



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.*

Opportunities Coming in January

New Sermon Series Begins January 9

Last year, a report from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that atheists and agnostics are better educated about religion than Christians in America. How much do we really know about the Bible, or about the life and teachings of Jesus? Misinformed about our own faith, how can we even begin to have an intelligent dialogue about our sisters and brothers of

other faiths? How do we separate fact from fiction, rumor and fear when it comes to understanding other religions such as Islam, Buddhism, or Hinduism? Why do uninformed opinions, freely shared as though fact, dominate the discourse in our 24-hours-a-day cable and internet news era, leading to intolerance and even violence? Join us in January for Dr. Glen Miles' sermon series *The Scandal of Wisdom*, as we consider how Jesus' followers might have used the wis-

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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) Chuck Lusso, Lisa McCleish, Jane Fletcher, Mary Margaret House, Lauren Weinhold, Brandon Winstead. Second row, (l-r) Lara Schopp, Rev. David Diebold, Diana Black, Rev. Steve Mason, Rev. Carla Aday, Rev. Chuck Murphy, Dr.

Glen Miles. Back row, (l-r) Jan Callahan, Laine Riley, Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn, Marilyn Wimer, Heather Rotter. Not pictured: Justin Zeigler, Sally Huggins, William "Fish" Terrill, Michelle Schlatter, Karla Herrington, Brian Mathias and Vicki Miller.



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 *When Heaven Came Home*.

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

8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight services. An organ prelude featuring the Kansas City Brass precedes each candlelight service.

Reminder: One Worship Service Only on Sun., Dec. 26

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. No Sunday School classes will meet. Child care is available. Sunday School classes will resume on Sun., Jan. 2.

Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 16

Seeking Input on Prioritization of Facility Improvements

You are invited to attend a town hall meeting at noon on Sun., Jan. 16, in the Social Hall. This is your opportunity to give input on our plans to improve the Country Club Christian Church facility.

Before we embark on the feasibility study to determine the possible level of financial support, we would like your input on setting priorities for our facility improvements. The items that we will present for your consideration will include:

- The structural engineering assessment and \$1.6 million cost forecast
- Parlor, social hall, chancel improvements at a cost of \$600,000
- Organ upgrade and repair at a cost of \$250,000 to \$500,000
- Technology, video and sound improvements at a cost of \$270,000

- Survey of staff suggestions include moving gift shop, reconfiguring offices, adding small group meeting spaces, replacing carpet, upgrading north wing, upgrading restrooms, landscaping, upgrading kitchen, replacing water line and other improvements.

- A 10% tithe to outreach

- What is missing? What would you recommend that we consider as we dream and plan for the church we want to be on our 100th birthday?

The town hall meeting will begin after the 11:00 a.m. service. A meal will be served; please respond to Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

Coming in January

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dom of his teachings to navigate today's culture.

Jan. 9 – Part 1: A Journey Toward Truth, *Matthew 2: 1-12*

Jan. 16 – Part 2: Love's Whispered Way, *Matthew 3: 13-17*

Jan. 23 – Part 3: Changing Your Life, *Matthew 4: 12-23*

Jan. 30 – Part 4: Diving Deep, Finding Joy, *Matthew 5: 1-12*

Sunday worship services at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

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. Please sign up for the class by contacting Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Embracing An Adult Faith

Who was Jesus? Who is God? What is salvation? How do we practice our faith? How do we live in community? If you've ever pondered these questions, then you are encouraged to participate in *Embracing An Adult Faith*. This five-session class is designed for those seeking a richer understanding of issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology. Led by Lauren Weinhold. Cost is \$13 and includes book. Wednesdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 16, 6:30-8:00 p.m.



Finding God at Christmas

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Do you remember the sign of God's presence in Luke's Christmas story? Where does the story say we will find the sign of God's favor? In the voice of the angel? In the midst of the heavenly chorus? Does God say, "You will know that I am with you when the sky is lit with the glory of the Lord"? Is there a word proclaiming, "When you hear the Hallelujah chorus and the trumpet's call you will know that God is present"? No, no, and no.

"This will be a sign unto you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, in bands of cloth for goodness sake, lying in a manger, lying in a trough used for feeding animals."

Maybe we haven't found God in our lives because we are looking in all of the wrong places. Maybe we have been looking too high, waiting for the trumpets call. Maybe God is already here, already in your home, ready and willing to come into your life.

We are given another clue in Luke's Christmas story about the presence of God in our lives. It is there when the angel proclaims "To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior." This is gigantic, earth-rattling news but we have heard those words so often the clue might be hard to miss.

