



VOLUME 87 · NUMBER 24

COUNTRY CLUB

# CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

## INSIDE

Do Not Let Your  
Hearts Be Troubled  
by Glen Miles  
~~~  
page 3

Restoration  
Update  
by John Clemmer  
~~~  
page 5

We Build a  
Canopy  
by Carla Aday  
~~~

*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

### Advent in Advance

Join other families for a make-n-take workshop on Sun., Nov. 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall to help your family prepare during this season of Advent.

### Breakfast with Santa

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m.-noon. See page 6 for details.

### Churchwide Caroling Party

Here we come a-caroling! Get into the spirit of the Christmas season by joining us to spread musical cheer throughout our church

neighborhood on Sun., Dec. 8, 5:00 p.m.. The entire congregation is invited to join in the fun. Meet in the Social Hall, then divide into teams to carol in the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Sign up in the Parlor or email Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org). RSVP appreciated.



### Chancel Choir Cantata – 11:00 a.m., Dec. 15, Sanctuary

The Chancel Choir will present *Magnificat* by Kansas City composer Mark Hayes with chamber orchestra.

### Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – 10:00 a.m., Dec. 22, Sanctuary

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

### Christmas Music for Organ and Brass – Mon., Dec. 16

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 – Tues., 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 preceding each candlelight service.

### Advent Sermon Series: A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens' well loved tale of transformation and redemption will guide us during this season of Advent. We will look at the primary characters and their basic traits, like Scrooge's greed and Tiny Tim's love, and see in them a reflection of our own strengths and faults.

**Dec. 1** – Marley's Ghost (Regret), *Luke 1:67-79*

**Dec. 8** – Bob Cratchit (Hope), *Isaiah 9:1-7*

**Dec 15** – Tiny Tim (Love), *1 John 4:13-16*

**Dec. 22** – Scrooge (Redemption), *Luke 1:39-56*



---

## Staff Transitions

**Administrative Staff Departure.** Jane Fletcher, a member of our administrative team for 25 years, resigned recently to accept a position with Harvest America, an organization working to combat the conditions of poverty that affect migrant and seasonal farmworkers, Hispanics, rural and all income-challenged families in Kansas. Jane was honored by the Personnel Committee for her 25 year commitment to Country Club Christian Church at a luncheon in early November. If you'd like to write Jane a note of congratulations on her new position, please send it to the church.

**Love Gift for Rev. Chuck Murphy.** The congregational board has established a Love Gift in honor of Rev. Chuck Murphy to thank him for his years of service to our congregation. If you would like to contribute, please mail your check to the church marked "Rev. Murphy Love Gift," or drop it in the offering tray on Sunday. We will hold a celebration of Rev. Murphy's ministry at a farewell reception on **Sun., Nov. 24, in the Parlor after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.** Please plan to come that day as we wish Chuck well.

**Search Underway for New Minister of Congregational Care.** Phil Love is leading a search committee to hire the next Minister of Congregational Care. The committee began meeting on Nov. 12. Members of the committee are: Committee members are Sally Nielsen, Bob Riggle, Howard Petrie, Jen Parker, Parker Hoffman, Stephanie Becker, Marilyn Dreas, and Randy Irey. "We realize how important this position is in our church, and appreciate the prayerful support of the congregation as we do our work," said Love.

**Josef Walker, Interim Minister of Congregational Care.** Joe will join the staff effective Dec. 1. Most recently, he was the Regional Minister, New Church Ministry for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas. He has extensive pastoral care experience with congregations in transition, shut-ins and persons in assisted living, hospital settings or hospice care, couples preparing for marriage, separated and divorced persons and families, and unemployed or under-employed persons living in poverty. His wife, Susan, is Director of Advancement and Community Engagement for the First Hand Foundation, an international not-for-profit providing health care for children living in poverty.



**Hayley Holt, Director of Youth Ministries.** Since Aug. 1, Hayley Holt has been serving as Country Club Christian Church's interim Director of Youth Ministries. We are excited to announce that, starting Nov. 11, Hayley became full-time in the same position. Hayley will be continuing with her previous responsibilities and will be assisting Monica Lewis as the ministries to children, youth, and families continue their energizing transitions. Please pray for Hayley as well as our children and youth during these months of transition.



## Invite a Friend on Dec. 15

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. 15 offers something for everyone. The Chancel Choir's Christmas cantata, *Magnificat* by Kansas City composer Mark Hayes with chamber orchestra, will be featured during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Dr. Glen Miles' sermon series *A Christmas Carol*, continues with Part 3: Tiny Tim (Love). The sanctuary will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, and excitement and anticipation will be in the air. As an added perk, anyone who invites a friend to church (and signs in on the friendship register) will be entered in a drawing to win rights to a reserved, front-row parking space in the chapel lot!

