



DISCIPLES
OF CHRIST

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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.*

Christmas Offering for Children's Education

The Outreach Council has chosen two organizations as recipients of this year's special Christmas Offering: Community LINC's Children's program and Global Ministries Laos School Project.

The 2010 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, *Children's Education*, describes special mission projects of the two organizations.

Community LINC's Children's Program provides life skills training, tutoring, homework assistance and mentoring to the children of homeless families who are participating in Community LINC's transitional housing program. Your gift will be



used to support the space needs of the children's program: class rooms, utilities, supplies and maintenance.

The **Global Ministries' Laos School Project** is building a middle school in a remote, ethnic minority area of Laos. The children in this area have no opportunity for education beyond 5th grade. This new school will allow them to have three more years of schooling. The local residents will provide wood and labor for the project and will make the school furnishings by hand.

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 2010 Christmas Offering. Mark your gift "Christmas Offering" and mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate.

Advent Sermon Series: What Are You Waiting For?

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation. But for what, exactly, are we preparing? We invite you to join us each week of Advent as we prepare for the coming of God's love incarnate.

Nov. 28 – Part One: A Mountain of Hope
Isaiah 2:1-5

Dec. 5 – Part Two: Peace
Isaiah 11:1-10

Dec. 12 – Part Three: A Life without Fear
Isaiah 35:1-10

Dec. 19 – Part Four: Relief from the Rush
Isaiah 7:10-16



Worship with Us this Advent Season

Breakfast with Santa – Dec. 4

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.

Christmas at Country Club – Dec. 5

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. 12

The Chancel Choir will be joined by orchestra and soloists to present British composer William Mathias' *Ave Rex*. 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 19

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

Christmas Music for Organ and Brass – Dec. 20

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.

Fri., Dec. 24:

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

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

New Members Welcomed on November 21



Larry and Willa Long
New Member Host: Katie Allison



Mona Lyne and children Julius and Sera (not pictured)
New Member Host: Sally Murguía



Holly Koch
New Member Host: Jill Reynolds



Serena Hsu
New Member Host: Carol Crouch



Bob and Suzy Wiley with children Regan, Kale and Payton
New Member Hosts: Jess and Cheryl

The next New Member Sunday is Dec. 19. For more information, contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at laurenw@ccc-ckc.org.



Give Thanks & Love One Another

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The Apostle Peter instructed members of an early church, “Love one another as if your lives depended on it.” A week or so before Thanksgiving that is a good piece of advice to carry in our hearts. The holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November is a wonderful one. Family and friends, gathered around a table to offer thanks for all that they have in this world. This holiday may be the single most unifying day of the year in our country. Whether one is a Christian or Jew, Muslim or Hindu, believer or not, millions will pause on that one day to offer a simple word of thanks.

Mixed in with the simple joy of the celebration is a certain amount of stress. Certainly there is stress around the preparation of the meal. In our house the stress is lessened if I promise to do three things: stay out of the way of the cooks, practice patience, and wash the dishes at the end of the meal. I’m pretty good at two of those things but I want patience and I want it now!

Stress shows up on this holiday in other ways too. Sometimes the return of old relatives brings the return of old hurts. Long forgotten wounds may resurface. Families often know best how to bruise egos, damage psyches and cripple souls.

Peter’s instructions are helpful here. Loving as if our lives depended on it forces us to see the other as a human being. Loving this way calls forth our best selves.

Peter continues with advice and instructs us to “rid ourselves of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.” Think of what your family life might be like if you could put this into practice not just when funny Uncle Bob and weird old Aunt Kate show up for turkey day, but every day.

This is one of the reasons I go to church every week; to remind myself to practice these things, to love like my life depended on it. In church I am reminded that we are part of the larger extended family of God. In this family, the graciousness of God invites to live a life grounded in the difficult but wonderful way of love.

Glen

Become a New Member Host

Did you know that every new member that joins the church is paired with a New Member Host? New Member Hosts serve a vital function as the connection point to this large congregation. As a new member, it can be difficult to figure out what class to take, which volunteer project to choose, or to learn the names of people in the parlor. New Member Hosts serve to make these elements of membership a little less daunting. When a new member finds the way to a Sunday School class, Bible study or volunteer opportunity, it is often at the invitation or encouragement of the New Member Host. This year, new members went on mission trips, attended church events, led Sunday school classes, joined the choir, prepared meals, served on councils, joined a Bible study and participated in Grace At Work. For more information on how you can help other new members do the same, contact Lauren Weinholt at laurenw@cccckc.org.

