



# 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!

This is a great time of year to invite your friends and family to celebrate with you. Bring a friend and join us on the journey to Christmas!

### 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. Dr. R. Glen Miles' sermon series continues Dec. 12 and 19.

### 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.

### First Sunday of Christmas – Dec. 26

One worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

## An Evening of Song and Celebration

### Christmas At Country Club on Dec. 5



Children and youth ages 4½ through 12th grade joined instrumentalists and readers in celebration and song at our annual Christmas at Country Club program on Sun., Dec. 5. See inside for more photos.



## Christmas at Country Club



Sidra Sakati



Fellowship Singers Andie Forsee, David Gauwitz, MaKenna Lockhart, Kellin Martiny, Betsy Dee, Jack Dee and Clayton Forsee



Ginger Kline, Patty and Dave Hess, and Erma and John Hess enjoy the concert.



Sticks & Phones Orffestra members Marcia Ramsey, Mona Lyne, Dale Ramsey.

## Breakfast with Santa on December 4



Nearly 300 children and families enjoyed a pancake breakfast and a visit with Santa on Sat., Dec. 4.



## Special Christmas Offering for Children's Education

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 and this new school will allow them to have three more years of education. 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.



## For Unto You

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



“You shall name him Jesus.” The instructions for naming the child that Mary was carrying were quite clear. The name chosen is a common name, one you would hear often in the market place or in the temple. Jesus is the Greek version of the name Joshua. It was a popular name. Joshua was a great hero from Israel’s past. The name Joshua represented an era in their history when they were strong and mighty. By naming a child Jesus, an Israelite family was saying, “We are hoping and believing that God will rescue us, that God will save us from the life we are living today.” The name Jesus, Joshua, translated literally, means, “God Saves.”

So when Jesus is introduced in the synagogue or on the playground, his name doesn’t really stand out in any way. He’s just another kid with a popular name.

However, when Matthew and Luke point out that his name will be Jesus they really want us to take notice. For them his name is a shorthand version of what Jesus has come to do. Jesus has come to save us; Jesus has come to rescue us. The salvation that Jesus brings is about new life today. This salvation is tied to your life in the moment named now.

The salvation that is described in Jesus’ name is personal. Luke wants us to understand that God loves us as if there were only one of us to be loved in all creation. If there was only YOU in all the world, God would still have gone to all the trouble of this birth and this one who was sent to save. Do you remember the words of the angel in Luke 2? “For unto YOU is born this day...”

This is not a general message. Jesus didn’t come to share a propositional belief system or force us into faith. The message is quite clear: God is coming to you.

Frederick Buechner writes, “Once you have seen God in a stable you can never be sure where God will appear or to what lengths God will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation God will descend in his wild pursuit of you. If the holiness and the awful power and majesty of God were present in this least auspicious of all events, the birth of a peasant’s child, then there is no place or time so lowly and earthbound but that holiness can be present there, too.”

If God can do all this in a barn in Bethlehem, think what God can do for YOU in your life.

Grace and peace to you,

## Year-End Giving

You should have recently received your giving statement as of Nov. 30, 2010. Your pledge for the 2010-2011 fiscal year means a lot and Country Club Christian Church appreciates your commitment. We are at the halfway point of the fiscal year and hope that your pledge reflects this in its fulfillment.

For many, December is a time to consider organizations for a year-end gift. Please consider making an additional gift to the church in your plans. A gift of any amount would certainly be appreciated and will assist greatly in meeting the financial obligations incurred throughout the year. You may drop your gift in the Sunday offering plate, stop by the finance office or mail your check to the church.

Thank you again for your time and treasure and have a great holiday season.

## Worship with us!

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

**Advent Sermon Series**  
What Are You Waiting For?

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

**Dec. 19**  
Part 4: Relief from the Rush  
*Isaiah 7: 10-16*

**Dec. 26**  
One worship service only,  
10:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Rev. Steve Mason preaching

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## 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?

Being a Good Neighbor...

**Jan. 23** ...What does the Bible Ask? Dr. Harold Washington, Professor of Old Testament at St. Paul School of Theology.

**Jan. 30** ...Our Neighborhood: Legacy or Divide? Dr. Bill Worely, historian, professor, actor and author of *J.C. Nichols and the Shaping of Kansas City*.