You see, in Jesus' day the Savior was Caesar. The Roman troops would come marching into town carrying signs reading CAESAR KURIOS SOTER. "Caesar is Lord and Savior." This was going on long before Jesus. This was the Roman way of saying, "Y'all sit up and pay attention because Caesar is your King and your ruler and if you want to be safe and live in peace then you better bow down to him and he'll give you peace."

Luke tells us that Jesus is savior. Luke is giving us a preview. This savior will come not with sword and chariot and trumpet. He will come to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

This savior has come to you and me to invite us home into the arms of God; to finally and fully let go and let God; to look low enough to find something holy, to hear our own name being called by the very voice of Heaven.

This Savior has come to the poor, the oppressed, the blind, the lonely, the lost, the little, the dead and dying, the grieving and the sad. In short, this Savior comes to all who, in their littleness, will let their hearts prepare him room.

Grace and peace to you,

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. Bring a card with your good wishes.

Worship with us!

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

Dec. 26

One worship service only,
10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
So What Now?
Matthew 2: 13-23
Rev. Steve Mason preaching

Jan. 2

Services at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.
This Is the Time to Dance
in the Rain
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Rev. Chuck Murphy preaching

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.

College Winter Retreat at Tall Oaks

From Wed., Jan. 5 at 7:00 p.m. until the morning of Fri., Jan. 7, 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, and worship in a variety of forms.

The cost is \$65 (covers two nights lodging, all sessions, meals Jan. 6 and breakfast Jan. 7). 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.

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.

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 or Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org.



Willing Hands

by Marilyn Wimer, Director of Administrative Services



A change in our maintenance staffing this fall left fewer man hours available for gardening work around the church property. One result was six flower beds and three large pots left with dead summer plants needing to be pulled out and readied for winter. Volunteers had to be organized and I worried that this project would languish far too long without anyone to do the work.

However, a short conversation with Green Team Chair Jenny Doty on a November Sunday morning changed that. “Don’t worry about this. It will get done,” she said. She sent out an email to the gardening group that has worked here on Monday evenings this summer and, within a week, all the flower beds were efficiently and perfectly cleaned. Jenny’s report: “No problem. We had it done in no time.”

I was deeply grateful and a bit surprised that the response was so quick. But, upon reflection, I wondered why I was surprised at all. I see that kind of willing help being given here at church day after day. In November, we were asked to provide 100 homemade pumpkin pies for the Micah Ministry. Nearly 200 pies were delivered. In December, we stuffed stockings for the homeless. The goal was 500, but over 575 were completed. Early this month, a volunteer crew of about 15 women completely decorated the church, chapel and exteriors with all our Christmas trees, wreaths, candles and bows in less than two days. What an amazing transformation as we prepared for the holiday season!

You pick the area: education, congregational care, music, missions, and all the rest. Over and over again, the programs and plans of our church come to be because volunteers give their time and talents. Thank you for your willing hands and open hearts that made so many worthwhile projects take shape here at Country Club Christian Church in 2010. As we move into the next decade, I look forward to more wonderful work taking place because of your enthusiasm, dedication and presence.

Thank You for a Great Year!

By Mary Lehoczyk, Chair of the Congregational Board

At this time of year, we often become so caught up in Christmas preparations and end-of-year concerns that the first 11^{1/2} months of the year fade to a fuzzy memory. However, thinking back month-by-month to January, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to all of you who have done so much on behalf of Country Club Christian Church! To each of you who worked for a vibrant Sunday School experience for our children, a shared Sacred Conversation experience, the major fundraising dinner, a successful stewardship campaign, the brand-new “community camp” in Kansas City, Vacation Bible School, the 90th Anniversary Party, multiple special events, thousands of meals prepared and served to the hungry in our city, tutoring of middle school students, and much, MUCH more, I offer my most sincere thank you on behalf of the church staff and congregational board.

In addition, we are extremely grateful for your continued financial gifts to the church. For our members who are struggling financially, we recognize your giving has been sacrificial, and we are humbled by the faith and honor your gift bestows on the church. For those of you who may be less acutely impacted by our nation’s economic challenges, we are grateful when you have fulfilled your pledge, sometimes giving beyond your commitment, with such generous (and sometimes anonymous) compassion and love.

We know many worthy organizations beg for help, and we thank you with deep appreciation for all the times you have supported our church. Each contribution is important, each is valued, and we thank you with hearts full of gratitude.

Upcoming Events for Youth

Small Groups

Chi Rho – Small groups for Chi Rho students meet on Thursday nights. The groups involve a commitment to meet every week to read scripture, discuss and have fun. Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org.

CYF – Every first and third Tuesday, a CYF group will gather for ice cream and honesty. This is an excellent time to explore spiritual issues and topics with friends and enjoy frozen yogurt or ice cream on Brandon's tab! Contact Brandon Winstead, brandonw@cccckc.org.