Worship with us!

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

Advent Sermon Series
What Are You Waiting For?

Nov. 28
Part 1: A Mountain of Hope
Isaiah 2: 1-5

Dec. 5
Part 2: Peace
Isaiah 11: 1-10

Dec. 12
Part 3: A Life without Fear
Isaiah 35: 1-10

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Nicaragua Mission Trip

Feb. 20-27, 2011

Sign up now for a life-changing trip to work with our partners in Nicaragua on medical clinics and construction projects in a rural village in the mountains. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org for more information.

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 550 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.

Each stocking should be filled with items that can be used by either men or women. Each stocking should be filled with items that can be used by either men or women: roll the other sock and place it in the toe and fill the stocking with small sized toiletries such as shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, and washcloth. Tie filled stockings with a ribbon and bring them to church no later than Sun., Dec. 19.

Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! To purchase your socks or with questions, please contact Heather Rotter, heatherr@cccckc.org, or Lauren Weinhold, laurenw@cccckc.org.

Thanksgiving Dinner Thank You

Over 300 members and guests enjoyed the All Church Thanksgiving Dinner. A wonderful buffet dinner and Dr. Robert Cueni's presentation on the history of the church highlighted the evening. The Enrichment Council extends a hearty thank you to dinner co-chairs Bobbie Vanice and Vicki Johnson and to all members and staff who shared their time and talents with set up, clean up, hosting and decorations. Your willingness to help was greatly appreciated.

College Winter Retreat at Tall Oaks

From Wed., Jan. 5 at 7:00 p.m. until the morning of Fri., Jan. 7, 2011, college age people are invited to gather at Tall Oaks Conference Center to reconnect with friends, make new friends, renew your body and spirit, and re-create in the splendor of God's creation all 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, worship, in a variety of forms, and yes, the fabled cuisine of Tall Oaks.

The cost is \$65 (covers two nights lodging, all sessions, meals Jan. 6 and breakfast Jan. 7). Scholarships are available, but the deadline for requests is Dec. 15. Pick up a form online at www.cccckc.org. The deadline for registration is Dec. 31. For more information, contact Rev. Steve Mason, stevem@cccckc.org.

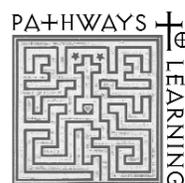
One-ders

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 Rm. 303 every Sunday as we explore the Bible. 9:55-10:55 a.m.

Dinner and Movie Night, Nov. 27 – Stay tuned for show and time at Merriam Cinemark and dinner at Applebees at Metcalf and Johnson Drive. For updated show time, contact Suzy Spencer, insurance66208@yahoo.com 816-668-4156

Pathways to Learning in January Being a Good Neighbor



Jan. 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13

This four-part series will look at various perspectives on being a good neighbor. How is the United States a good neighbor in the world? How are Kansas City neighborhoods designed? What kind of neighbor does scripture call us to be? What new neighborly programs are rising up in our own community? Watch for details on the speakers.



An Hour Well Spent

by Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music



Every year, it's an absolute zoo. If you were to happen by the Chancel Choir Room on the first Sunday evening in December every year, at approximately 5:45 p.m., I think you would agree.

The room is literally crawling with singers, ages 4 through seniors in high school. Folders, coats, and bulletins are everywhere. Choir members are roughly clumped according to robe color, instrumentalists are warming up, instructions are being given, phones are being powered down, siblings

are being, well, siblings, and parents of our youngest singers are trying desperately to wrangle their children into two piece robes. All of this is going on as we try to squeeze out those last few precious minutes of rehearsal. The room has a loud, messy, expectant buzz.

Excitement is in the air as we prepare for Christmas at Country Club, a musical celebration of the season. It is a wonderful worship service filled with congregational singing, readings and anthems featuring the Cherubim Choir, Children's Choir and Fellowship Singers, along with the Orffestra and various additional instrumentalists. What an experience.

