



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.*

## Christmas Offering: Serving God's Children

The Outreach Council has chosen three organizations as recipients of this year's Christmas Offering. ReStart and The Children's Place are local recipients, and Global Ministries Orthopedic Workshop and Physiotherapy Center (OWPC) located in Afghanistan is the international recipient.

The Christmas Offering provides our congregation an opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others. This season's outreach theme is *Serving God's Children with Love*. All of the organizations help those who are not thriving due to physical or mental trauma as a result of neglect, abuse, disease, war and homelessness.

**OWPC** is located near the northern border of Afghanistan in a mountainous area that is beyond the reach of established services available in larger cities. It provides physical therapy treatments, prostheses and assistive devices for those with disabilities.

**ReStart** targets homeless youth and children to intervene in the cycle of poverty and keep them from becoming homeless adults. They provide a Homeless Service Center, a Youth Emergency Shelter, an Overnight Emergency Shelter and a Family Emergency Shelter. In addition to their shelters, they provide counseling, education and employment assistance, substance abuse recovery services, and life skills and financial literacy classes.

**The Children's Place** works to nurture and promote healthy development of children who have survived abuse, neglect and trauma. It offers day treatment services, developmental assessments to children under the age of 6, group therapy sessions for preschool children, and parenting support classes.

Help Country Club Christian Church support these three organizations with a gift to the 2011 Christmas Offering. Mark your gift "Christmas Offering" and mail it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate.

## Advent Sermon Series: The Gift

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

- Nov. 27 – Part One: Hope  
*Isaiah 64: 1-9*
- Dec. 4 – Part Two: Peace  
*Isaiah 40: 1-11*
- Dec. 11 – Part Three: Joy  
*Isaiah 61: 1-4*
- Dec. 18 – Part Four: Love  
*Luke 1: 26-38*



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## Worship with Us this Advent Season

### **Christmas at Country Club – Dec. 4**

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

### **Chancel Choir Presents "Gloria"**

The Chancel Choir accompanied by a large brass and percussion ensemble will present "Gloria" by John Rutter. 11:00 a.m., Dec. 11, Sanctuary.

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

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

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

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

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

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

Sat., Dec. 24:

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

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

### **Christmas Day Worship – Sun., Dec. 25**

One service at 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary. Rev. Carla Aday preaching.

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## New Members Welcomed on November 20



Stacey Lukas and daughter, Vivienne  
**New Member Host:** Shirley Hansell



Marilyn Pauling  
**New Member Host:** Barbara George



Patty McComas  
**New Member Host:** Carol Crouch



Bruce and Kara Erickson  
**New Member Hosts:** Bart and Sandy Finney



Jennifer and Mark Austenfeld  
**New Member Hosts:** Lesley and Peter Holt



Dick and Dorothy McTague  
**New Member Hosts:** Perry and Jeanne Cockayne



# Thanksgiving Seating

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Seating arrangements for Thanksgiving can sometimes be stressful. The careful hostess and host pay attention to the best mix so that conversation flows easily and tension is reduced.

Jesus went to a lot of parties. Sometimes there was stress over who was sitting where. At one of these events, just before the wine was poured, he said, “when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’

Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

This might sound like the type of advice you might receive from Dear Abby but trust me on this, it is not. Jesus is saying, in God’s world whether you are a successful business person or a less than successful one, it won’t matter. Jesus is saying whether you wear size 4 or a size 18 it won’t matter. Jesus is saying whether you are great athlete or a stumbling, bumbling one, it won’t matter. Jesus is saying “be who you are.” He is saying, if only you had the courage to be yourselves, to love as you want to be loved, to serve as you need to be served, you would see the things that truly matter in God’s world.

When we gather for the great thanksgiving banquet at the end of all time, we will be surprised at the seating arrangements. God’s invitation to the party will be sent to everyone. All will be included. In the book *If Grace is True*, Gulley and Mulholland write that at the final banquet “on our right will sit the person whom we have harmed the most. On our left will sit the person who has done the greatest evil to us. We will be seated between grace received and grace required.”

