asks, “Are we doing Christmas, AGAIN?”

But that is the beauty of the season. Our bah humbug approach IS the reason we need to repeat the sounding joy, to sing the carols, to light the candles, to retell the story of Joseph and Mary. By telling the tale again we remind ourselves of what matters most. We focus again on this child born in a manger, “God incarnate” as theologians say, in order to be clear about God’s love for all and God’s desire to be known by all.

See, here’s the thing: no matter how jaded I think I have become, no matter how often I think there is NO WAY that Christmas is going to move me this year, something happens. The music sounds just the right chord or the scripture comes alive or an old friend sends a note of encouragement on a Christmas card and before I know it there are tears in my eyes reflecting the joy of Christmas.

I’ll look forward to seeing you during the adventure of Advent on our way to Christmas.

Grace and peace to you,

### New Member Sunday Dec. 6

Are you are interested in becoming a part of the Country Club Christian Church family? Join us on Sun., Dec. 6, for the next New Member Sunday, as we welcome new members into the life of our congregation. If you would like to join the church that day, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Worship with us!

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

### **Advent Sermon Series “like a child”**

**Nov. 29**

Like A Child Love Will Send

*Isaiah 11:1-10*

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

**Dec. 6**

Like A Child We Will Meet

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Dr. R. Glen Miles preaching

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## 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 450 Christmas stockings! You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of tube socks from the church at a cost of 70 cents per pair. Please purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Chris Trout at [christ@cccckc.org](mailto:christ@cccckc.org).



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

- ♦ the other sock rolled up and placed in the toe
- ♦ small sized toiletries such as shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm
- ♦ washcloth
- ♦ hard candy.

Simply tie the tops of the filled stockings with a ribbon and bring them to church no later than Sun., Dec. 20. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church! Please contact Chris Trout, [christ@cccckc.org](mailto:christ@cccckc.org), or Lauren Weinhold, [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org), with questions.

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## YaWhose Young Adults in their 20s and 30s

The group, which includes couples and singles, hosts four quarterly special events and four quarterly Sunday lunches, in addition to meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:55 a.m.

**Nov. 29** – No class.

**Dec. 5** – Christmas party: Progressive dinner and white elephant exchange. Watch your email for information.

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## Stephen Ministry Christmas Party

Stephen Ministers are invited to a Christmas gathering on Thur., Dec. 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Both current and past participants are invited to this evening of celebration for our Stephen Ministers. For information, please contact Dr. Charles Rolen, interim Minister of Congregational Care, at 816-333-4917 or [chuckr@cccckc.org](mailto:chuckr@cccckc.org).



## 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.

**Sunday School** – Join us in Room 302 every Sunday from 9:55-10:55 a.m. **Dec. 6** – Meet in the Social Hall to hear Charles Gusewelle.

**Mystery Trip, Dec. 12** – Meet in the church parking lot at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person.

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## Second Sunday Where parents of children ages 10 and under nourish mind, body and soul.

**Dec. 13** – Family caroling party, 3:30-6:00 p.m. See page 7 for details.

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## Excursion to Leavenworth, KS, on Dec. 16

S.P.I.C.E. and the Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will travel to Leavenworth, KS, on Wed., Dec. 16 to visit the Merritt Hitt Insley historic residence and have lunch in Leavenworth. The Insley home, built in the 1850s, will be decorated for the holidays. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places. After touring the home, the group will select a place for lunch, with cost the responsibility of each person. The van will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. and return early afternoon. Please RSVP to Mary Margaret at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917 by Wed., Dec. 9. All members and friends are invited.

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## Yoga: Finding Harmony During the Holidays

With the hectic holiday season upon us, you have an opportunity to take a little time out for yourself to renew, relax and recharge with yoga. Learn how to create balance in the body, developing both strength and flexibility through meditation. Certified yoga instructor and church member Susan Garner offers two classes each Monday in the Solarium (Rm. 309): a mixed level group at 9:00 a.m. and gentle yoga at 10:30 a.m. The first class is free for new participants; classes are \$10 each after that, and you may pay as you go. Experience peace, harmony and a renewal of spirit as you focus on the union between the mind, body and spirit.



## Tax-Free Contributions

by Sandy Eisenman, Director of Financial Services



Thanksgiving is this week, which means Christmas is just around the corner. As the accountant at Country Club Christian Church, my thoughts don't turn to Santa Claus or sugar plums. My thoughts turn to tax-free IRA contributions, stock gifts, and year-end giving.

