



CHRISTIAN

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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.*

## January Sermon Series

### New Year's Revolution—Jan. 8 and 15

January is the time of year a lot of us make resolutions to do something new: lose weight, get in shape, save money, etc. This year, Dr. Glen Miles asks you to consider instead a *New Year's Revolution* with a series that will build on the self-monitoring question, "How do I feel right now, and why?" Join us in January as we peek into the mirror for an enlightening look at how

we connect with our emotional life and how our past influences how we think, feel and behave.

### Confessions of a Preacher—Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5

Dr. Miles will take three weeks to share some of the struggles preachers face and questions they have about God, the Bible, and life in general, featuring issues that will resonate with many of you.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Wishing you all the warmth and love that is the Christmas season! –*The staff of Country Club Christian Church*

*Front row, (l-r) Lauren Weinhold, Karla Herrington, Lara Schopp, Sally Huggins, Lisa McCleish. Second row, (l-r) Glen Miles, Mary Margaret House, Carla Aday, Laine Riley, Diana Black, Heather Rotter, Jane Fletcher, Rob Gilkerson. Back row, (l-r) Steve Mason,*



*David Diebold, Rachel Clement, Catherine Stark-Corn, Justin Zeigler. Not pictured: William "Fish" Terrill, Michelle Schlatter, Brian Mathias, Chuck Murphy, Chuck Lusso, Ron Walker, Debbie Kinsella.*



## Join Us for Christmas Eve Worship

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services. Dr. Glen Miles presents the meditation *Full of Truth and Grace*.

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

**8:00 p.m.** – Candlelight service. An organ prelude featuring the Kansas City Brass precedes the service.

**11:00 p.m.** – Candlelight service with communion. An organ prelude featuring the Kansas City Brass precedes the service.

### One Worship Service Only on Sun., Dec. 25

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 25, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Rev. Carla Aday preaching. No Sunday School classes will meet. Child care is available.

### One Worship Service Only on Sun., Jan. 1

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Jan. 1, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Rev. Steve Mason preaching. Child care is available. Sunday School classes will resume on Sun., Jan. 8.

## Pathways to Learning in January Healing the Mind, Mending the Soul

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29



This four-part series will look at Healing the Mind, Mending the Soul

- ... for the aging
- ... for the young
- ... for anger issues
- ... for addictions

Leading experts in each field will address the topics. Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall

Coming later this spring:

### A Fresh Look at Easter

March 11, 18, 25

Watch for more information.

### City of God

May 6, 13, 20

The Bible mentions “the city” more than 850 times. This three-part series will look at the key challenges facing our cities today and how we can faithfully build up our cities.

Pathways is ideal for those who aren't involved in a Sunday School class or entire Sunday School classes. Visitors and guests welcome.

## Year-End Giving

To qualify for a 2011 charitable income tax deduction, your gift must be made by Dec. 31, 2011. Complete your gift today and you will receive the tax benefits as well as the satisfaction of supporting your favorite ministries. If you plan on giving from your IRA to either the Annual or Capital Campaign, that transaction needs to be processed by Dec. 31, 2011. Making extra gifts or accelerating future gifts into the 2011 tax year can enable an itemized income tax deduction. An extra year-end gift may add just enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction. Many tax-wise donors accelerate contributions for the coming year to enable itemization at least every other year.

## Wireless Internet Now Available in the Building

Wireless internet access is now available in parts of the church, including the Parlor, Rm. 201, the Youth Center (Rm. 205), and portions of the third floor. The connection is called CCCC Guest and is open and available for use by anyone, requiring no password. This partial installation of wireless internet was made possible through a slight upgrade to our existing system, and was an inexpensive alternative to making the entire campus wireless accessible at this time.



# Mary's Song

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Mary is probably 13 or 14 years old when she learns about the miraculous baby she is carrying. She and her fiancé are poor. They have nothing. They are nobodies from nowhere. All odds are against her, it seems, but somehow she finds the courage to sing about God. Here is part of what she proclaimed in her song, one we call the Magnificat:

*God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*

*God has brought down the powerful from their thrones.*

*God has sent the rich way empty.*

Not exactly the lyrics you're going to hear on Micheal Buble's Christmas CD.