Hmm, grace received and grace required. That is a pretty good description of my life and very good reminder of where all of us will be sitting this Thursday. For that, I am thankful.

Grace and peace to you,

## 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. 15 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.

## Worship with us!

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

**Nov. 27**

**Advent Series: The Gift**

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

**Dec. 4**

Part 2: Peace  
*Isaiah 40: 1-11*

**Dec. 11**

Part 3: Joy  
*Isaiah 61: -14*

**Dec. 18**

Part 4: Love  
*Luke 1: 26-38*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## 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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## New Advent Wreath and Candelabra for Sanctuary

Through the generous gifts of members of our congregation, we will dedicate a new Advent wreath and a pair of candelabra this Christmas season. They were designed and manufactured by Mike Keller of Keller Metal Works who has worked in the Kansas City area for 35 years, creating and installing beautiful examples of iron art. The wreath, given in memory of Bob and Dorothy Wolf, utilizes the quatrefoil design already found in our church's carved wood trim. This motif is found again in the bases of the candelabra, which are being given in memory of Barbara Nottberg. The candelabra will also be available for use during weddings and other events in our sanctuary. They, along with the advent wreath, will add to the beauty of our worship for years to come. We are grateful for the generosity of the Wolf and Nottberg families and friends for this timeless remembrance.

## Fill Stockings for Micah Ministry

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



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

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

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

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## Christmas Trip to Branson

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

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## Service of Remembrance: Grieving Through the Holidays

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. 6 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.





# Exterior Improvements Update

by Rob Gilkerson, Business Administrator



We have completed a detailed inspection of all the stone elements in the exterior facade of the building from a large man lift, from the ground and roof tops. This includes physical mechanical sounding of stone units that appear to be in questionable condition or that may have questionable attachment to the building.

We have completed the selective removal of ornamental cast stone elements to be used as models for fabrication of replacement pieces during the coming winter months to allow full restoration to begin early next spring. Please note that more units have been removed than originally planned due to their extremely poor condition. This has been done to ensure the safety of the occupants of the building and the public around outside of the building. A number of large finials have been removed from the corners of the tower because they were loose to the touch and could be removed without any mechanical tools; as such they represented a public safety hazard.

The ornamental cast stone elements that are removed from the building are being taken to the local shop of C&M Restoration for further detailed examination. We have cored into the large ornamental cast stone units on the tower and on the third level roof in order to determine how these large elements are constructed and how they are attached to the building. This led us to the conclusion that it would have to be removed before winter. A large crane was used and that work has been completed. Examples of all the removed pieces can be viewed in the Parlor for the next few weeks.

A detailed survey has also been completed of all aspects of the drainage systems on all roof levels to prevent future water problems and will be a part of the exterior work to be completed over the next 12 months.

We will be assessing the work to be done and accepting formal bids over the next two months.

Rob




underside of tower spire



tower spire

## Holidays at The Well

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

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

## Stress Management Group Meets Mondays

Stress? Who has stress? If you are like most, there's enough stress to go around and it will only increase with the upcoming Christmas season. Join David Showalter and a small group of fellow de-stressors to discover coping skills to help enjoy the beauty of the season. The group meets Mondays from 6:30 until 7:30 in Room 207. Contact Rev. Chuck Murphy at 816-333-4917 or [chuckm@cccckc.org](mailto:chuckm@cccckc.org) for more information.

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## Christmas at Country Club Rehearsal Schedule

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



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

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



## Infant Dedications on December 4

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



worship service. Infant dedications are scheduled as part of the 11:00 a.m. service on specific

Sundays during the year. The next opportunity to have your child dedicated is Sun., Dec. 4. If you are interested in having your baby dedicated that day, contact Heather Rotter at 816-333-4917 or [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org).

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Poinsettia Distribution

We will be distributing the poinsettias from our poinsettia sale on Sat., Dec. 3 and Sun., Dec. 4 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please let Justin Zeigler know if you can help on one of those days.

