



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.*

Worship with Us this Advent Season

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 – Sat., Dec. 24

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

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

8:00 – Traditional candlelight service.

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

Christmas Day Worship – Sun., Dec. 25

One service at 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary. Rev. Carla Aday preaching. Children and youth Sunday school classes will not meet.

Christmas Offering: Serving God's Children

Help Country Club Christian Church support these three organizations with a gift to the 2011 Christmas Offering.

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 provides physical therapy treatments, prostheses and assistive devices for those with disabilities.

ReStart targets homeless youth and children, providing a homeless service center, a youth emergency shelter, an overnight emergency shelter and a family emergency shelter.

The Children's Place works to nurture and promote healthy development of children who have survived abuse, neglect and trauma.

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



Capital Campaign Update

As we approach six months into the three-year Capital Campaign, we are continuing to build momentum. Of our \$3.3 million dollar goal, we have collected \$2 million dollars in pledges and people are contributing. We have collected \$500,000 in actual contributions. Here is a reminder of the work to be completed and the estimates of prices as it was adopted by the Congregational Board. Some of the work has been completed.

Revised Estimates of Projects as of Spring 2011:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Exterior restoration and painting | \$1,987,000 (includes 10% contingency) |
| 2. | Repair Solarium roof | \$30,000 |
| 3. | Repair waterline under 61st St. | \$20,000 (1/2 completed Nov. 2011) |
| 4. | Repair organ | \$450,000 |
| 5. | Replace stained glass window covering | \$200,000 |
| 6. | Go Green | (No cost estimate) |
| 7. | Replace worn carpet | \$12,000 (Completed Oct. 2011) |
| 8. | Hands On Outreach | \$330,000 (based on hitting \$3.3M target) |
| 9. | Update kitchen and bathrooms | \$93,144 |
| 10. | Chapel Bride and Groom Rooms | \$20,000 |
| 11. | Support the Endowment Funds of the church. No specific amount was designated | |

Allowance for unforeseen expenses \$157,856
Grand Total: \$3.3 million

Infant Dedications on December 4



Liam with his parents, Scott and Abby Breithaupt



Charlotte with her parents, Sarah and Blake Reeves



Finnley with his parents, Jamie and Aaron Young



Caroline with her parents, Amy and Jared Rose and brother, Carter



Vivienne with her mother, Stacy Lukas



The Mystery of God's Love

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The angel bringing the news to Mary about the child she is carrying begins with, "Greetings favored one." She is perplexed and filled with fear. Who can blame her? The angel seems to sense this and implores, "Do not be afraid."

When angels appear in the Bible there is fear on the part of the person encountering the angel. The implication is that when the angel arrives something new is about to happen and change often brings fear.

I think Mary intuitively knows something wonderful is in the air but she also knows it might be dangerous. I learned from my wife that there is an inherit danger in childbirth. Something wonderful may be growing in the womb but at the same time there is the possibility of loss, there is danger involved.

Mary is afraid but her fear does not slow her down. Her worries do not trip her up. Kathleen Norris says, "(Mary) does not lose her voice but finds it... she asserts herself before God saying 'Here am I.'"

Norris says that she treasures this story because it forces her to ask, "When the mystery of God's love breaks through into my consciousness do I run from it? Do I ask of it what I cannot answer? Shrugging, do I retreat into facile clichés, popular false wisdom of what 'we all know'? Or am I virgin enough to respond from my deepest, truest self, and say something new, a 'yes' that will change me forever?" (Kathleen Norris, *Amazing Grace*, p. 76-77)

What "yes" is God waiting to hear from you? What changes are needed in your life before you are ready to live fully and completely within the grace of God's love for all? I know, change maybe stressful, difficult and filled with fear.

Maybe what you and I need this year, more than any present waiting under the tree, more than a wonderful meal waiting on the table, are the words of the angel, spoken to Mary, "Do not be afraid."

Grace and peace to you,

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 and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.

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

The Combs Legacy

Named for George Hamilton Combs, founding minister of Country Club Christian Church, The Combs Legacy comprises those who choose to make end-of-life financial gifts to the church through planned giving. Such gifts from Combs Legacy members create a living legacy which furthers the church's mission beyond the givers' lifetimes, sustaining the church's ministries for future generations.

Each year we will recognize those who have both joined and those who have fulfilled their Combs legacy. If you have included the church in your end-of-life plans, you are invited to be a part of the Inaugural Combs Legacy Class. Please let Rob Gilkerson in the Church office know. To be counted as part of the Inaugural Class you must notify Rob Gilkerson, in the Church office, by Jan. 3, 2012.

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. The standard deduction threshold for 2011 is \$11,600 for joint filers and \$5,800 for singles. If your total deductions are less than those amounts, you won't be able to deduct any charitable gifts. 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.

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.

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 Modern Art (4420 Warwick Blvd., Kansas City, MO). Watch for more information.

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.



No Day but Today

by Laine Riley, Associate Director of Music



This past month, my daughter Morgan and I had the wonderful experience of seeing Idina Menzel in concert along with part of the symphony at the new Kauffman Center. Morgan is the biggest fan of the musical *Wicked* that I know, and since Idina Menzel was the original green witch Elphaba, Morgan was excited beyond belief to hear her sing live. It was a phenomenal evening that ended with me dusting off my “star stalker” card. After a couple of very long waits at two separate entrances, Morgan got to meet her idol, and even has a very dark and grainy picture to

prove it.