I hope you will consider joining us on Sunday evening, Dec. 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a service filled with beautiful music designed for all ages. In the midst of the holiday craziness, this is a small pocket of time in which you are invited to come and simply experience the joy of the season. Christmas at Country Club is a celebration for the masses, and we would love to have the sanctuary filled with members and visitors alike. So please, come celebrate with us and bring a friend. I guarantee that it will be an hour well-spent.

Laine

**Join us for
Christmas at Country Club**
Sunday, December 5 – 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Choirs, youth, children, and instruments lead us
into the season with anthems and carols.

Grieving Through the Holidays

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

Do you struggle with your grief during this time of year? Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 7 in Combs Chapel. This service offers a sacred space to remember those we love and honor our memories during this holiest time of the year.

Check Out Our Blogs

Two staff members are writing blogs. Take time to read them to get interesting perspectives.

Dr. Glen Miles is writing a blog on various theological issues of our time. You can find his musings on our website, www.cccckc.org. Click on About Us – Senior Minister – Blog (www.cccckc.org/about-us/senior-minister/blog).

Rev. Steve Mason, Pastoral Resident, is writing a blog that addresses relevant issues in a conversational manner. His blog is meant to encourage two-way communication through responses and conversations online. Steve updates his blog each Thursday with short writings varying from humorous to insightful based on a theological issue in today's world. You can read his blog on our website under Stay Informed – Steve's Blog (www.cccckc.org/stay-informed).

2011 Christian Community Camp

Sign up now for a week of rest and renewal in Estes Park, CO, Aug. 1-7, 2011. Family rooms and bunk rooms both available. Brochures and registration forms in the main office or contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org.

Club Kids Mystery Trip



On Nov. 6, several 1st and 2nd graders participated in a Mystery Trip. While the children didn't know their destination until they arrived, everyone had a super time at Mattie Rhodes Art Center. The children completed art activities and had lunch at La Fonda Mexican Restaurant on Southwest Blvd. Pictured left to right: *top row* Jordan Riley, Caroline Schopp, Maya Ridle, Mark Lopatofsky, Henry Bash; *bottom row* Lauren Herrington, Stella Harber, Breck McGuire, Duncan Bennett.

Holidays at The Well

This season The Well, the church's book and gift store, will feature wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world. The mission of The Well is to present crafts from artisans all over the globe as well as books and other gifts, the proceeds of which go to Week of Compassion, the disaster relief agency of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Shoppers will find chocolates from Ghana, jewelry from India, baskets from Vietnam, food from Israel and the United States, and a host of other things that would be perfect gifts. A special emphasis this year will be soy-based candles with lovely holiday fragrances. Each candle you buy ensures that a child in Haiti or Somalia or some other country in hardship will be fed for one day. One special candle will feed a child for a week.

Advent calendars will also be available. These are whimsical and traditional, glittery and colorful, and some even have chocolate! Pick one up soon so you and your family will be ready to mark the days before Christmas.

There will be books and boxes and vases and shawls and so much more for you to select for gifts this year, and each purchase you make will enable the lives of others to be better and healthier and safer. Start your holiday shopping at The Well.

Bring Your Own Mug

As we continue our efforts of being good stewards of our environment by using paper cups instead of styro-foam, there has been a significant increase in cost to our cup budget.



While we want to do right by our environment and protect God's Earth, we also need to do our part individually to minimize the cost difference and protect the church's finance budget. What does this mean to me?

We are asking each person to help offset this expense by bringing your own coffee cup from home. A mug rack will be placed in each Sunday school room for storage of your personal cup for future use. Our children and youth ministries are using reusable plastic cups.

CYF and Chi Rho Caroling and Holiday Parties

Sunday, Dec. 12

Chi Rho and CYF youth will carol at a residential care center and several members homes on Sun., Dec. 12. We will meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. Following the caroling, youth will have holiday parties (6:00-8:00 p.m.). The Chi Rho youth will meet at the Jensen house and CYF will meet at the Dee house. Please bring \$2 to contribute to our service project – filling stockings for Micah Ministry. Also bring a gift for a gift exchange – something that you have around your house or you have made...no buying presents! For more information, contact Justin at justinz@cccckc.org for Chi Rho and Brandon at brandonw@cccckc.org for CYF.



