

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 to Benefit Education

Each year at this time the Outreach Council of Country Club Christian Church chooses a theme for our Christmas offering and two organizations that will be recipients of the offering, one that is local and one that is in another country.

This year, the theme for the Christmas Offering is “Improving Lives Through Education.” There are many, many needs in the world, and those needs only seem to get greater every year. We are called to help meet people’s needs, but if we can educate people to meet their own needs, we help them for life, not just for the present.

Our two recipients work to educate people to help themselves. **Della Lamb**, one of our PartNERship agencies in the Northeast area of Kansas City, is our local recipient. Della Lamb provides programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and sponsors and provides facilities for a charter school serving 600 children a day. The agency also has adult education classes in English as a Second Language, GED tutoring, and a number of Life Skills programs such as Nutrition, Money Management, Employment Skills and Self-advocacy Skills. While the scope of Della Lamb’s services is wide, the core of what they do is to improve lives through education.



Our International recipient will be **CEPAD**, our partner in Nicaragua. CEPAD was born after a

terrible earthquake flattened Nicaragua’s capital city of Managua. The protestant churches of Nicaragua joined together to help organize and coordinate the rebuilding and relief efforts and the resulting organization was CEPAD. Since that disaster, CEPAD has worked to help the poor rural people of Nicaragua with programs that educate



them and help them to help themselves. CEPAD’s programs empower the poor in many ways, such as teaching farming methods that provide better

balanced nutrition for rural families. CEPAD teaches rural communities to be organized, and through that organization builds facilities for clean water and resources that help market local products. They also work with mission groups to help them serve the people of Nicaragua in the most constructive ways. There is no way that we would be able to do the work we do in Nicaragua without CEPAD.

Please give generously. Your gifts will do more than help for today. They will help long into the future.

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



Join Us for 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. It is not too late to sign up in the Parlor this Sunday or email Mary Margaret House at mary-margareth@cccckc.org. RSVP appreciated.



Chancel Choir Cantata – Invite a Friend

The Chancel Choir will present *Magnificat* by Kansas City composer Mark Hayes with chamber orchestra. Not sure what to get that special friend for Christmas? Give them the gift of music by inviting them to join you for this 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!

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.

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 Eve Worship Services –

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.

The Gift of Generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Country Club Christian Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit www.ccccckc.org and click on Give or contact the church office for more information.

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.



Daring to Dream with God

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Christmas is the season when I dare to dream that everything will be made right, when glory to God in the highest and peace on earth for all will finally come true. On Christmas day I may be hoping for a sweater and some books but I'll trade everything on my wish list for just one day of Christmas peace. I'll listen to Julie's Kenny Rogers' Christmas album if it will mean just one day of quiet calm, of Christmas joy. One day when everything is perfect.

We think of Christmas as a time to come home, a time to set everything right. We see it as a time of year when everything that has been turned upside down will be turned right side up. Christmas is the season when we wish for all to be well. It is a time when we hope the cookies will be warm, the milk cold, the kids nice and polite, and all is well in our comfortable homes.

Then before we know it, the day is over. The trash can is full of torn wrapping paper. A toy has already been broken and the tree is beginning to look pretty sad. We sit down in front of the mess that was Christmas and we ask out loud, "Is this all there is? Isn't there more? There has just got to be more."

The question, "Is this all there is, isn't there more?" is the work of Sunday morning. That is the work we bring to this sanctuary. That is the question, if we are doing the work of God that every one of us knows is at the heart of our lives. There has got to be more.

When Mary learned she was pregnant with baby Jesus, she proclaimed, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior, for he has scattered the proud, put down the mighty and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry, and the rich he has sent empty away." A new way of living has been ushered in.

The song of Mary was in the past tense. "God has shown strength, has scattered the proud, has filled the hungry, and has sent the rich away empty." This work is ongoing. God is already here doing something new with the world.

This year for Christmas dare to dream with God. Ask God to do something amazing in your life. Dream of going home to a life that matters.

Grace and peace to you,

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. 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

Worship with us!

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

**Advent Sermon Series
A Christmas Carol**

Dec. 8

Part 2: Bob Cratchit (Hope)
Isaiah 9:1-7

Dec. 15

Part 3: Tiny Tim (Love)
1 John 4:13-16

Dec. 22

Part 4: Scrooge (Redemption)
Luke 1:39-56

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.



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.



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



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."

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 John Clemmer at 816-333-4917 or johnc@cccckc.org for more information.



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.





Thankful for Our Children

by Michael Patch, Director of Children's and Youth Choirs



Thanksgiving is by far and away my favorite holiday. I plan the meal for a month prior to the big day. I create a formal announcement and invitation. And, I use the big event as an opportunity to check stuff on my to-do list. But, more importantly, Thanksgiving is a time for me to reflect on not just the things that I am thankful for, but all the people in my life that impact me in a positive way. Getting ready for Thanksgiving Day gives me lots of opportunity to recall all of those people. And, those that kept popping up in my mind were the children and youth at Country

Club Christian Church.