While the entire concert was full of gorgeous music, there is one moment that stands out above all others. Ms. Menzel was talking about her experience as a member of the original cast of *Rent*. Jonathan Larson, the show’s 35-year-old composer died suddenly from an aortic aneurism just weeks before the show opened on Broadway. At the time she was in her early twenties, along with many in the cast. She said, “It was a big wake up call. We were reminded of how fleeting life is. How important it is to stay in the moment. Moments like this. We realized that none of us have time to mess around, especially with the material things in life.”

Idina Menzel then began to sing the song from the beginning of Act II of *Rent*, “No Day but Today” which includes these lyrics:

*There’s only us
There’s only this
Forget regret, for life is yours to miss
No other path, no other way
No day but today.*

The song ended as a duet between Idina Menzel and the audience, repeating the final line of lyric, singing tentatively at first, and then you could sense that moment in music that I refer to as flying. The entire room seemed to be completely in the moment. I’m not even sure how long we were singing just those four words, but when the song came to an end, it felt like it was too soon.

It was a beautiful reminder for me, as we enter the crazy season of “stuff” to stop and be present in the moment. Thank you to Jonathan Larson for his legacy that reminds us to seek out and savor all of the precious moments in life. No day, but today.

Laine

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 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 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room 207. Contact Rev. Chuck Murphy at 816-333-4917 or chuckm@cccckc.org for more information.

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.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting to elect members of the nominating committee will be held at the end of all three worship services on Sun., Jan. 8.

Christmas at Country Club



Sticks & Phones Orffestra members
Marcia Ramsey, Dale Ramsey, Jeff
Zimmerman, Linda Schooling, Ben Crocker



Waiting to perform are Jordan Riley,
Lauren McGuire, Olivia Keller, Aneesa
Housel, Amelia Hicks, Ella Gilkerson
and Natalie Herrington.



The combined Children's Choir and
Fellowship Singers.

Upcoming Youth Events

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 Commerford 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.

Breakfast with Santa on December 3



Left, Sophie and Cate Nearmyer sit with
Santa. Above, Tristan Roske attempts to
catch pancakes while dad, Jason, looks on.



Take Time

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



I can actually say I had two most helpful elves this year assisting in decorating our house – and not just the fun parts of decorating! Of course the collection of nutcrackers ended up in a battle formation, but other than that my two sons really pitched in and seemed to enjoy it. It made the experience more pleasant and memorable. Their excitement of opening each box to discover what treasures were tucked inside kept it from being a task for me or something to enjoy only when finished. I love the Christmas season and yet I often feel I am not doing it “right.” I find I lose myself in getting all the things I think are supposed to happen completed. And when Christmas morning has come and gone I often feel like there is unfinished business.

I recently found a poem, *Decorations* by Macrina Wiederkehr (this reading was shared as part of Christmas at Country Club on Dec. 4). The opening to this poetic work has really stuck with me ...

My days are all spent in decorating my house

I am forever preparing for your arrival

I hunger for your presence yet I take not the time to wait for your coming...

And to my great sorrow you never arrive...

There are times throughout the season of Advent when I busy myself because it seems safer, easier, more productive than taking time to wait – in silence, in stillness. For in the flurry of activity I do not have to face full on the depth of the gift of love given to us – the breadth of the grace so lavishly showered on all humanity, the impossible mystery of God with us. For me, the poem points to the reality that in exchange for avoiding opening myself to the arrival of the Holy One, I am missing out.

I am learning that opening up and slowing down does not mean something big or earth shattering will necessarily happen. But in the less frantic movement towards Christmas morning, we will be ready to receive the glimpses of hope, the gestures of peace, the moments of joy and the embrace of love that can escape us in the hustle of getting ready. I wish for each of us true moments of silent, stillness that we may prepare to welcome anew Emmanuel.

Catherine

Children and Families

Fountains of Faith Rotation

December 11 and 18

1st-5th graders will spend the Sundays in December learning about the prophet Isaiah. This prophet of ancient times called people to faithfulness to God and delivered messages and visions of hope, peace and love. Through storytelling and activities the children will have the opportunity to learn about Isaiah and how he connects to the Christmas story.

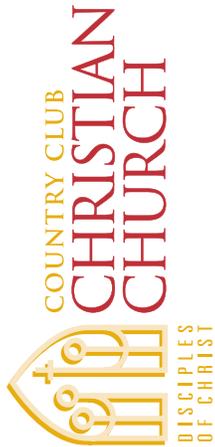
Advent Devotional Materials

We are in the season of Advent – a time of preparation for the incarnation, a time of preparing our hearts for the birth of the Christ child. It may be a bit hard to compete with all the anticipation of Santa on Christmas morning, but making time through these coming weeks to share family devotions can help bring the faith-based meaning of Christmas into our hearts and daily lives. We have a daily devotional booklet (that includes stickers) in the children’s wing on the second floor that can serve as a guide for family devotions and help your family observe this special season in the life of the church.

Club Kids

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

Non-Profit Organization
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6101 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64113

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 Congratulations

Congratulations to EMILY KRAMER and BRYAN WASSENBERG who were married Nov. 5 in the Sanctuary.

Memorials

Allen Smith
Tom & Helen Gray

Martha Jane Starr
John & Erma Hess

PROGRAM STAFF

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

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