



VOLUME 86 · NUMBER 24

COUNTRY CLUB

CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Give Thanks
by Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

There Is the
Knowing
by Carla Aday
≈≈≈
page 5

Neighborly
by Lara Schopp
≈≈≈
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.*

Join Us this Advent Season

Advent in Advance

Come and join other families for this make-n-take workshop to help your family prepare during this season of Advent on Sun., Dec. 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. See page 6 for details.

Chancel Choir Presents *Gloria*

The Chancel Choir will present K. Lee Scott's *Gloria*. 11:00 a.m., Dec. 16, Sanctuary.

Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 23

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

Christmas Music for Organ and Brass – Mon., Dec. 17

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 – Mon., Dec. 24

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

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

8:00 p.m. – Traditional candlelight service.

11:00 p.m. – Traditional candlelight service with communion. Organ prelude featuring the Kansas City Brass preceding each candlelight service.

Advent Sermon Series:

God in the Manger: Seeing God in Surprising Places

Dec. 2 – Part 1: In a Young Girl
Luke 1: 26-38

Dec. 9 – Part 2: In an Old Man
Luke 1: 57-66; Luke 1: 67-80

Dec. 16 – Part 3: In Homeless Wanderers
Luke 2: 1-15

Dec. 23 – Part 4: In a Baby
Luke 2: 16-20



New Members Received on November 18



Darcy Austin
New Member Hosts: Hayley Holt and Erin Howard



Valerie Hooper and Matt Moeder
New Member Hosts: Jason and Brooke Glasrud



Tamara Morris, Eric Adler and their son, Aidan
New Member Hosts: Steve and Andrea Bough



Becca and Matt Puett
New Member Hosts: Justin and Kate Beebe



Heather Hardeman
New Member Host: Katie Allison



Rachel Mason
New Member Hosts: Suzanne Gordon and Christa Jessup



Ryan and Kristin Brewer
New Member Hosts: Jen and Jayson Parker

Invite a Friend Sunday – December 16

Not sure what to get that special friend for Christmas? Give them the gift of music by inviting them to join you for a special worship experience. Sunday, Dec. 16 offers something for everyone. The Chancel Choir's Christmas cantata, K. Lee Scott's *Gloria*, will be featured during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, featuring soloists, brass percussion and organ. Dr. Glen Miles' sermon series *God in the Manger: Seeing God in Surprising Places*, continues with Part 3: In Homeless Wanderers. The sanctuary will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, and excitement and anticipation will be in the air.

Not sure how to invite someone to church? Try these tips:

1. Offer to pick them up. Walking into a new church is easier with someone who knows where to go and what to do.
2. Tell them about our fantastic musicians. David Diebold and the Chancel Choir always deliver moving, inspiring music that compliments the season of Advent.
3. Tell them that all are welcome, regardless of race, sexual orientation, faith background, or economic status.
4. Hand them an invitation. On Sun., Dec. 9, a special invitation will be inserted in your worship bulletin. Take it with you that day to give to a friend.



Give Thanks

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



'Tis the season for gratitude. Here is a list of just a few of the many people and things I am grateful for this year.

The most generous congregation I have ever known, Country Club Christian Church. You all are amazing. From the volunteers who work with the Kansas City School District, to mission trippers who go all over the country and the world, to those who work to feed the hungry, to our elders and deacons who faithfully serve each week, to the hundreds who have generously given

to our capital campaign work, to many, many more, who give in ways to numerous to name, thank you!

Our hardworking and talented staff. This fine group continues to amaze me with their dedication. Budgets have been tightened and job responsibilities evolve, yet our ministries continue to be the finest in the Kansas City area. The building and the community are literally buzzing seven days a week with all that these accomplished workers lead.

The opportunity to preach the Gospel. The joy (and yes, the pain) of preaching is sometimes overwhelming but I am very thankful for the chance to, week after week, proclaim the undying love of God for all. On our recent trip to Haiti I was stunned by the power of the simple and breathtaking message of grace. No matter what language the Gospel is delivered in, there is strength in the word.