Now is the perfect time to catch up on your pledge or contributions and make a gift that will be tax deductible in 2009. You may give gifts of cash, appreciated stock, or for those over 70½, a tax-free distribution from an IRA. Gifts of appreciated stock are a win-win situation for you and the church. If the stock has increased in value, you can transfer it to the church and pay no capital gains tax. You receive a charitable tax deduction for the value of the stock on the day it is transferred to the church.

For those age 70½ or older, the Pension Protection Act allows you to make distributions from an IRA directly to your 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. 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.

Another option for making a gift to the church is by using your credit card or with an automatic withdrawal from a checking account. A growing number of members have chosen one of these convenient ways to make a monthly gift to the church.

Please call or email me at [sandy@cccckc.org](mailto:sandy@cccckc.org), to learn more about one of these ways to fulfill your church pledge and make a tax deductible gift in 2009. In this time of tight budgets, your generous support of the church is greatly appreciated.

*Sandy*

## Vanderbilt Ministerial Residency Being Considered

Country Club Christian Church has been invited to participate in a ministerial residency program sponsored by the Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt Divinity School. A grant from the Eli Lilly Foundation helped to create the innovative residency program at Vanderbilt, which aims to provide new graduates with a foundational learning experience in a Disciples congregation.

The residency program, called the "Congregational Immersion Project," is part of a larger initiative of the Lilly Foundation which focuses on transition into ministry from the academic experience and helping the church form strong congregational leaders. Two candidates are selected each year and after interviewing with congregations that are approved by the program, a mutually agreeable residency is formed for two years.

The Personnel Committee has accepted Vanderbilt's offer to explore the residency program and will begin considering candidates in 2010. The church's Endowment trustees have affirmed the possibility of partnering in the Congregational Immersion Project.

## Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

**Tues., Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 1 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity for church members and friends of our church to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

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# Chi Rho and CYF Upcoming Events and Activities

## Christmas Parties

**Sun., Dec. 13 – 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

CYF youth (grades 9-12) will gather at at the Lehoczkys' home for a an evening of fellowship.

Chi Rho (6th-8th grade) youth will enjoy their annual Christmas party at the Commerfords' home.

## Study Break on December 20

CYF will not meet on Sun., Dec. 20, while everyone studies for finals. But if you want a break from your studies, Brandon will be at TCBY in the Prairie Village Shops, 71st and Mission Road, that night from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Chi Rho will not be having our normal meeting on Dec. 20. We will be meeting in the youth center for games and spending time together between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Come and join us!

## CYF New Year's Eve Lock-in

Come join Country Club Christian Church Youth in 9th-12th grade as we ring in the new year together! The event will start at 8:00 p.m. on Dec. 31 and will go until 7:00 a.m. the following morning (Jan. 1). There will be worship and lots of food, games, other activities, and some surprises all night long. You won't want to miss this great time of fellowship and fun.

## Winter Retreat

CYF and Chi Rho Youth Winter Retreat is set for Feb. 12-14, 2010 at Tall Oaks Conference Center. CYF and Chi Rho youth will gather for joint and separate study, worship, and fun. Save the date!

## Fellowship Singers Rehearsals for Christmas at Country Club Program

- Wed., Dec. 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Sanctuary with Children's Choir
- Sat., Dec. 5, 11:00-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Sun., Dec. 6, meet in Rm. 100 at 4:45 p.m. to warm up and put on robes before the program at 6:00 p.m.

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## Library Ministry at Lansing Correctional Facility

On Nov. 14, eight members of Country Club Christian Church spent the day at the Lansing Correctional Facility. About three times a year, a team of volunteers heads to Lansing to work in the library of the maximum security wing.

On this most recent trip, our 14th, volunteers catalogued, bound and labeled over 400 books. Thanks to your generous donations of books, the team has catalogued over 8,000 books since the group's inception.

If you would like to volunteer your time, donate some books such as mysteries, westerns, science fictions, suspense, and best sellers, or make a monetary contribution so that the team can purchase library supplies, please contact Shirley Hansell at 913-831-4432.

## Christmas Offering, *continued from page 1*

cess. Your gift will provide funding for specific programs and services that will meet these individual needs.

### The FEDICE Chicken Project

teaches women about care, commercialization, and marketing of chickens, providing them with their own source of income in the impoverished country of Ecuador. With the help of Global Ministries and other partners, this project is addressing the needs of rural communities in Ecuador. Your gift will provide more women an opportunity to improve the quality of their families' lives.

