



# 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.*

## Christmas Offering: Feeding the Hungry

Each year, a special Christmas Offering provides our congregation an opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives of others. This season's outreach theme, *Feeding the Hungry*, describes the activities of two organizations that the Outreach Council has selected to be recipients of this year's Christmas offering: Global Ministries and the United Church of Christ in Mozambique's Goigoi Farm Development Project, and locally Micah Ministries.

**The Goigoi Farm Development Project** will serve as a source of food and employment for the people in the community. It is expected to provide food for 200-250 families whose current food situation is tenuous at best, with families

currently scraping out an existence which is heavily impacted by malnutrition and hunger.

**Micah Ministries.** Most of our congregation is familiar with the work that Micah Ministries does to feed people in the Northeast area of Kansas City, but some may not realize that the number of people needing food assistance has grown. Micah is now serving over 900 plates of food every Monday. Country Club Christian Church has been supporting Micah Ministries since 2002, and our continued support is vital if those who depend on the ministry are to be served.

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

## Worship with Us This Advent Season

### Chancel Choir Presents *Gloria*

Join us Sun., Dec. 16, at 11:00 when the Chancel Choir and Kansas City Brass will present K. Lee Scott's *Gloria*. This work was composed in 2011 and is scored for choir, brass, percussion and organ. Mr. Scott's composition captures both the joy and the mysticism of this ancient text: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth."



### Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 23

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

### Christmas Music for Organ and Brass Mon., Dec. 17

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 Mon., Dec. 24

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



## Invite a Friend Sunday on Sunday, December 16

Not sure what to get that special friend for Christmas? Give them the gift of music by inviting them to join you for a special worship experience. Sun., Dec. 16 offers something for everyone. The Chancel Choir's Christmas cantata, K. Lee Scott's Gloria, will be featured during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, featuring soloists, brass percussion and organ. Dr. Glen Miles' sermon series *God in the Manger: Seeing God in Surprising Places*, continues with Part 3: In Homeless Wanderers. The sanctuary will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, and excitement and anticipation will be in the air.

Here's what we are asking you to do:

1. Take the invitation that will be inserted in your worship bulletin on Sun., Dec. 9, with you when you leave worship, and give it to someone who you think would come to worship on Dec. 16. If you need more than one, please take as many as you will distribute.
2. Watch your email for an invitation you can send to a friend, and forward it with a personal note inviting them to join you.
3. Share the invitation on the church's Facebook page on your own Facebook profile. Simply go to the church's page, find the invitation, and click "share" at the bottom.

## Seeing God on Facebook and Twitter

In conjunction with Glen's Advent sermon series *God in the Manger: Seeing God in Surprising Places* we are asking you to share either photos or stories on Facebook or Twitter about where you've experienced God in a surprising place.

Here's how:

- For Facebook, go to the Church's page. You will see a box that says "Post" in which you can write and share a photo. Or on your own timeline, share your photo or story and tag the church by typing @Country Club Christian Church. Facebook should autofill the church in your post.
- For Twitter: Type your story or link your photo, and mention the church by typing @cccckc. (Remember to keep it under 140 characters!)

Everyone who participates in this Advent activity on Facebook or Twitter will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate, so start posting and tweeting today!

## Reminder: One Worship Service Only on Sun., Dec. 30

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 30, 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. 6.

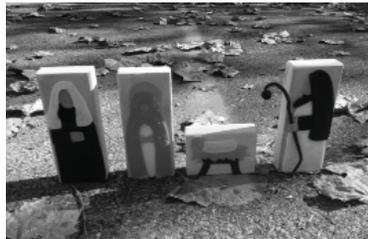
### Advent Sermon Series:

### God in the Manger: Seeing God in Surprising Places

Dec. 9 – Part 2: In an Old Man  
*Luke 1: 57-66; Luke 1: 67-80*

Dec. 16 – Part 3: In Homeless Wanderers  
*Luke 2: 1-15*

Dec. 23 – Part 4: In a Baby  
*Luke 2: 16-20*



## Infant Dedications on December 2



Hudson Scott Smalley with parents Laura and Scott Smalley



Braylen Scott Jennings with parents Quentin and Melissa Jennings



## Coffee with Santa

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



I met Santa years ago. After working late at one of the malls on a Saturday night he came to worship.