Waiting to Give Thanks

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



My son has been particularly perplexed about the marketing situation this holiday season. He is quite irritated that we seem to have moved straight from Halloween to Christmas (some would say the marketing of both began simultaneously). The store displays, the mailers coming to our home, the television commercials, appear to him to have completely forgotten Thanksgiving (all except the grocery stores). I was asking him why it bothered him so much and he tried to explain, saying it seems like we are rushing past the part that helps us really focus on being thankful – rushing to the part where we may spend more time thinking about what we want to receive. In his young eyes it all seemed very clear – how certain seasons call us to focus on particular emotions or experiences.

Maybe that is what he has experienced. Does it seem that thankfulness goes only with Thanksgiving and giving and receiving goes with Christmas, and then at the end of those special seasons we shelve those expressions of love, gratitude, and compassion with the good china or decorations? All of this has me thinking how important it is for us as people of faith to reclaim giving thanks from a November holiday and make it a part of our on-going expressions of faithfulness to God. We know in the creation story God celebrated each day, each amazing step ...with “It is good.” We see in the Psalms ways to offer praise and thanksgiving to God and all creation. Too often we tend to see what is not working well in our day, in our lives, in the world...but do we make a conscience effort to observe all the goodness that may be around us? Do we slow down enough to really see the beauty in the glorious creation that surrounds us? Do we demonstrate gratitude towards those we encounter in our daily steps?

Writer Melody Beattie comments, “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

So let’s not wait around for Thanksgiving. Let us seek to find grace filled gratitude in each day. Let us with intention be present and turn each encounter with the world, with creation, with each other into a sacred occasion. Let our hearts and lips be filled with words of grateful praise. And perhaps my son will not have to wait for Thanksgiving to be grateful!

Catherine

Children and Families

Fill The ArkA Family Giving Opportunity

Continue filling your Ark! Your family can express God’s grace in your life by giving to others. The money our church families raise will offer real life solutions to world hunger. Last year with the money raised through this project, our kids were able to provide rabbits, honeybees, chickens, fish and ducks to needy families. We will be collecting the filled arks on Sun., Dec. 12 and Dec. 19.

Moms’ Group

Make time to join this group of moms as we serve on the fourth Tues.day each month at Rose Brooks Shelter for Women. Our next service date is Tues., Nov. 30. Please RSVP to Karla Herrington at karlah@cccckc.org.

Caroling Party

Sun., Dec. 12 – Plan to share joy and song with others during Advent as we gather at church at 3:30 p.m. and head out to carol for homebound members and residential care centers. We will conclude our caroling with a chili supper back at church. Childcare available for children 3 and under.

Fountains of Faith Sunday School

Nov. 28 – 1st-5th graders will be combined.

Club Kids

Club Kids will not meet Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving holiday) or Dec. 5 (Christmas at Country Club).

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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

Ms. Karla Herrington
Director of Children's
Ministries

Rev. Steve Mason
Pastoral Resident

Mr. Brian Mathias
Associate Organist

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

Mr. Brandon Winstead
Director of High School
Ministries

Mr. Justin Zeigler
Director of Middle School
Ministries

Food Drive on December 12

On Sun., Dec. 12, please bring your nonperishable food items for the Virginia Reed Food Drive, 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. Food is also purchased in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

Framed Needlepoint Art Donated to Church

The two exquisite needlepoint pieces on display in the east stairwell are the creations of Maebelle Hodges. Mrs. Hodges and her husband, Elmer, both deceased, were long-time members of the church. Mrs. Hodges was an avid needlepoint artist and spent a year stitching each of the two framed pieces which were donated to the church after her death in 2009.

Our Church Family Sympathy

DEBORAH LINDSEY passed away Nov. 17. The memorial service was Nov. 22 in Combs Chapel, Rev. Chuck Murphy presiding.

Memorials

Mary Jane Faust
John & Erma Hess

Music Fund

Isabel Buehler

John & Erma Hess
Anniversary Class
Mary & Don Dibble
Nancy & Greg Lear
Doris Thompson
Thomas & Madelene Woodbury
Maureen McGinty
Max & Sue Deweese
Jarene & Lee Stanford
Pat & Jim Martin
Thomas & Rhetta Johnston

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