Our annual Christmas Offering is a way for our church to extend its reach to organizations that promote care for humanity through services or programs. Help Country Club Christian Church support these two organizations with a gift to the 2009 Christmas Offering. Mark your gift "Christmas Offering" and mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.





## Blessings of the Season

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



“We are not home right now, leave a message and we’ll call back. And have a blessed day.” This is the voicemail message of a friend of mine and whenever I hear it, it stays with me. Have a blessed day – what does that mean? Does it mean if my day does not go well, or I run into challenges in the day, that it is not blessed? Should I be more alert looking for the blessing of the day? Or do I go out and make it happen?

I know, I know – my friend is simply seeking to spread a positive message, offering a kind of gift to those who call. But in this month that boasts communal opportunities to acknowledge blessings and to praise God, I find myself pondering all this can mean. In those words – have a blessed day – I find a type of comfort, as though someone is thinking of me as I move through my day. I am uplifted by the positive message those words seek to convey, in the midst of a world swirling in chaos. I like the idea that tucked within the frantic pace is a glimmer of what matters. For me those words are packed with an assurance that God is ever present, that this world is full of amazing and awe-inspiring moments if we open ourselves to notice and receive them.

God blesses the creation – day by day, from the beginning of all time. Throughout the Biblical stories, we see God lavishly grants blessings in the salvation stories. For individuals, God bestows the primal blessing of love on each of us. We are held by a God whose very presence within each of us brings the world a blessing. And as we try to live in communion with God and in harmony with others, we can carry the blessing of God’s love to the world in joyful acts of kindness, justice and hope.

Jim Jannotti, in an article in *Alive Now*, comments, “God’s eagerness to bless is like an embrace.” Jannotti invites us, “Consider this Advent an opportunity to be held close while a delighted God speaks blessing. Because if there’s one thing we underestimate more than God’s holiness, it is God’s favor and blessing upon us, just because.”

## Children and Families

### Sunday School, November 29 Fill the Ark Project

All children are invited to join us and return your ‘ark’ from our Heifer International Fill the Ark project that families have been completing during the month of November. We will learn more about how our donations will be used by the Heifer Project through storytelling and activities. Join us for Sunday School from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

### Family Caroling Party

**Sun., Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m.**

Join us for our annual children, youth, and families caroling party. We will gather at the church at 3:30 p.m. and travel by bus or van to area residential care centers and homebound members to share songs of the season. We will return to the church by 5:30 p.m. for a chili and soup supper (and chicken nuggets for younger kids). If you would be willing to provide a pot of chili or soup contact Catherine for full details, [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org). Childcare for children 3 and younger will be available while we carol.

### Club Kids

3rd-5th graders will NOT meet on Sun., Nov. 29.

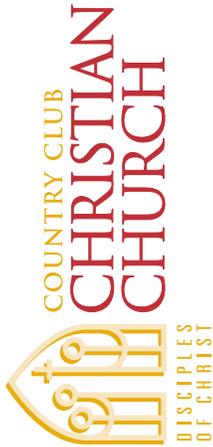
### Breakfast with Santa

**Sat., Dec. 5 – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 5. From 10:30 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 children 2 and older. Tickets are available Sunday mornings in the Parlor, at the reception desk or at the preschool office.

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

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

**Dr. Brian Campbell**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Sandy Eisenman**  
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**Ms. Karla Herrington**  
Director of Children's  
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**Ms. Lisa McCleish**  
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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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## Virginia Reed Food Drive on Dec. 13

On Sun., Dec. 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

### Sympathy

ELMA HOPKINS passed away Nov. 13. Services were Nov. 21 in the Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

LEOLA (LEE) BERNARD passed away Nov. 11. Graveside services were Nov. 21.

BOB ANDERSON passed away Nov. 22. He is survived by his wife, Carol. Services were at 3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary Nov. 27, Dr. Charles Rolen officiating.

FRANK RIDGE passed away Nov. 22. He is survived by his wife, Joan. Services are 11:00 a.m. Nov. 28 in the Sanctuary, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

### Memorials

JOHN S. FIELDS  
Barbara & Charlie Oliver

BOB FITZPATRICK  
Charles & Shirley Prather

**Pastoral Care Memorial Fund**  
MARTHA E. HOOPMAN  
Frances Weeks  
Kansas City Art Club