### Caroling and Holiday Parties

#### Sun., Dec. 11

6th-12th graders (and their families) are invited to join in sharing holiday cheer through caroling on Sun., Dec. 11. We will meet at church at 4:00 p.m. and carol at several residential care facilities. CYF will gather at the Lehoczky home and the Chi Rho party will be at the Jensen home from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

### UMKC Basketball Game

#### Fri., Dec. 16

Youth will gather at church at 6:30 p.m. and attend a college men's basketball game. Invite a friend to join us as we cheer on the Roos! RSVP to Justin Zeigler, [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org).

## 2012 Christian Community Camp

Sign up now for a week of rest and renewal in Estes Park, CO, Sept. 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).



## Supporting Bethany

by Steve Mason, Pastoral Resident



In the sixth hour of silence I started *really* listening to God. Walking up hills, surrounded by waving grass, I was able to hear Psalms I read earlier that day:

*For God knows how we were made; God remembers that we are dust.  
As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;  
For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.  
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. — Psalm 103: 14-17*

In the silence, I was able to search the psalmist's truth—God is eternal, we are not; and yet God's love is steadfast.

This moment was afforded by Bethany Fellows, a program designed to enrich young Disciples of Christ ministers. The fellowship offers recently-ordained ministers four years of five-day retreats twice a year. These retreats bring fellows together to visit exciting congregations and name our struggles and joys with our colleagues in prayerful regard. There is time for learning, recreation and a full day of silence. But the deep relationships established and prayerful practices that saturate the retreats are the program's lasting testaments.

Believe it or not, ministers can get so wrapped up in doing ministry that they neglect being ministers. Vulnerable relationships, prayer and other spiritual disciplines get a backseat to programs, meetings and crafting worship—all of which are good, but those things ring hollow if clergy members' spiritual lives are only given leftover effort. The Bethany Fellows program instills healthy habits and builds up lasting relationships to support one another in ministry.

I'm abundantly blessed with a great group of colleagues at Country Club Christian Church. Unfortunately, many ministers feel isolated in their congregations. My focus at Bethany has been strengthening my paltry prayer life. Having a week that centers on prayer has enhanced my ministry here and certain practices have made their way into my routines. While I'm still a new fellow, I know my prayer life will be refreshed and given clarity for my entire vocation—enhancing both my doing and being of ministry.

I know we are in a time of economic insecurity, but I hope supporting programs like Bethany Fellows is a ministry for this church. We have an opportunity to impact many ministers, extending our witness of healthy ministry far beyond our doors. We can be a church that builds up generations of leaders, proud to know that we are faithfully upholding our brothers and sisters.

Steve

## Children and Families

### Sunday School November 27

1st – 5th graders will be combined for this Sunday after Thanksgiving. We will explore Advent practices and enjoy a focus on the meaning of giving during the holiday season followed by activities. Come and join us from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in Room 212.

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

#### Isaiah: For Unto Us A Child Is Born

Beginning Sun., Dec. 4, the 1st-5th graders will learn about the promises of the prophet Isaiah and God's message of hope, peace and love proclaimed by the prophet.

### Club Kids

Club Kids will not meet on Sun., Nov. 27.

### Breakfast with Santa

Sat., Dec. 3 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 3., 10:00



a.m.-noon. Enjoy pancakes by Chris Cakes and make Christmas crafts.

**Bring your camera and take your child's picture**

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

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Return Service Requested

## Virginia Reed Food Drive on Dec. 11

On Sun., Dec. 11, 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

MARTHA JANE PHILLIPS STARR passed away Nov. 14. She is survived by sons John Philip Starr and Dr. James Lee Starr. Services will be at a later date.

### Memorials

#### Allen Smith

Peggy Curts  
Hank & Joan Riffe  
Bob & Alyce King

#### Capital Campaign

Judge AJ Higgins  
Nancy Ralston

## PROGRAM STAFF

|                                                                          |                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. R. Glen Miles<br>Senior Minister                                     | Ms. Karla Herrington<br>Director of Children's<br>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,<br>Youth and Families | Ms. Lisa McCleish<br>Director of Early<br>Childhood Programs |
| Rev. Chuck Murphy<br>Minister of Congregational<br>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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