After the service I invited him for a cup of coffee in the Social Hall. I asked him how things were going. He told me about a little girl who had come to see him in the mall. As she climbed up on to his lap he could see that she was crying. “Now, now,” he said, “It’s okay. Just tell me what you want for Christmas.” This little girl, a seven-year-old, was the picture of perfection. Her hair was wonderfully styled. Her clothes were

obviously very expensive and they fit just perfectly so. She looked like she had just walked out of the Nordstrom catalogue. Again Santa asked, “Please tell me what you would like me to bring you for Christmas.” She answered, “But Santa,” the tears were still in her eyes, “You don’t understand. I already have everything. I HAVE everything. Now I won’t get Christmas.”

This girl may not realize it but she is longing for the deep truth that is revealed on Christmas Day. Her tears of sadness will someday be tears of joy when she discovers that what she really wants for Christmas is something you cannot buy at the mall. It isn’t something you can order online or find in a case at the jewelry store. Her tears are a symbol of something new happening in her life.

She has discovered the desire for what Henri Nouwen calls the VACARE DEO, room for God. There may be sadness and sorrow but in her yearning for something more she will find the VACARE DEO, space for the Lord.

I suspect her tears are shared by many of us. I love Christmas and all of the gift giving and partying and running to and fro but what I really want, what I desire more than anything else, is a sacred and holy reminder that God is present in my life.

How do we find that holiness? Almost always it comes in our ability to serve and love those around us. Jean Val Jean sang about this very thing in the musical *Les Miserables*. “To love another person is to see the face of God.”

This year go to the parties and go shopping and go do whatever you do at Christmas and then find a minute to think of the ones you love. Make room for that moment and in that mystical place, look deeply into the face of God.

Grace and peace to you,

## In the Footsteps of Paul

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinholt and Scott Fuller as they travel to Greece and the Greek Isles Oct. 8-18, 2013.

Enjoy great food, comprehensive sightseeing and memorable



fellowship. For more information, please contact Glen at [glenm@cccckc.org](mailto:glenm@cccckc.org) or Lauren at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org). Registration packets are available in Lauren’s office. The deadline for reservations is Feb. 1, 2013.

## Worship with us!

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

**Advent Series  
God in the Manger: Seeing God  
in Surprising Places**

**Dec. 9**

Part 2 – In an Old Man

*Luke 1: 57-66*

*Luke 1: 67-80*

**Dec. 16**

Part 3 — In Homeless Wanderers

*Luke 2: 1-15*

**Dec. 23**

Part 4 – In a Baby

*Luke 2: 16-20*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Sign Up for 2013 Christian Community Camp

Sign ups have begun for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2013 camp will be Aug. 3-10, 2013. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,500 for a private room; \$250 for the bunk room.

Each private room sleeps a maximum of six people. A bunkroom contains all bunks and sleeps eight. Food and activity fee of \$75 per person. For more information, contact Jane Fletcher at [jane@cccckc.org](mailto:jane@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.



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## 2013 Mission Trip to Joplin

Country Club Christian Church will be sending a mission team to Joplin, MO, again next year. Mark your calendars for May 5-11, 2013. To sign up or for more information, contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com). The team will continue to help with the recovery following the 2011 tornado.



2012 Mission Team

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## Canned Yoga Class



Tone up with the Canned Yoga Class on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Bring two 16 oz. cans of vegetables or fruit to use as weights for a class which focuses on poses for toning muscles, especially upper arms. At the end of each month, the canned goods will be donated to the Virginia Reed Food Drive. Join this fun class to stretch, tone your muscles, and enjoy a great work-out for a great cause. Located in the Solarium (Rm. 309). \$10 per class. Open to members, non-members, and all faiths.

## Fill Stockings for Micah Ministry

There's still time to make Christmas stockings for the guests of Micah Ministry. Our goal is to distribute over 600 Christmas stockings. Purchase pairs of men's tube socks size 6-12 and fill 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. 16. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our friends at Independence Boulevard Christian Church's Micah Ministry! Please contact Jane Fletcher with questions. at 816-333-4917, ext. 228.