But here is Mary, still trembling and shaking and nervously trying to figure it all out, singing and telling anyone and everyone who will listen: God has scattered the proud.

Mary is saying that in God it will all be turned around. When Jesus begins to teach and preach he says something similar. We can hear an echo of his mother's words when he proclaims in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now for you will be filled."

The message is clear: In God's world things will be turned around. We in the church are called to lead the way. We are invited to give ourselves fully in service to each other and to our neighbors.

Sometimes that call is hard to follow. I heard a minister the other day talk about the need for the church to be proud and exercise its power in the political process and I just kinda wondered: Has he met Mary? Does he know Mary's song?

God has scattered the proud brought down the powerful.

Are you looking for God this year? Do you feel as though God is absent from your life, like you have no idea where to go or what to do? Are you filled with fear and uncertainty, doubt or worry? Maybe all we need to do is take a knee and admit our hunger for something holy. Perhaps all that any of us ever need to do is let our pride be scattered with the wind. In the loss of our power, in the letting go of our pride, we just might find ourselves kneeling with the shepherds at the place of the holy child.

Grace and peace to you,

## Visitor Information Seminar on January 28

You're invited to the Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Jan. 28 from 8:45-11:30 a.m. Learn more about our history as a denomination and a church and discover the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Our ministers will be on hand to talk about the church's ministries and how you can get involved. Ask questions, enjoy breakfast and meet the church's lay leaders. Then, if you're ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Feb. 12.** For more information or to reserve your spot at the seminar, please contact Lauren Weinholt, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).

## Worship with us!

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

**Dec. 25**

**Christmas Day**

One service at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Carla Aday preaching

The Gift

*Matthew 2: 1-12*

**Jan. 1**

**New Year's Day**

One service at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Steve Mason preaching

An Ancient Christmas Carol

*Philippians 2: 5-11*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Invitation to the New Testament

This eight-week overview of New Testament themes offers a fresh study of the story of Jesus and how that story calls us to discipleship. The group will meet Tuesdays, Jan. 3-Feb. 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Some homework involved. Facilitator is Greg Lear. The book is \$10 in church office. Contact Mary Margaret House, [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org).

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## Invitation to the Old Testament

Follow Invitation to the New Testament with this eight-week study of the Hebrew scriptures. The study invites us to hear the various voices of the biblical text so that we may better understand God's relationship with the ancient people and with us. The group will meet Tuesdays, Apr. 10- May 29, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Facilitator is Phil Love. Contact Mary Margaret House to register, [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org).

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## 2011 State of the Church Dinner

Join Dr. Glen Miles on Thur., Jan. 26 as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future. 6:30 p.m., Social Hall.

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## New Faithbook Session Begins in January

More than 60 women ages 25-65 are participating in this faith formation group. Any women interested in joining in the discussion are invited to come to the next session, starting Jan. 10/11 or sign up by calling 816-333-4917. Join us to explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey as we listen to a brief Bible presentation and then share reflections in guided small groups. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. OR Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Pick the time frame that works best for your schedule. Led by Rev. Carla Aday and Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn.

## College Winter Retreat at Tall Oaks

The College Winter Retreat at Tall Oaks Conference Center Jan. 3-6 is a chance for students to reconnect with friends, renew body and spirit, and re-create at Tall Oaks before the spring semester starts up. The retreat will include time for relaxation around Tall Oaks' peaceful grounds, a panel discussion with local ministers on various possibilities of church life post-youth group, sessions on engaging your spiritual self while in college, and worship in a variety of forms.

The cost is \$93.50 (covers two nights lodging, all sessions, meals Jan. 5 and breakfast Jan.6). The deadline for registration is Dec. 31. For more information, contact Rev. Steve Mason, [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org).

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## Save the Date!

### Celebration Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the third annual Celebration Dinner and Auction. Join us on Sat., Mar. 3 at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art (4420 Warwick Blvd., Kansas City, MO). Watch for more information.

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## Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Sundays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Michelle Schlatter at [weddings@cccckc.org](mailto:weddings@cccckc.org) or call the church at 816-333-4917.



