



VOLUME 88 · NUMBER 24

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.*

Join Us this Advent Season

Churchwide Caroling Party and Cookies with Santa

Sunday, Dec. 7

4:00-5:00 p.m., Parlor – Bring your children and grandchildren to visit Santa, decorate cookies and make reindeer food.

5:00 p.m. – Get into the spirit of the Christmas season by joining us to spread musical cheer throughout our church neighborhood. Chili supper, games for the children, warm drinks by Dave the Coffee Guy.

Christmas Music for Organ and Brass

Tues., Dec. 9
David Diebold and the Kansas City Brass present a traditional concert featuring seasonal favorites at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Chancel Choir Cantata – 11:00 a.m., Dec. 14, Sanctuary

The Chancel Choir will present *Cantata 191* – “*Gloria in excelsis Deo*” by Johann Sebastian Bach at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Christmas Pageant

Sun., Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary. Presented by children’s and student music.

Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert

10:00 a.m., Dec. 21, Sanctuary

Join us for a program of Christmas music from around the world.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wed., 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 p.m. – Traditional candlelight service.

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

One Worship Service on Sun., Dec. 28

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 28, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. No Sunday School classes will meet. Child care will be available.

Advent Sermon Series: Where Are You Christmas?



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. 30 – Part 1: Why Can’t I Find You? Luke 21: 34-36

Dec. 7 – Part 2: Why Have You Gone Away?

Romans 13: 11-14

Dec. 14 – Part 3: Where Is the Laughter?

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18; 23-24

Dec. 21 – Part 4: Why Can’t I Hear the Music Play?

Luke 2: 16-20



Tour of Our PartNerShip Area

The Honorable Kay Barnes and Bobbi Baker, with the Northeast Chamber of Commerce, narrated a tour of northeast Kansas City on Sat., Nov. 8. About 50 members of our congregation participated in the tour, which featured the agencies with which our congregation partners through our PartNerShip Initiative: Della Lamb Community Services, Newhouse, Sheffield Place and Micah Ministries. The tour also included landmarks and places of interest in the Northeast neighborhood.



Barbara George, Kay Barnes and Bobbi Baker

The tour was organized by Esther Giffen with assistance from Barbara George, Sally Murguía and Lance Jessee.

Sign Up for 2015 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO.

The 2015 camp will be Aug. 1-8. For many years, families and individuals from our congregation have gathered for a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a newly remodeled lodge with lovely mountain views and enjoys the home-cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. If you don't like to camp but you love the mountains, this is the place for you.



A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Pick up a form in the church office or print a form by going online to <http://tinyurl.com/camp2015>. Cost is \$1,650 for a private room (\$1,550 if paid in full by Dec. 1); \$350 for a bunk room (\$300 if paid in full by Dec. 1). Food and activity fee of \$80 per person. Or contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Stockings for Micah Ministry

Make Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! You, your family, Sunday school class or small group can purchase pairs of socks from the church at a cost of \$9/12 pack or .75 per pair, then purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. To sign up your group and purchase socks, contact Jason Ashley at jasona@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917. Each stocking should be filled with items that can be used by either men or women such as small sized toiletries including shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, and washcloth, and tie closed with a ribbon. Filled stockings should be delivered to church no later than Sun., Dec. 21.



Lunch and Learn: Holiday Music

Join us Tues., Dec. 16, as the Shawnee Mission East High School Chamber Singers present a program of holiday music. 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. \$10 includes lunch.

Everyone welcome. RSVP to Mary Margaret House or 816-333-4917.





A Vibrant Church, A Vibrant Life

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Paul Nixon, in his book, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, argues that the churches in America today are dying because we have become too comfortable. He picks on pastors mostly. He says that preachers too often avoid challenging themselves. These shepherds of the church no longer have the desire necessary to move a congregation toward greatness, toward new life, toward vitality.

Nixon's premise is simple: "I believe God invites every (congregation) to thrive."

In Jeremiah 23 the prophet looks out at the burnt landscape of what had been a strong and mighty nation and realizes that God still wants them to thrive. God declares through the prophet, "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply."