My sons, Nate and Steven. They are extremely smart, very funny and two of the most humbling people I know. They keep me honest and more than that, they teach me a lot about what it means to be a good dad.

Finally, I am very grateful for my wife, Julie. Every day that I leave the house to go out and serve as your pastor she blesses me with her love. No finer gift could be given or received. In her, I have experienced the grace of God.

With gratitude,

In the Footsteps of Paul

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinholt and Scott Fuller as they travel to Greece and the Greek Isles Oct. 8-18, 2013.

Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. For more information, please contact Glen at glenm@cccckc.org or Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org. Registration packets are available in Lauren's office. The deadline for reservations is Feb. 1, 2013.



Worship with us!

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

**November 2012 Sermon Series
Sit. Stay. Heal.**

Nov. 25

Part Three: The Honesty of Pain
Revelation 21: 24-22:7

Advent Series

**God in the Manger: Seeing God
in Surprising Places**

Dec. 2

Part 1 – In a Young Girl
Luke 1: 26-38

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Holiday Elves Needed!

Bored with dragging your tired old Christmas decorations out all by yourself? Looking for a spirited Christmas project you can share with friends, and finish in a day while enjoying a tasty meal all at the same time? Then join the Country Club Christian Church Design Committee and help us decorate our beautiful sanctuary! This is an excellent way to get yourself in the holiday spirit, share some fellowship with friends and help our church. We need worker elves for a very quick, at most two-day project. The more volunteers, the livelier, faster and more fun it will be. In fact, if we finish the first day, we won't even work the second day. The dates are Wed., Nov. 28, and Thurs., Nov. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please come anytime during the day you can and stay as long as you are able. We will meet in the Parlor and lunch will be provided. We will decorate three areas; the outside of the church, the sanctuary and the chapel. If you have questions or can help, please contact Kay Moffat at 913-648-6959 or Linda Nixon at 913-268-3580 and let them know.

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 85 cents per pair, or \$6.00 for a package of seven pairs. Please purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Jane Fletcher at janef@cccckc.org. Socks are available now.

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. 16. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! Please contact Jane Fletcher with questions. at 816-333-4917, ext. 228.

Capital Campaign Update

Work began Oct. 22 to repair parts of the exterior of the building to maintain safety standards. A contract to repair the organ has been signed, and an initial payment of \$150,000 has been made. Work will begin on the sanctuary organ in April 2013 and with completion anticipated by November 2013.

Both projects are part of the \$4.9 million capital campaign. To date, we have received approximately \$2.3 million in pledges and gifts. We must raise an additional \$2.6 million to reach the revised goal.

An effort to raise additional funds is planned for this fall and winter. The updated campaign will include solicitations to three groups of individuals and families.

- Key givers and leaders will be asked to make gifts to the campaign. Many of those calls have already been made. As of Nov. 20, \$350,000 in pledges and gifts have been received.

- Members who have already pledged to the campaign will be asked to increase or extend their pledges for an additional one, two or three years. These members will be sent letters followed by phone calls.
- Members who have not yet made a campaign pledge or gift will be asked to do so. These members will receive letters asking for gifts or pledges.

Individuals or families wishing to contribute to the Updated Capital Campaign can give one-time additional gifts, increase the amount of their pledges, or extend their pledges by an additional one, two or three years. We ask all members to prayerfully consider making additional contributions so that we can do the work necessary to ensure that Country Club Christian Church remains a vital institution in the 21st century. If you have questions, contact Greg Lear at 816-523-6936.



There Is the Knowing

by Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



There is the knowing . . . and then there is the knowing.

My dear sweet 91-year old mother-in-law has lost her pep in the last couple of years. She could still crank out two apple pies, pot roast and creamed potatoes, with homemade rolls just a year or two ago. But gradually her ability to see well enough to peel the apple and roll the crust diminished. And her ears began to fail her. And her legs got weaker. And a couple of weeks ago she got an infection that sent her to the hospital. Now we know that she won't ever have her pep back again. She's made her last apple pie. But when the phone rang at 7:20 a.m. to say that "Mom has stopped eating" we suddenly knew all of this in a new way. As our eyes filled with tears, we knew it in our bones. We knew it in our hearts. We knew it in the soul.