## Lift Our Burdens to God

by Karla Herrington, Director of Children's Ministries



My 11-year-old daughter broke her arm over Thanksgiving so we have our first experience with a cast at our house. It wasn't a bad break and she only has the cast for three weeks. But with the break, she has taken on a lot of extra worry. I can't reassure her enough that everything will heal fine and she will be bending her arm again soon.

One night, I told her to "just have faith" (in a tone of frustration), that there was no reason to believe that things wouldn't heal. I realized it was easy for me to throw the "faith" word out there, when I can be a bit of a worrier myself. As I back tracked and tried to explain gently what I meant: that we had done everything we could so far—seen the doctor, splinted the injury, then casted, kept it dry. Now it was a burden that she needed to lift to God. There was nothing else we could do except be patient and wait for the healing.

This holiday season, I am confident that God surrounds us with his love and gives us strength to meet our challenges. God isn't worried about the details; the decorating, the house, the presents, the food. God just wants us to fully grasp the gift of love we have in Jesus' birth. I am guilty of getting caught up in the little things only to clutter my ability to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas. But by remembering daily to faithfully lift my burdens up, I am freed to experience the contentment, peace, love and lasting joy that comes this holiday season.

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

May we all find a balance in our lives through giving up our control and worries to God so that our hearts and minds can be filled with true peace this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Blessings,

*Karla*

## 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, 2012.

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) 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 December.

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## Country Club Singers Concert



Members of the Country Club Singers preparing to sing on Dec. 11 were Mary Margaret House, Susan Diebold, Sharman Wilson, Cathy Egan, Lynn Cockle.

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### Books Needed for Prison Ministry

The Prison Ministry needs paperback books to donate to Lansing Correctional Facility (for men). All kinds are needed — horror, suspense, adventure, fantasy, best sellers, and Spanish books. Please do not bring romance or true crime books. About three times each year, volunteers deliver the books to the facility to help sort, type, and catalog books to ready them for shelving. The deadline for donations is Sun., Jan. 15. Call Shirley Hansell at 913-831-4432 for more information.

### Healing and Wholeness Prayer Service on January 3

Please join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 3, in the Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings. Come join a worship of grace and acceptance, a sacred place for prayer that will create moments where hope may carry you in the journey ahead.

### 2012 Christian Community Camp

Sign up now for a week of rest and renewal in Estes Park, CO, July 28-Aug. 4, 2012. Family rooms and bunk rooms are available. Brochures and registration forms are in the main office or contact Rev. Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org).

### Children's Musical

The Children's and Cherubim Choirs will present their sixth annual musical, *Rescue in the Night* by Allen Pote, the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den, on Sun., Mar. 4. Mark your calendar and watch for details from Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music, in the coming weeks. Contact Laine Riley, [lainer@cccckc.org](mailto:lainer@cccckc.org).

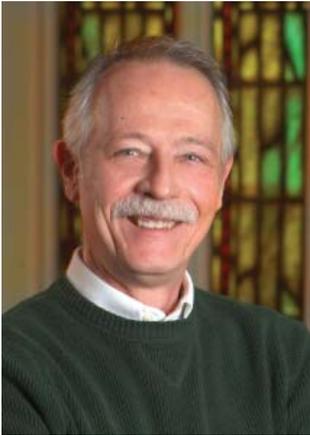
### Mission Team to Joplin in late April

The Disciples Home Mission Office and Week of Compassion are partnering to schedule mission teams to help with the rebuilding in Joplin, MO, and Country Club Christian Church is tentatively scheduled for late April. They have been assessing the situation since the May 22 tornado that devastated parts of Joplin. If you are interested in participating, please contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com) or call the church office.



## Sense of Wonder

by David Diebold, Minister of Music



When do we start to lose it: that sense of wonder? I've been asking myself this question for several months now.

Most of you know that we have become the parents of an energetic puppy named Chaney. She is now almost eight months old and I am still surprised by her inquisitive nature and the sheer joy she exhibits on seeing simple things.