God did not lose hope in God's flock. Today God looks at the church and that same hope burns deep within the heart of heaven.

Go back in time with me to 1920, to a meeting of about 75 people in Brookside. They wanted to start a church. They had no building. They had no money. They had no pastor. They had just one thing: a vision of a church that could thrive if it gave itself to the work of God, the love of God and the love of neighbor. That group of folks was more than willing to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in order to create a place where grace would be spoken.

The churches that learn to thrive in his new era will be the ones that are willing to dream with God. What about you and your life? Is there something in your world that feels awful, looks endlessly hopeless? I have good news for you. God looks out over the barrenness of your life and expects not despair, not dullness, but life, excitement and more. Someone said, "Faith believes that with God we are never helpless victims."

Our church and your life can experience a renewed sense of hope when we are willing to do whatever it takes to trust in the power of God and the love of each other.

Grace and peace to you,

New Member Sunday on December 7

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is Dec. 7. Contact Paul Cutelli at 816-333-4917 or paulc@cccckc.org for more information.

Worship with us!

Service Times: 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Nov. 23

Making God Transparent
Matthew 25:31-46
Rev. Carla Aday preaching

**Advent Sermon Series:
Where Are You Christmas?**

Nov. 30

Part 1: Why Can't I Find You?
Luke 21: 34-36

Dec. 7

Part 2: Why Have You Gone Away?
Romans 13: 11-14

Dec. 14

Part 3: Where Is the Laughter?
I Thessalonians 5: 16-18; 23-24

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

The Well in the Parlor

Stop by the Parlor on Sun., Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. to peruse featured items from The Well, our book and gift stop. Lovely children's Christmas books, Advent devotional books and more will be available. Don't miss this opportunity to Christmas shop while supporting a good cause. All purchases at The Well benefit Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to people around the world.



You can also 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.amazon.com and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.



Year round, the Well is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rose Garden Memorial Bricks Available

Honor your loved ones with an engraved memorial brick in the Rose Garden pathway. In addition to inurnment in the Columbarium or the scattering of ashes in the Rose Garden, engraved memorial bricks are available to past and present members and their immediate families. Price is \$350 each and includes brick, imprinting and placement. Contact Joe Walker at 816-333-4917 or joew@cccckc.org for more information.



November Collection Connection: Children's Books

Please donate used or new children's books on any topic (fiction or non-fiction) for 1st through 5th graders. The books will help create a library at the Northeast Community Center.

Virginia Reed Food Drive

We have three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community:

1. Bring canned goods to our donation points in the parlor and the chapel, and at the doors any time.
2. Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org).
3. Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope "food drive." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship or leave them in the office.

Your gifts support the five area food pantries that our church supports: Community Christian Church, Alta Vista Christian Church, First Christian Church, Della Lamb Community Services and Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

Save the Date: The Holy Land – In the Footsteps of Jesus

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold and Scott Fuller as they travel to the Holy Land Oct. 28-Nov. 6, 2015. Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable fellowship. Stops include Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Watch for details on registering for the trip.



A Busy Time of Year

By Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



It is a busy time of year! Our Children's Ministry Team has been hard at work planning the many exciting activities we have coming up.

Advent in Advance is THIS Sunday, Nov. 23. Brook Howard, a member of our Children's Ministry Team, is the coordinator for this year's event. She has been doing incredible work to make this event extra special for all of our families. We are really excited about the new projects that Brook has created!

Along with our tradition of making the wooden block nativity, this year, you'll have the opportunity to make a "Cookies For Santa" keepsake plate and a jar of cookie mix so you're ready for the big night! I cannot wait to see everyone's excitement as they put together crafts for the holiday season.

A few weeks following we will be having Cookies with Santa in the parlor prior to the church caroling party on Sun., Dec. 7. During Cookies with Santa, children will have a FREE photo taken with Santa. They'll get to exercise their creativity at a cookie decorating station and make some yummy food to share with Santa's reindeer on Christmas Eve. After this fun, children and their families can gather in the Social Hall for chili, neighborhood caroling, and warm drinks from Dave the Coffee Guy!