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## Follow Us on Facebook

Are you a fan of Country Club Christian Church on Facebook? The church's Facebook page includes photos, information and an option for you to leave messages. You can sign up to be a follower if you have a Facebook account. If you don't have an account, you can create a free one. The church already has more than 500 people following us on Facebook. Join the fun. Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).



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## Church Directory Supplements

Stop by the table in the Parlor to pick up your copy of the church directory supplement. The supplement includes photos of newer members as well as address and phone updates for the entire membership. This is an addition to the 2009 directory and can be affixed inside the back cover. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Weinhold at [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).



## Please Accept My Invitation

by Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth



It's something I witness almost weekly: It's a Sunday morning and a visitor walks through the door and is greeted by someone wearing a "Greeter" badge offering a warm handshake. Then, after a quick double-take, the visitor spots their co-worker (or neighbor, friend or gym partner). "I had no idea you went to this church," the visitor shouts. In fact, one of our newest families realized a few months into their time here that they knew several church members through work and civic connections. Week after week they kept running in to familiar faces in the parlor. While those connections are certainly part of the reason

they decided to join the church, I wonder if they would have perhaps visited years ago if they'd only known of the church connection.

Several well-meaning church members have told me that this congregation just isn't the type that invites others to church. Why is that, I wonder? Rather than trying to respond to the claim (which I don't agree with, by the way), I'd like to offer a slightly different take.

When you invite someone to church (or Faithbook, the Brass Concert, a Book by Book lecture, etc.) what you are really doing is offering that person a chance to get to know you better; to get to know you better as a friend, as a co-worker, as a neighbor. The church is a part of your life. It is where you go to feed your soul, to ensure that your children know it's okay to question. It is where you go to be around like-minded folks. It is where you have your conscience stirred. It is where you go to feel at home. So, what you are doing when you invite someone to come to church with you is inviting them to experience what you experience in your spiritual home. It is an invitation to deepen a relationship, or maybe even start one.

The Church Growth, Worship and Music Councils would like to challenge you to take advantage of the multitude of opportunities here at church this Advent to invite someone you know to join you. Specifically, on Sun., Dec. 16, the Chancel Choir and Kansas City Brass will be presenting K. Lee Scott's *Gloria* during the 11:00 a.m. service. If history repeats, it will be a truly moving worship experience. Glen will also present part 3 of his sermon series, *God in the Manger: Seeing God in Surprising Places*.

Invite a friend to join you on the 16th, not because it's a gimmick or because we want a full house (although that would be great!). Invite someone you care about because you love this church and want to share a bit of yourself with that special someone. I promise you'll both be better for it.

## 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.

## Pathways to Learning in 2013



**Jan. 13, 20, 27** – Dr. Harold Washington from St. Paul School of Theology will teach a three part series on the prophet Jeremiah.

**March 3 and 10** – Dr. Molly Marshall, President of Central Baptist Seminary, will teach on an Easter theme.

Join us 9:55-10:55 a.m. in the Social Hall.

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## Upcoming Youth Events

### **CYF and Chi Rho Sunday Nights**

**5:30-7:30 p.m.**

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us on Sunday evenings. Each Sunday of the month focuses on a different path designed to help youth transform lives and relationships through spiritual growth, express God's love in tangible ways, and experience the life changing love of God through fellowship and worship. During months when there are five Sundays, we'll use that evening for planning and feedback.

### **CYF Christmas Party – Fri., Dec. 14**

Meet at Panera on the Plaza. Bring a white elephant gift. Then we will go to see "The Hobbit." RSVP to Justin at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org) by Dec. 12.

### **Chi Rho Christmas Party – Sun., Dec. 16**

After the 11:00 a.m. worship service, meet in the Youth Center for lunch and exchange of white elephant gifts. Then head to the Crown Center Ice Terrace to skate. We will be back at the church by 4:00 p.m.

**Sun., Dec. 23 and 30** – No Youth Group.

### **Spring Break Mission Trip**

All youth in grades 10-12 for the 2012-2013 school year are invited to participate in a mission trip to Nicaragua over spring break 2013. The dates are Mar. 16-23. The cost is \$990 per person. Anyone who is interested, please contact Justin Zeigler at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org).

### **Shopping at STUFF on December 10**

Get your holiday shopping started and help support our Youth Ministry at a FUNdraising party at



STUFF (316 W 63rd St. in Brookside) on Mon., Dec. 10, 5:00-6:30 p.m. A portion of all purchases that night benefit the youth. Snacks and beverages will be provided to assist in holiday cheer.