In the autumn, as the leaves were falling and the wind blowing, I would watch her become almost dervish-like wondering how that leaf became self-propelled. Or I think about how she is motivated not only by her natural instincts, but also that wide-eyed sense of wonder seeing other creatures moving about her world, especially when she sees rabbits, squirrels or the occasional cat. Her sense of joy appears boundless 24/7. I suspect I may be a tiny bit jealous.

This is the season of wonder, and yet I think that we lose that child-like sense at some point in our lives. Whether it is due to the death of a friend or loved one, the burden of work, or the demands placed on us this time of year, the season becomes less a time of wonder and more one of duty. For many of us, the loss of wonder continues through the year. To quote Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, "perhaps this year will be different."

My wish for you this year is that you can recapture that feeling of wonder. The star shines for all of us, if we will but open our eyes to see it. Merry Christmas!

*David*

## Children and Families

### Club Kids

Club Kids will resume Sunday evening gatherings on Jan. 8.

### Mystery Trip

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? 1st and 2nd graders make plans to join us for one of our mystery trips in the coming year. We will gather at church on a Saturday morning and head out to an undisclosed destination! A winter Mystery Trip is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 28 so mark your calendar and watch for details.

### Mother/Daughter Workshop

This workshop for 4th-6th grade girls, along with a parent, is an opportunity to jointly explore age-appropriate issues related to sexuality. Exploring these topics together promotes open communication between girls and their parents. Presenters from the Education Programs of Planned Parenthood will lead us in discussions and activities. Cost is \$20/pair. Sun., Feb. 26, noon-3:30 p.m. Make reservations with Heather Rotter at [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

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 Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## PROGRAM STAFF

|                                                                       |                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. R. Glen Miles<br>Senior Minister                                  | Ms. Karla Herrington<br>Director of Children's Ministries |
| Rev. Carla Aday<br>Senior Associate Minister                          | Rev. Steve Mason<br>Pastoral Resident                     |
| Rev. David Diebold<br>Minister of Music                               | Mr. Brian Mathias<br>Associate Organist                   |
| Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn<br>Minister to Children, Youth and Families | Ms. Lisa McCleish<br>Director of Early Childhood Programs |
| Rev. Chuck Murphy<br>Minister of Congregational Care                  | Ms. Laine Riley<br>Associate Director of Music            |
| Mr. Justin Zeigler<br>Minister to Youth                               | Ms. Lara Schopp<br>Director of Communications             |
| Mr. Rob Gilkerson<br>Business Administrator                           | Ms. Lauren Weinhold<br>Director of Church Growth          |

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## Virginia Reed Food Drive on Jan. 22

On Sun., Jan. 22, 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

JOHN TILTON passed away Dec. 12. He is survived by his wife, Norma Tilton. Services were Dec. 16 in the Sanctuary, Rev. Carla Aday officiating.

THERON SWANK passed away Dec. 11. He is survived by his wife, Georgene. The service will be Dec. 25 at noon in George Combs Chapel, Rev. Chuck Murphy officiating.

MILT LUCE passed away Dec. 16. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. The service will be Dec. 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Chuck Murphy officiating.

## Memorials

### Paul Albert and Virginia Tanzey Jordan

William & Dorothy Jordan O'Sullivan

### Permanent Missionary Endowment Fund

John Tilton  
 Tom & Linda Lieurance

### John Tilton

Nancy Ralston  
 Maureen McGinty  
 Ann Smith  
 Pat & Lance Jessee  
 Cindy & Randy Irey  
 Shiela Richards  
 Jane & Fred Broski  
 Joan & Roger James  
 Trudy Keyes  
 Cynthia & John Hubbard  
 Doris & John Soltys  
 Sue & Max Deweese  
 Marietta Siegrist  
 Shirley & Bob Legg  
 Betty Yeater  
 Mr. W.E. Hare  
 Tri C's Class  
 Linda H. Talbott  
 Alex & Barbara George

### Stephen Ministry

John Tilton  
 Jill Reynolds

### Congregational Care

John Tilton  
 Jeanne & Perry Cockayne

### Congregational Care

Theron Swank  
 Jeanne & Perry Cockayne

### Capital Campaign

John Tilton  
 Micky Prelogar  
 Juanita White