Later that same day I received a call from a man about my age saying that his Mom passed away this morning. She had been on hospice care for several weeks now. "I know you were expecting this, you were prepared for this, but it is still hard," I said. And he replied, "That is so true."

I suppose that is why every December we enter again into a season called Advent. So that we might know again, what we know already: that God comes in human form; that a mysterious presence of love invades our lives in flesh and blood reality. Jesus came that we might know what we know. That we might know it at a deeper level. That we might not just rush through this life. But that we might experience the holy mystery of love in human folks called friends, family and sometimes even strangers.

If your heart quivers, or your eyes fill with tears, or a child's smile melts your resolve, then you will know what God longs for us to really, really know.

Carla

Collection Connection: School Uniforms

During November, we are collecting new and used school uniforms for the children at Garfield Elementary School. Suggested places to purchase the uniforms are JCPenney, Sears, Dollar General, Target, Old Navy or you may donate cash. We need the following items for girls, sizes 8-14, and boys, sizes 4-12, and items in husky sizes.

- Navy or white knit shirts with a collar – short or long sleeve
- Oxford cloth long sleeved shirts in white or pale blue
- Pants, Skirts or Jumpers in khaki or navy

Please bring your donation to the parlor or send a check to the office marked "school uniforms." Garfield Elementary School is located in the heart of the Northeast Area of Kansas City, near Independence Blvd. Christian Church. Of the 587 students at Garfield, 270 of them are without school uniforms because their parents cannot afford the uniform.

Pathways to Learning – The Face of Global Ministry Today



Join us Sun., Nov. 25, for the final presentation of this series – **Report from Haiti Mission Trip Team**. The team returned Nov. 7 from the trip.

9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Upcoming Youth Events

CYF and Chi Rho Sunday Nights

5:30-7:30 p.m. All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us on Sunday evenings. Each Sunday of the month focuses on a different path designed to help youth transform lives and relationships through spiritual growth, express God's love in tangible ways, and experience the life changing love of God through fellowship and worship. During months when there are five Sundays, we'll use that evening for planning and feedback.

Serve – Dec. 2

Help out at the Kansas City Urban Youth Center. An organization that reaches out to at risk youth in the Kansas City area. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Caroling Party Extravaganza – Dec. 9

Meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. and go caroling at nursing homes and homes of church members who could use some Christmas cheer. Families and friends welcome! Just RSVP by Dec. 6 so there are enough cars. We will come back, play games, and have food for everyone.

Shopping at STUFF - Dec. 10

Get your holiday shopping started and help support our Youth Ministry at a FUNdraising party at STUFF (316 W 63rd St. in Brookside) on Mon., Dec. 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m. A portion of all purchases that night benefit the youth. Snacks and beverages will be provided to assist in holiday cheer.

CYF Christmas Party – Fri., Dec. 14

Meet at Panera on the Plaza. Bring a white elephant gift. Then we will go to see "The Hobbit." RSVP to Justin at justinz@cccckc.org by Dec. 12.

Chi Rho Christmas Party – Sun., Dec. 16

After the 11:00 a.m. worship service, meet in the Youth Center for lunch and exchange of white elephant gifts. Then head to the Crown Center Ice Terrace to skate. Back at the church by 4:00 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 23 – No Youth Group.

Breakfast with Santa

Sat., Dec. 1 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 1., 10:00 a.m.-noon. Enjoy pancakes by 2 Guys and A Grill 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 pre-school office.

Advent in Advance Is Dec. 2

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Come and join other families for this make-n-take workshop to help your family prepare during this season of Advent on Sun., Dec. 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Fun craft activities for all ages including start or add to your block nativity set; create tin ornaments; make cards for homebound members and much more. A pizza lunch will be served. Cost is \$15 for a family. RSVP to Heather at heatherr@cccckc.org or sign up in the Parlor.