**Feb. 6** ...Civil Discourse. Speaker to be announced.

**Feb. 13** ...Modern Neighbors in a New Kansas City. Speaker to be announced.

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## 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](http://www.cccckc.org). The deadline for registration is Dec. 31. For more information, contact Rev. Steve Mason, [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org).

## 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. 20 and returning on Feb. 27.

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 – they melt in the heat) 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 March 2012], or cash to help with the purchase of items in Nicaragua, please place your donations in the Parlor during the month of January.

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## Tutors Needed

A team of adults tutor middle school students at Argentine Middle School every Wednesday from 1:00-2:15 p.m. New tutors are needed beginning Jan. 5. Tutors are provided with specific materials to work one-on-one with a student on reading or math. Argentine Middle School is located just off of Roe/18th Street, near I-35. If you are interested, please contact Katie Allison at [katiea@planetkc.com](mailto:katiea@planetkc.com) or Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org).



## Take Time

by Justin Zeigler, Director of Middle School Ministries



In the heat of August, I moved boxes filled with my possessions into an apartment right off the Plaza. I was so excited, mostly because I love the Plaza lights. It's not only the actual lights, but I have always loved watching people meander through the streets taking in the beauty of the lights. I was so excited that I would be living in the midst of it.

Now that the lights are up I find myself not as thrilled as I thought I would be. I walk to my local coffee shop, I drive to church and the excitement that I anticipated is not there. The lights and the people enjoying them now simply blend into the background as I get to where I need to go.

The other day a friend came and visited from out of town. I was walking quickly to try to get out of the cold, but every few moments he stopped. I whined, "Come on, I'm freezing!" When the words escaped my lips I realized how much I was rushing. In the midst of something beautiful, in the midst of something that used to inspire awe, I was trying to get through it as fast as possible. How often do we do that?

We are continually rushing through life to get somewhere else. I think that part of it is that we forget the beauty of the moment that is around us. Part of my job as a minister is to remind people of the beauty of God's presence here and now. God didn't enter into our world only 2,000 years ago in a manger. God's love is continually reaching out to us, asking us to stop and realize that we are loved children. We can forget that this love is always here in our rush.

Where do you see beauty, where are you not simply resting in this love? This season take some time, relax ... and experience the beauty around you. If you need some reminding, head on down and take a look at the lights.

## Reception Honoring Sandy Eisenman on January 9

A reception honoring Sandy Eisenman for her many years of service to Country Club Christian Church will be held on Sun., Jan. 9 after the 11:00 a.m. service in the Parlor. Stop by and thank Sandy for her dedication to this church as the longtime Director of Financial Services. Watch for more information.



## 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](http://www.cccckc.org). Click on About Us – Senior Minister – Blog ([www.cccckc.org/about-us/senior-minister/blog](http://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](http://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](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org).

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## Upcoming Events for College-Age

### **Come Get Your Hot Cocoa Before the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service**

Starting at 9:30 p.m., college students will be hanging out in the Parlor, sharing stories, snacks and hot cocoa with each other and the rest of the church. All you have to do is show up when you want. For more information, contact Steve Mason at [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org).

### **Country Club College Christmas Party**

Join Steve and Caitlin Mason on Tues., Dec. 21 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at 4127 Locust St., Apt. 403, Kansas City, MO. The Masons will provide food, holiday drinks, music and together we'll make goodies to share at Christmas Eve service. Friends are welcome, but please RSVP by Dec. 19 to Steve Mason at [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org).

## 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.

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, healthier and safer. Make sure you do part of your holiday shopping at The Well.

## **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](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org) for Chi Rho and Brandon at [brandonw@cccckc.org](mailto:brandonw@cccckc.org) for CYF.

### **Alternative Readings**

This intergenerational group that will bring middle school students and young adults together to study the same book, from each of their particular life experiences will meet every other week from January to April. The group will first focus on Shane Claiborne's book, *Irresistible Revolution*. We will discuss two chapters each session. The group will meet every other Thursday night for seven sessions between Jan. 13 and Apr. 7, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). Contact Justin Zeigler at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org) or Steve Mason [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org) for more information.