The entire congregation is invited to join us for the "Christmas Pageant and Praise" on Sun., Dec. 14, at 4:30 p.m. The children will be singing songs, participating in the Nativity story, and adults will get to join us for a sing-a-long!

Then the night we all anticipate— Christmas Eve! Join us for the Family Worship at 5:30 p.m., as we gather all the little angels and shepherds to prepare for Christ's birth.

It's the time of year that can feel exhausting and exciting all at the same time. I hope that we each can take a few minutes every day to remember what this season is truly all about and be thankful for this community of faith.

Happy Holidays,

Presentation on Windows of Kansas City

On Sunday morning, Dec. 7, Bruce Mathews, Kansas City photographer and author of *Windows of Kansas City: As Art, History and Inspiration*, will speak at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. He will sign books in the Parlor between services and after the 11:00 a.m. service. The books are available in The Well and additional copies will be available at the signing.

Mission Team Opportunities

We will be sending a mission team to Moore, OK, on Apr. 19-24, 2015, to assist in tornado recovery and rebuilding efforts. A tornado devastated Moore and adjacent areas on May 20, 2013. Stay tuned for further information about how to sign up for the team.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Country Club Christian Church Mission Trip Team that works to establish and maintain partnerships to provide mission teams regionally, nationally, and internationally, please contact Betsy Wilson at betcwilsonkcc@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Student Events

Student Christmas Parties

Middle School – Sat., Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m. It's time to celebrate the season with an ice skating Christmas Party. Make sure to dress warm. We will eat lunch in the Social Hall at 11:30 a.m. before heading out for an afternoon of ice skating. We should return to church at 3:15 p.m. for pickup. Bring friends to this fun-filled event. The more the merrier! Each participant needs to bring a signed permission slip to the event. RSVP to Allie Cobb, Director of Student Ministries, at 816-333-4917, ext. 250 or alliec@cccckc.org.

High School – Sat., Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m. The Brumitts have generously offered to host this year's party at their house! Please meet at the church by 4:30 p.m. and we will drive over together or ask Allie Cobb for directions if you wish to drive yourself. We should arrive back at the church around 7:30 p.m. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10.00 or less) to play "White Elephant." We will have an evening filled with food, fun, and games! Bring a friend! The more the merrier! Please RSVP to Allie Cobb by Nov. 30 at alliec@cccckc.com for a final head count. Each participant needs to bring a signed permission slip to the event.

Student Group

Sun., Nov. 23 – Movie Night. 5:00-7:00 p.m. Middle and high school students please meet in the Youth Center (Rm. 205) at 5:00 p.m. for pizza and popcorn. We will watch "The Fault in Our Stars." Please be here promptly at 5:00 p.m. to allow enough time to watch the movie.

Sun., Nov. 30 – No Student Group. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sun., Dec. 7 – 5:00 p.m. Dress warm and dust off your vocal cords. We will be joining in on the All Church Caroling Party.

Sun., Dec. 14 – Enjoy the Christmas pageant at 4:30 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 21 – Have a Merry Christmas! No Youth Group.

Sun., Dec. 28 – Happy New Year! No Youth Group.

Student Poinsettia Sale

Purchase a poinsettia from Country Club Christian Church youth Sun., Nov. 23 and 30 in the parlor. Full payment must be received with all orders. Plants will be available for pickup from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 6, and Sun., Dec. 7, at the church. The poinsettias cost \$13 for a 6-inch plant, \$19 for an 8-inch plant, and \$25 for a 10-inch plant. Proceeds benefit youth mission trip scholarship fund.

Service Hours Opportunities

Student Ministry Poinsettia Sale – We need volunteers on Sun., Nov. 23, before and after all three services; 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m., to sit at the poinsettia table in the parlor to answer questions, and take orders. We would love your help with this fundraising project. Please contact Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org if you are interested. We will help on either Friday evening, Dec. 5 or Saturday morning, Dec. 6, to drive to Kearny, MO to pick up poinsettias. We need 2-3 truck/SUVs and drivers. Please let Allie Cobb know if you can help.