Pumpkin Pies for Micah Ministry



More than 100 pumpkin pies were delivered to Micah Ministry at Independence Blvd. Christian Church on Mon., Nov. 19. Thanks to all the members of Country Club Christian Church who baked and bought pies.



Neighborly

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



We have a long list of communications tools we use to help keep you informed about ministries and events at County Club Christian Church, and to promote the church to folks who aren't members. We send emails, print postcards and newsletters. We post photos on Facebook, send tweets on Twitter, and maintain a rather large web site. We issue news releases. When the budget allows, we do radio and internet advertising, direct mail and put banners in the front yard.

We examine trends in communications and marketing and try to target our messages appropriately to the audiences that will find the information most useful. We review internet activity statistics and the number of you who actually open the emails we send (yes, we can tell!) and make every effort to gauge the effectiveness of all of our tools and strategies.

But sometimes the most important communication tools we possess are plain old hospitality and conversation. On Nov. 6, the day of the recent election, Country Club Christian Church served as a polling place, as we have for many years. We were told we might see more than 1,500 voters here, and we expected there would be lines all day. While the election officials and volunteers did all of the important work, we, led by our Director of Church Growth (and hospitality maven) Lauren Weinholt did our best to make this the best polling place in town for voters.

We provided hot coffee and cocoa, and offered doughnut holes, cookies and candy. We made sure those standing in line had access to places to sit, and had newspapers for folks to read while they waited. And most importantly, we had hospitality volunteers on hand all day to simply say "Good morning" and "Thanks for voting" to the neighborhood folks doing their civic duty.

Nancy Ralston, John Stewart, Jim Wells, Susan Garner and Maureen McGuinty manned the hospitality table, offering smiles and friendly words. Fish and Ron, our custodians, made sure the coffee stayed fresh and hot.

As our neighbors filed in to vote, their appreciation of our effort was apparent. They loved the treats; they thanked us for the hospitality. The personal connections made that day with the hundreds of individuals might seem like a small gesture, but it was heartfelt and genuine. And when all is said and done, regardless of technology or direct mail or marketing trends, isn't a kind and genuine neighbor what we want to be known as?

Lara

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith: Christmas Dreams

Sundays, December 2-23

The movement of the Christmas story goes from angels and dreams to people and then from person to person for generations. The story still holds a place of wonder and power for us today. The true dream of Christmas is that Christmas is not a season but a way of life, a life lived with loving generosity and compassion, a life lived open to the possibility that God's will can be made known to us in many ways. First through fifth graders will explore Christmas dreams through a variety of activities.

Family Caroling Party

Sunday, December 9, 3:30–6:30 p.m.

Plan to share your gifts with others during Advent as we carol for some of our homebound members and residential care centers. We will conclude our caroling with a chili supper for all and activities for the children at church. Childcare for children 3 and under available at church during the caroling.

First Steps

Sunday, December 2, 10:00–10:45 a.m.

Families with children 3 and under are invited to join us for a time of fellowship. We meet in the Play Zone (Room 215) the first Sunday of each month!

Club Kids

No meeting Nov. 25 or Dec. 2.

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Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

Sympathy

JANET SILER passed away Nov. 15. She is survived by her husband, Frank, and children, Marty Siler and Ann Laschober. Memorial service was Nov. 20 in the Sanctuary, Rev. Chuck Murphy officiating.

Memorials

Lois Russell

John & Erma Hess

Capital Campaign

Reggie Stafford

Martha Lieser

Betty Barr

Virginia Wasson

Doug & Sue Irwin

Roy Pomeroy

Maureen McGinty

Music Department

Nadine Berger

Harvey & Dorothy Ray

Music Fund

Irene Klein

John & Erma Hess

Harvey & Dorothy Ray

Eugene Snyder

Harvey & Dorothy Ray

Stephen Ministry

Nadine Berger

Jay & Mary Buehler

John & Erma Hess

Norma Tilton

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