First Tuesday 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Mochi-yo Ice Cream, 4535 W. 119th Street, Leawood.

Third Tuesday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., TCBY, 6966 Mission Road, Prairie Village.

CYF & Chi Rho Winter Retreat, Feb.18-20, 2011

CYF and Chi Rho Youth Winter Retreat is at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Chi Rho and CYF will have their own separate programming including games, worship, and growing community! Cost: \$50. RSVP to Heather Rotter by Jan. 30 at heatherr@cccckc.org.

Parent/Son Workshop:

Sun., Feb. 13, noon-3:30 p.m.

Save the date for this workshop for 4th-6th grade boys, along with a parent. This is an opportunity to jointly explore age-appropriate issues related to sexuality. Exploring these topics together promotes open communication between boys and their parents. Presenters from the Education Programs of Planned Parenthood will lead us in discussions and activities. Cost is \$20/pair. Make reservations with Heather Rotter at heatherr@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

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 or Steve Mason stevem@cccckc.org for more information.

New Members



J.J. Jones and Kevin Briggs
New Member Host: Shirley Hansell

Infant Dedications



Olivia Lynn Knighton with her parents Philip and Erin Knighton



Lucas Andrew Bates with his parents Douglas Bates and Tamara Peterson and big sister Ava.



Journey Together

by Rev. Chuck Murphy, Minister of Congregational Care



I must confess I'm a nut about manger scenes. I first experienced the Christmas spirit this year when I saw the manger scenes from other countries that decorate The Well. I went home, got ours out and began going through them bringing back memories of where and from whom they came. Each manger scene has its own story including culture of origination and it honors the Christian tradition as taught in their native land. My favorites are the ones we have from Alaska with igloos as mangers and native peoples and animals that we purchased from the store in Sitka

where the scenes are hand crafted. The differing persona from the different images tells the story of many peoples around the world who have made the journey to the holy site.

I often wonder about those at the original manger scene, what they may have gone through to reach that sacred place. Mary must have had to overcome many difficulties when her world turned suddenly upside down when she found she was with child. How Joseph may have felt the moment Mary told him, and the child was not his! It was one of many obstacles the two of them faced during their long journey to Bethlehem. The Magi must have had much angst as they traveled hundreds of miles through dangerous terrain following something they witnessed in the heavens. And, life must have been extremely difficult, beyond what I can understand, for the outcast shepherds. Many would have doubted their angelic vision let alone believing in it themselves and being able to witness their vision to others.

Different peoples, yes, with different journeys. All faced hardships – poverty, starvation, illness, rejection, loss in many ways. Yet, none were alone in their journey. Mary and Joseph had each other. The Magi traveled with their caravan. The shepherds depended on one another to care for their flocks. Each journeyed with others who understood them and respected their story. In each manger scene, those who were there were there with others who shared their distress and their hardships. And, as they journeyed together through their challenges, they discovered *Immanuel* – somehow God was with them.

Our stories, like their stories, will reflect the faith to face hardships when we embark on a journey together. Together, with others who know and respect our stories, we can journey through our difficult times. And, as we journey together, we, too, will experience Immanuel, knowing for certain that God is with us.

Chuck

Children and Families

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 Rev. 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.

New Yoga Class

Beginning Thurs., Jan. 13, Susan Garner will offer an evening yoga class for anyone interested in doing yoga but who works during the day. The class will be held in the Solarium from 6:00-7:15 p.m. and will be a beginner/intermediate class. It will focus on breathing, stretching, and learning basic yoga poses. Mats and all other props will be provided. Wear comfortable clothing and be ready to experience the ancient practice of relaxing the mind and strengthening the body through yoga. If you have any questions, please call Susan at 816-822-7194 (home) or 913-302-5318 (cell). Please call Mary Margaret House at the church to register for the class.

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Our Church Family Sympathy

MARY ELIZABETH "BETH" JONES passed away Nov. 2. There was a Celebration of Her Life in San Diego on Nov. 7. Graveside services were Dec. 12 at Johnson County Memorial Gardens. She is survived by her children, Cary W. Jones, III, Janet Bishop, and Nancy Fritz.

Memorials

Mary Anne Hess

John & Erma Hess
Arthur Robinson, MD
Nancy Ward
Tom & Sharon Van Dyke

Beth Jones

Erma & John Hess

Paul Albert Jordan and Virginia Tanzey Jordan

Dorothy Jordan O'Sullivan

Chancel Choir

James Rawlings

Jet Rawlings

Music Fund

Isabel Buehler

Jonna & Dale Hunter
Bobbie Vanice

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Rev. Carla Aday
Senior Associate Minister

Rev. David Diebold
Minister of Music

Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn
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