## The Well in the Parlor

Stop by the Parlor on Sun., Dec. 8 to peruse featured items from The Well, our book and gift stop. Lovely children's Christmas books and jewelry will be available, as well as the return of cross pendants crafted to look like the iconic cross which hangs in our sanctuary chancel. Limited quantities available in sterling silver and 10 carat gold. (14 karat gold available by special order.) Don't miss this opportunity to Christmas shop while supporting a good cause. All purchases at The Well benefits Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples around the world. 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.



## Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” There was much going on in their lives and his, too. For all we know, Jesus may have been saying those words to them just so he could hear them out loud himself. They were living in troubling times. The Roman occupation was getting tougher and tougher. The local religious leaders were growing tired of Jesus and his teaching. Everything was changing. A feeling of fear seemed to be waiting at every corner.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled,” Jesus said and then he told his followers, “Believe in God.”

We modern-day Christians see that word “believe” and we tend to think it is referring to a list of theological tenets that we are required to accept. Before you know it, we are arguing about whether the Virgin Birth was literally true or we get caught up in worthless arguments about who gets into heaven and who gets left behind.

When Jesus used the word, though, he meant something more like trust. It is like he was saying, “Trust in the ways of God. Learn to live your life as though the only thing that matters in this world is how you love and receive love.”

Learning to trust means that we must learn to let go of our fears. This is never easy. Richard Rohr has become one of my favorite theologians. In his book, *Everything Belongs*, he helps us with this idea,

“The fears that assault us are mostly simple anxieties about social skills, about intimacy, about likeableness, or about performance. We need not give emotional food or charge to these fears or become attached to them. We don’t even have to shame ourselves for having these fears. Simply ask your fears, ‘What are you trying to teach me?’ Some say that FEAR is merely an acronym for ‘False Evidence Appearing Real.’ ”

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God...”

Grace and peace to you,

### Clergy Home Phone Numbers

Please update your records with these current phone numbers.

Glen Miles – 913-961-7623

Carla Aday – 816-363-8804

Monica Lewis – 913-954-9298

### Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

The church offices will be closed on Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 28-29, for Thanksgiving.

## Worship with us!

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

**Upcoming Sermon Series  
Unstoppable: Following in the  
Footsteps of Paul**

**Nov. 24**

Part 6: Thessalonica,  
*1 Thessalonians 1:2-10*

**Advent Sermon Series  
A Christmas Carol**

**Dec. 1**

Part 1: Marley’s Ghost (Regret)  
*Luke 1:67-79*

---

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Operation Santa Claus Setup

On Dec. 9-12, Della Lamb Community Services needs workers to help set up for Operation Santa Claus. Food supplies for Christmas dinners and toys for children will need to be arranged and organized in the gym of Della Lamb. Help is needed for the morning shifts from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon shifts from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. that Monday through Thursday. Helpers could choose any of these times or dates. Della Lamb Community Services is located at 500 Woodland Ave., KCMO 64106. Contact Linda Rives (therivesaz6@gmail.com) for more informations.



## Espresso Service

**9:00-9:45 a.m. Sundays**

This Sunday, stick around after worship and join Glen and the other clergy in the Parlor for a cup of coffee and fellowship. Dave, the coffee guy, will be back by popular demand several times this fall. Watch for Dave, his cart and his fancy coffee supplies to be here on Dec. 15. He also be making one other special holiday appearance at the caroling party on Dec. 8.



---

## Virginia Reed Food Drive on December 15

On Sun., Dec. 15, 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."

---

## Tax Law Change for Charitable Giving

There is a tax law change scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 2014. Currently most qualified charitable distributions from a traditional IRA by individuals 70½ or older to an eligible charitable organization reduce the amount of federal income taxes an individual pays. The change in law will eliminate this tax benefit. Qualified gifts until Dec. 31, 2013 still qualify for the tax benefit. The church recommends that you consult a tax professional or attorney for further information about this change and its possible impact on your giving. Country Club Christian Church appreciates your generous support now and in the future. The business office is always glad to assist to answer general questions about giving to the church.

---

## The Well Book Corner

Do you need books for your children or grandchildren? Do you need a Bible to use in your Bible study? Would you like to read a book mentioned in a sermon or a minister's column in *The Christian*? Then visit The Well, our book and gift store on the ground floor of the church.



The Well also features gifts for everyone, including wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world. Shoppers will find jewelry, scarves, CDs and handmade items. The proceeds go to Week of Compassion, which provides emergency disaster relief to peoples 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.ccckc.org](http://www.ccckc.org) and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.