### **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. Existing bricks in the Rose Garden pathway will be used and can be purchased for an introductory price of \$250 each through Dec. 31, 2012. Beginning Jan. 1, 2013 the price will increase to \$350. Price includes brick, imprinting and placement. Contact 816-333-4917 for more information.



## Being in the Story

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



Recently our family enjoyed a holiday movie, *The Rise of the Guardians*. It was a fun way to relax and enjoy being entertained on an overly busy weekend. On the way home, to keep the peace in the car, I asked, “Which character would you be from the movie?” We each shared who we might be and why that character was appealing to us – had the most fun, had great powers, really made things happen, etc. Sharing how we saw each character kept us in the special moment we had experienced together. Since then I have been thinking about

this idea of which character would you be?

Truth be told, I am always looking at another’s life thinking what it must be like – how they feel. Are they happy? Do they want to change their life? What led them to this part? I also cross over into a little envy of another’s life at times – wishing I could be so together, caring, organized, whatever trait seems appealing but missing from me at that moment. And then in the midst of my mind running away with all these thoughts and projections, I hear a question that brings me back to a different way of looking at another’s life... “Where is the Holy in this story?”

As we enter into this season of Advent perhaps we should insert ourselves into the sacred story as a way to keep it fresh and new...as a way to see the Holy in this story. There is much mystery and majesty in the story of God coming to us, yet in its familiarity we may gloss over this earth shattering revelation of a love so deep it goes beyond life. Maybe instead of observing the story of the coming of the Christ child we need to stand in it. Judith Siqueira, *In God’s Image*, comments,

*“God’s story is revealed in our story in myriad and mysterious ways. Each of us is the pen with which God writes a fifth gospel.”*

All in all, the story of Christ and each of our stories intertwine in ways we may just be discovering. Yet be assured woven into each and every one is the love of the living God, continuing to enter into this world through each of us. May we all be filled this season with joy, hope, peace and love as we live out this miraculous story.

*Catherine*

## Children and Families

### Car Seat Parents – Moms’ Night of Service (and Fun)

**Thursday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.**

Moms with kids 6 and under are invited to come help stuff stockings for Micah Ministry for Christmas. Hosted at the home of Katie Cronin. Please contact Catherine for more information at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).

### Fountains of Faith: Christmas Dreams

**Sundays, December 2-23**

The movement of the Christmas story goes from angels and dreams to people and then from person to person for generations. The story still holds a place of wonder and power for us today. The true dream of Christmas is that Christmas is not a season but a way of life, a life lived with loving generosity and compassion, a life lived open to the possibility that God’s will can be made known to us in many ways. First through fifth graders will explore Christmas dreams through a variety of activities. Joins us for Sunday School 9:55-10:55 a.m.

### Club Kids

**Sunday, December 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

Dinner out at Ci Ci’s Pizza. Join us at 5:30 p.m. at church. We will quickly depart for dinner at Ci-Ci’s Pizza. Then return to church for holiday games, ending at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 (and arcade money if desired). Please RSVP to Catherine to ensure we have enough rides, at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).

**No Club Kids Dec. 23 and 30**

### No Sunday School on Dec. 30

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on Dec. 30. Worship at 10:30 a.m. Childcare will be available.

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Return Service Requested

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Karla Herrington Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Dr. Brian Mathias Associate Organist
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. Catherine Stark- Corn Minister to Children, Youth and Families	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communica- tions
Rev. Chuck Murphy Minister of Congrega- tional Care	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth
Mr. Justin Zeigler Minister to Youth	

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## Virginia Reed Food Drive on December 16

On Sun., Dec. 16, 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 baskets 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

LLOYD C. STARK passed away Nov. 28. He was the brother-in-law of Shirley Hansell. Private services were held.

## Congratulations

DOUG BATES and AMY CAULK were married Nov. 24 in the chapel, Dr. Glen Miles officiating.

## Memorials

### Janet Siler

Florence Asel  
John & Erma Hess  
Homesteaders Class  
Jacques & Joyce Bellasai  
Larry & Janet Henry

### Music Fund

### Janet Siler

June Turley