Advent in Advance – Sun., Nov. 23, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Are you looking for a fun volunteer opportunity? Children's Ministry would love your help with Advent in Advance. We are looking for volunteers to help with the craft stations and clean up. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lindsay Howes at lindsayh@cccckc.org.

Cookies with Santa – Sun., Dec. 7, 3:30-5:00 p.m. We need help with setup and decorating cookies. Please contact Lindsay Howes if you would like to volunteer.



We've Got Problems

Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Youth and Families



I got an email today from Jere Hanney. He's been serving in our Children's Ministry as a Sunday School teacher this year. It's not unusual to get an email from volunteers or staff on a Monday morning about an issue that surfaced on Sundays or some kind of event that happened that requires creating a procedure in the event it happens again. You know the drill...Mondays... problems...fix them.

Jere sent Lindsay and me one of those emails. Here's part of what he said: "Also, if possible we might want to consider arranging the room for three tables. Lately there have been enough kids that they can barely crowd around the two tables..."

WAHOO!!!! That's my response to that problem. How cool is that!? That's a great email to open up on a Monday!

My reply to Jere was something in the form of "WAHOO!!" only I expanded my thoughts a little more—but just a little. He agreed when he replied, "These truly are the right sort of challenges to have to deal with!"

A couple of weeks ago, Lindsay Howes and I sat down in her office to talk about a handful of different things. One was room configurations and how we can split up the 3 and 4 year old class on Sunday...which rooms could we use...how many more volunteers would that mean on Sunday mornings...because IT IS CROWDED!!!! Again, another great problem to have!

This past Sunday, I taught our 4th and 5th grade Sunday School class. It's a great group of tweens with more energy than you or I will ever have again. They're always excited when they get in the room. We always play a game that relates to their lesson that day. I'm pretty sure the game is their favorite part. Even after they go crazy playing games that involve throwing tennis balls in buckets or hitting them with frisbees, they never fail to amaze me with their depth. They ask the greatest questions and think about the biggest concepts. At 9 and 10 years old, they are thinking more deeply about their faith than many adults. Each time I leave their classroom, I'm reminded why I do what I do...and why problems like crowded classrooms are the best problems to have.

I'm speaking for Jere right now...but I bet he thinks the same thing.

Monica

Children and Families

Club Kids

Nov. 23 and Nov. 30 – No Club Kids.

Dec. 7 – **Cookies with Santa and All-Church Caroling Party.** Join your parents for these family activities.

Dec. 14 – **Christmas Pageant.** 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary.

Advent in Advance

Sun., Nov. 23, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Make plans to attend this free Advent workshop for children birth through 5th grade in the Social Hall. Enjoy a light lunch and make-n-take session to prepare your family and home for the Advent season. You can make a wood block nativity set (start or add to yours), a cookies for Santa keepsake plate, and other fun activities to help us celebrate Advent.

Christmas Pageant

Sun., Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m. Presented by children's and student music. Contact Michael Patch, Director of Children's and Student Music, for more information at michaelp@cccckc.org.

Sunday School Apps

Parents please check out the new *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* app to help you reinforce our Sunday lessons.

- For iPhones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-apple> to download the app.
- For Android phones, go to <http://tinyurl.com/curriculum-android>.

Through *Grow! Proclaim and Serve* your child will hear the Bible story, apply the Bible message, and then live out the message in their lives in concrete and age-appropriate ways. Go to <http://www.growproclaimserve.com/parents.html> to learn more about the curriculum.

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Our Church Family

In Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the families and friends of:

Evans Folger
Betty Major
Pamela Burke

Memorials

Alyce King

Gloria McLerran

Betty Major

Ann Brabson

Bill & Missy Eubank

Dorothy & Harvey Ray

John & Erma Hess

Carty & Peggy Johannsen

Maureen McGinty

Gloria McLerran

John & Martha Jane Stewart

Norma Tilton

Harvey Ray

Bill, Jan & Curt Daniels

Greg & Nancy Lear

Joan James

Gloria McLerran

Ken & Rosemary Young

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