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.



## Restoration Update

by John Clemmer, Business Administrator



The renovation project at the church is continuing and making significant progress toward completion. As you may recall, there were three components of the project –

1. The repair and restoration of the structure, bell tower, and 125 finials and decorative elements.
2. The removal of the discolored stain glass window covers and their replacement with new tempered glass covers.
3. Organ repairs including repairs to the console and some sections of the organ pipes.

The renovation work on the building is approximately 80 percent complete. The crews from C&M Restoration will continue to work through the winter as weather permits. The tall finials on the bell tower will be one of the final aspects of the project and will be done in the spring. The cleaning of the building is complete and most of the coating and masonry repairs are done.

The installation of the new glass on the 41 stained glass windows in the church building and chapel is complete. In addition, the crew washed the interior and exterior of the windows.

By the time you read this, the work on the organ should be complete. The console has been updated and is back in place. Final detail work is now being done on some of the pipes.

At the conclusion of the construction phase, new sidewalks will be installed in the front of the church. In addition there will be new landscaping. New decorative lighting for the front of the church highlighting the bell tower is also planned.

The completed project will be truly stunning when completed and something everyone associated with Country Club Christian Church can be proud of. We appreciate your tolerance of the small inconveniences the construction may have caused you. The church especially thanks you for your generous support that has made this project possible.

## Sign Up for 2014 Christian Community Camp

Sign up for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2014 camp will be Aug. 2-9. 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 desposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,550 for a private room (\$1,450 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. For more information, contact Rev. Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Nicaragua Mission Trip

A few spaces remain for our mission trip to Nicaragua on Feb. 23-Mar. 2, 2014. Our team will partner with the poorest of the poor to conduct medical clinics and assist with construction projects in a rural community. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org) for information.

---

## Youth News

### Youth Selling Poinsettias

Purchase a poinsettia from Country Club Christian Church youth Sun., Nov. 24 and Sun., Dec. 1 in the Parlor. Full payment must be received with all orders. Plants will be available for pick up from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 7, and Sun., Dec. 8, 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 ministry programs and missions.

### Upcoming Youth Events

**Sun., Nov. 24 – Advent in Advance, 11:00 a.m., Social Hall.** We will participate in the Advent in Advance event in place of Youth Group. No Youth Group on this evening.

**Sun., Dec. 1 – No Youth Group.** Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Sun., Dec. 15 – Hope House Service Project.** We are hosting a Holiday Party for the residents at Hope House. We will have lunch in the Social Hall at noon and then leave at 1:00 p.m. A guest speaker will be here from Hope House to tell us about the organization. Families are encouraged to attend. Instead of dropping off your middle of high school student for this event, plan to stay and join us in hosting a party for the children and moms at Hope House. The party will be from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and then we will return to church. Students can be picked back up at 4:30 p.m. if families do not attend.

**Sat., Dec. 21 – CYF (9th-12th grades) Christmas Party.** Get together with old and new friends as we celebrate Christmas! Join us at the Jensen's home for a cozy night of playing games, drinking hot chocolate, and listening to Christmas music from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Their address is 8505 Reinhardt Lane. With all of the transition that has happened in this program, this will be a time for you to relax and just enjoy your time together. We hope this will be a time that everyone can join us, whether or not you have been coming to church lately. We want to see you! Please bring a wrapped gift for under \$10 for a white elephant gift exchange (the more hilarious, the better!).

**Sun., Dec. 22 – Chi Rho (6th-8th grade) Christmas Party.** Come celebrate the season! Get together with other middle school students for an afternoon of ice skating at Crown Center Ice Terrace. We will eat lunch in the Social Hall after church and go ice skating from there. We will return to church at 3:30 p.m. for pickup. Bring friends to this fun-filled event! Each participant needs to bring a signed permission slip to the event.

### Breakfast with Santa

**Sat., Dec. 7 – 10:00 a.m.-noon**

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m.-noon. **Bring your camera and take your child's picture with Santa.** Breakfast is served until 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$7 for adults and children 2 years and older. Tickets are available Sunday mornings in the Parlor, and during the week at the reception desk or in the preschool office.



### Stocking 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 Alexis Blackmon at [alexisb@cccckc.org](mailto:alexisb@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, washcloth, and hard candy. Filled stockings should be delivered to church no later than Sun., Dec. 22.





## We Build a Canopy

by Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



We have invested thousands of dollars in medicines, scholarships, building materials, seeds and farming equipment. We have offered toothbrushes, vacation weeks, sermons and songs to our friends in Nicaragua. The book *Toxic Charity* challenges folks in churches like ours to examine who actually benefits from local and international hands-on mission efforts. Does our helping ever cause more harm? Or is it empowering?