One of the highlights of my week is to work with your children on Sunday morning. I feel lifted and rejuvenated every Sunday. I have begun working with the 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years age group, in addition to the 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 age group that I have already been working with. The music that I have been doing is easily accessible to both age groups, and it gives the younger children an opportunity to develop some early auditory skills. The young ones have been doing a great job working on their holiday song. They will have an opportunity to perform it for you all on Dec. 22, at the 11:00 a.m. service.

The Children's Choir is performing their Christmas music early in Advent so that we can quickly move on to the spring musical. This year the musical is "Happily Forever After (A Musical for Kids about the Kingdom of God)." Knights! Castles! Princesses! Dragons! This story is not just an excuse to brandish swords and wear tiaras. If there is anything that will catch the interest of the children, it will be this musical. What fun!

As I write this, I am wrapping up my Thanksgiving holiday and breaking out the Christmas lights. And I am once again reminded that I am thankful for Country Club Christian Church and all the children I get to work with every week.

Michael

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 for information.

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; \$350 for a bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$80 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

Youth News

Upcoming Youth Events

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) White Elephant 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, Noon. 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.

The Lunch Bunch to Feature Chamber Singers

The talented Shawnee Mission East High School Chamber Singers will provide the program for The Lunch Bunch on Tues., Dec. 17. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall, followed by the program at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.50 per person (\$5 per person without lunch). RSVP to Mary Margaret at 816-333-4917 or marymargareth@cccckc.org.

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 Alexis Blackmon at 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.



Reminder: One Worship Service Only on Sun., Dec. 29

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 29, 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. 5.

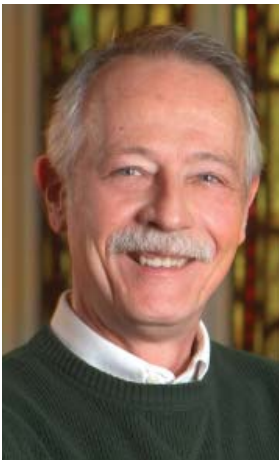
Ushers and Deacons for the Christmas Season

You can sign up to be ushers and deacons this Christmas Season online through Sign Up Genius. Click this link – <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AAEA622A0FF2-christmas> – and you will be asked to enter your name and email address. You are not required to create an account. If you have questions, call 816-333-4917, ext. 222.



Waiting

by Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music



Soon. Soon Christmas will be here. Soon all the organ will be done. Soon the exterior work on the church will be completed. Soon the parties will begin. Soon the family will gather for the holidays.

We all have things we are expectantly waiting for. For many of us, it is an agitated sort of expectation. We live in a world where we have come to expect “it” to be done “now.” For most of us, we have learned to wait. For some, waiting is excruciating. But it is normal to be expectant and excited: children come alive this time of year with an ever-growing anticipation of what Christmas morning might bring. Even for many of us adults, the anticipation is made sweeter by know-

ing what will be at the end of the period of waiting.

The Church has long understood that patiently waiting is a necessary part of life. Our forebears of centuries ago felt that waiting time needed to be built into the calendar of the church year. Out of that, Advent and Lent were born. In fact, the church year begins with Advent...that four-week period where we anticipate and await the arrival of God’s love. Advent seems humdrum to a lot of us these days, given that retailers have had their Christmas wares on display for weeks before Thanksgiving. And, the carols have been playing in most stores for at least two weeks already.

As people of faith, however, we are called to wait. Christmas will come. The organ will be completed. Everything we anxiously (or excitedly) wait for does eventually come: the good and the bad.

As you wait for your whatever, I hope that you will find peace and joy as we approach the final weeks of the year. I hope also that in addition to what gifts are there for you, that you might experience the true joy of that Love which is born each year at Christmas.

David

Children and Families

Church-wide Caroling Party

Sun., Dec. 8. See page 2 for information.

Mom’s Group is Back!

10:00-11:00 am., Mon., Dec. 9, Youth Center. For moms of school-aged children. Childcare 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.

Cherubim Choir Singing

Dec. 8 - 11:00 a.m. Worship service: Cherubim choir (3 1/2-5 1/2 years old) will sing *Christmas Praise*.

Dec. 22 - 11:00 a.m. Worship service: Cherubim choir (3 1/2-5 1/2) will sing *Born in Bethlehem*.

Children will sit up front at the start of both performances and be released to sit with their families after singing.

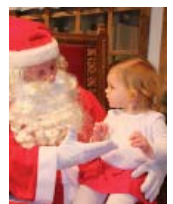
Breakfast with Santa

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.



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Martha & Thomas Lieser
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Susan Craw
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Robert & Alyce King
Martha Jo Strickler

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PROGRAM STAFF

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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
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