## Consonance & Dissonance

by Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music



Recently the organs in the Sanctuary and Chapel were tuned for the winter months. I had occasion to sit in the balcony while the tuner went about his work. As I sat there, the only sound in the room was that of the gentle tapping of the tuning slides and the sound of two pipes, each out of tune with the other moving from dissonance to consonance, eventually clicking into tune. The sound was not pleasant, until, when perfect tuning was achieved, there was a resolution to the dissonance.

People are not unlike an organ, especially at this time of year. Some of us experience the holidays with a joyful consonance while others endure this time of year with the constant beat of dissonance. They feel as if they are out of tune with life.

We all know those people for whom the baked goods seem to literally fall out of their ovens, gift wrapped and ready to deliver. The constant array of party invitations invigorates them. It is a happy time for them. But for many, the holidays can mean endless darkness. There are many causes for this dissonance in their lives. It might be the recent loss of a loved one, a job change, or estrangement from a loved one. It could simply be that the holidays never contain the magical excitement many of us felt as children. Whatever the reasons, for these folks their life reflects a significant dissonance.

Sometimes we reach out to those experiencing difficulty, hoping they might experience the joy of this season. At other times we might actually avoid them, fearing that even a general “bah humbug” from them will dampen our own festive mood. But, as the Body we call the Church, we are called to reach out. That act can be as simple as a gentle “how are you?” It could be a pat on the back, or a softly spoken “I am thinking about you.” Whatever the gesture, that gentle reassurance is what means the most, I suspect.

My holiday wish for each of is that you might find the peace that was promised on that first Christmas and experience it throughout the whole year.

*David*

## Children and Families

### Fill The Ark .....A 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 on the second floor children's wing.

### Give What You Got!!

As new things arrive in your home during this holiday season consider gathering gently used toys, books and backpacks for a collection for Give What You Got. Club Kids will be gathering these items for a service project on Sun., Jan. 9. Give What You Got is a local nonprofit working with communities to help kids in foster care and their caregivers with essentials like clothing, developmental toys, school supplies, household items and holiday/birthday gifts (to name a few). We are helping gather toys and books to be used as gifts. Please bring donations to Karla Herrington's or Catherine Stark-Corn's office (Rm. 101) after Christmas.

### Clubs Kids Parent Gathering

**Sun., Jan. 9, 5:00-6:45 p.m.**

Parents of 3rd-5th graders are invited to gather with others at the home of Kandi and Mark McCasland for fellowship and fun. Watch weekly emails for more information. Club Kids will meet and childcare for younger siblings will be at church.

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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

**Rev. Chuck Murphy**  
Minister of Congregational  
Care

**Ms. Karla Herrington**  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

**Rev. Steve Mason**  
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**Mr. Brian Mathias**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Lisa McCleish**  
Director of Early  
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**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

## Spiritual Reflections on the New Year

Rev. Carla Aday will lead a group discussion of the book *Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace* by Miso Volf. Pick up a copy of the book in The Well or read the text in the church library copy. Read the first chapter prior to Jan 13. The group will meet Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m., Jan. 13-Feb. 17. In a review of this book, Jayson Byassee wrote, "There are good books, there are great books and then there are books that make you want to send copies to all your friends and pass them out to strangers. Miroslav Volf's book is one of the few members of that last category." Please sign up for the class by contacting Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

## Our Church Family Sympathy

MARY ANNE WHITE HESS passed away Nov. 28. She is survived by her son, Bill Hess. A private family service will be held at a later date.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to ERIN OKERSTROM and SHAUN SYMMONDS who were married Nov. 6 in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations to SYDNEY WALLACE and ROB SANDERS who were married Nov. 20 in the Sanctuary.

## Memorials

**Mary Anne Hess**  
Mark & Cynthia Stingley

**Claudia Bates**  
Bob & Kay Moffat

**Youth Program**

**Rev. Jerry Thompson**  
Carolyn & Ken Wills

**Music Fund**

**Philip Loevenguth**  
Carolyn & Ken Wills

**Music Fund**

**Isabel Buehler**  
Carolyn & Ken Wills  
Betty Foster  
Phyllis Robertson  
Kay & Bob Moffat  
Barbara & Bob Garrity

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