Our next trip to Nicaragua (Feb. 23-Mar. 2, 2014) will mark our 10th year of mission partnerships with CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua). Why do we keep going back? Year after year, folks with everything from a skin rash to a malignancy

line up to see the American doctor. Children still peer through the clinic's barred windows at the baggie of used pencils that they desperately need in order to attend school. Strong young men carry sacks of cement to the work site on their backs so that together we can build a school. But on the whole, what has changed in the decade that we have spent in Nicaragua?

On our first trip, they took us to a place in the mountains called Cepana farm. It was a flat plot of barren ground with no trees or vegetation. A few elderly men from the states were digging irrigation trenches in the blazing sun. Last March when I went back to the farm, I couldn't believe that I was in the same place I had stood nine years before. The land was filled with papaya trees, coffee plants, banana trees, orange trees and giant towering trees. I heard a "howl" and I looked up to see an entire herd of wild howler monkeys swinging playfully from the tree-tops. The monkeys unexpectedly migrated there after countless mission teams partnered with the local leaders to reforest the land. Now Cepana farm teaches thousands of rural families sustainable farming practices.

Looking back now I can see that our mission teams do more than save a human life at the clinic or build a sturdy school where kids discover a future. We build a canopy where the most unexpected new life appears. Or does God build it and we are mere branches? When a young woman gets inspired by our medical team and goes to nursing school so she may serve her village, the canopy grows. Sometimes unexpected new life springs up when a farming project empowers a village to start a new business that supports dozens of families and the forest grows more lush with hope. And God's canopy shades those who travel back to North America knowing that our friends in Nicaragua have given us the courage to shed our sweat and tears over what truly matters in this life – faith, family, friends. As we prepare for Advent, I am grateful for the many ways God's new life appears to surprise us, create wonder within us, and enable us to join in the reconciling and healing love of Jesus born anew within this world.

Carla

## Children and Families

### Advent in Advance

**11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Social Hall**

Families of children birth-5th grade are invited to join us for Advent in Advance! Begin the Christmas season together as we have lunch and make crafts that help us to understand the reason for all the excitement. We will continue to make the nativity pieces that your family cherishes as well as some fun new projects! We hope to see you there! Suggested donation \$15/family.

### Upcoming Club Kids (grades 3-5)

**Sun., Nov. 24 - Sky Zone.** Meet at 6495 Quivira Rd Shawnee, KS 66216. Phone: (913) 213-5900. Sky Zone is an indoor trampoline park. Everyone who is going to jump must complete a waiver. Cost is \$17 per person. Please fill out the digital permission slip for each child by Sunday morning, Nov. 24, so we can ensure everyone has the opportunity to jump!

**Sun., Dec. 8 - Church-wide Caroling Party.** See page 1 for more information.

### Mom's Group is Back!

**10:00-11:00 am., Mon., Dec. 9, Parlor**  
For moms of school-aged children. Child-care available.

### Fountains of Faith (grades 1-5)

**People of the Covenant: Messengers of the Covenant**

**Sundays, Dec. 1-22**

A covenant is a promise of a relationship. God continually seeks to have a relationship with humankind. 1st-5th grade, 9:55-10:55 a.m.

### Save the Date!

**Sun., Dec. 1 – First Steps.** Meet in the Playzone, Rm. 215.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

# Our Church Family

## Sympathy

JOHN ROBERTSON passed away Oct. 30 in California. He is the father of Steve Robertson. A memorial service will be later in San Diego.

## Memorials

### Wilbur Spalding

Duane & Anna Jane Huitt  
Country Club Trust Company  
Gregory Loeser  
Gene Ann Newcomer  
Libby & David Shinn

### Tom Tompkins

Randall & Debra Gore  
Tri C's Class  
Max & Sue Deweese  
Gloria McLerran

### George Hicks

John & Erma Hess

### Maggie Risley

Mary & Pete Thorsell

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles  
Senior Minister

Ms. Hayley Holt  
Director of Youth  
Ministry

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. Monica Lewis  
Minister to Children,  
Youth and Families

Mr. Michael Patch  
Director of Children's  
and Youth Choirs

Rev. Chuck Murphy  
Minister of  
Congregational Care

Ms. Lara Schopp  
Director of  
Communications

Mr. John D. Clemmer  
Business Administrator

Ms. Lauren Weinhold  
Director of Church

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, [laras@cccckc.org](mailto:laras@cccckc.org)

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538  
email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)