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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 Assist in Ebola Fight

Each year at this time the Outreach Council of Country Club Christian Church chooses a recipient for our Christmas offering. This season's offering will be directed to Week of Compassion's efforts to win the battle against Ebola in West Africa, and to help rebuild the health care systems there.

Ebola is a terrible disease. It is only spread by close contact with an infected person, and it is often fatal without modern medical intervention in the early stages of infection. Because of the way it spreads, it can decimate the care givers in a community or family. Those who are willing to care for the infected individual or to provide them with human touch and comfort become the next victims.

It is vitally important that health care workers who are willing to work with Ebola patients receive special training and that they receive protective equipment so

they can care for the patient and not become the next victim.

Week of Compassion partner IMA World Health has partnered with the Christian Health Association of Liberia (CHAL), a network of Christian health organizations in Liberia, and other local health care organizations to provide health worker training and essential supplies to help stop the spread of the Ebola virus.



While the initial fear that Ebola would become an international pandemic has been diminished, the suffering and death continue in West Africa and the threat of a pandemic will remain until the battle against Ebola is won.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in West Africa and give generously to this year's Christmas offering. Mark your gift "Christmas Offering" and mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.



Personal protective equipment for health care workers



Training local populations about the danger

Join Us for Advent

Cookies with Santa and Churchwide Caroling Party – Sunday, Dec. 7

4:00-5:00 p.m., Social Hall – 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, activities for the children, warm drinks by Dave the Coffee Guy.



Christmas Music for Organ and Brass

Join us on Tues., Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for the annual Evening of Holiday Music for Organ and Brass. **Note that this year's program is earlier in the month and on a Tuesday instead of Monday.** This program has always been a crowd pleaser for listeners from young children through adult. The Brass are preparing a delightful program for us going back to a number of pieces not played in over 10 years. The Sanctuary is usually full, so plan to arrive early for a good seat.

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.

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.

Pick Up a Christmas Eve

Yard Sign

Share your love of Country Club Christian Church by



inviting your neighbors to worship with us on the holiest night of the year. Yard signs with our Christmas Eve service times are available in the Parlor this Sunday. Take one home to put in your yard!



Getting Ready for God

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



The season of Advent is a time of preparation. We shop for gifts, we plan and attend parties, we add an extra worship service or two and maybe a concert or pageant to our regular routines. All of this is done to get us ready for the arrival of the Christmas celebration.

However, if we are not careful we will forget that we are also getting ready for the intrusion of God into our lives. The word intrusion is not one that conjures up warm and fuzzy feelings, but it is an accurate way to describe the full aspect of this season. It is a reminder to us that God wants to

come into our lives and take us to somewhere new, to help us see that we are not alone.

We gather at the communion table in our worship services at Country Club Christian Church every week to remind us that God has entered fully into human life. Sometimes it seems strange to pause for the Lord's Supper during the Advent rush to Christmas. After all, who wants to "remember the Lord's death" as we often say during communion, but it helps us recall the sad truth that not everyone wants God in their lives.

At the communion table we recall that this one named Jesus, this one who came preaching simple basic truths about love of neighbor and a gracious life for all, this one, was seen as an intruder by the political and religious leaders of his day. The Lord's Supper is a solemn reminder that these powerful ones sought to silence him. We also remember at that table that the love of God cannot be silenced. Sometimes it is hard to believe that. But the season of Advent invites us to wait for the sound of an Angel's voice declaring above the din,

*And you beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!*

Peace to you and your journey to Christmas!

State of the Church

Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future on Sun., Jan. 18, at noon in the Social Hall. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles' report.

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.

Worship with us!

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

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

Dec. 7

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

Dec. 14

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

Dec. 21

Part 4: Why Can't I Hear
the Music Play?
Luke 2: 16-20

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 org 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.

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

Updating Our Database

We want to make sure we have up-to-date contact information for you. Help us update our directory and let us know how we can best communicate with you. Please fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin as completely as possible and return it to the box in the parlor or to the church office.

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). On Dec. 14, a computer will be available in the parlor for you to make an online donation. During December and January we will have a competition among the 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services to see who can donate the most.
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 box in the parlor on Dec. 14.

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.



May the Force Be with You

By Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



"I got you a present," I told my brother a few weeks ago. "You can't open it until Nov. 30, and it combines three of your favorite things," I hinted.

"A Lego Star Wars Advent Calendar?!!" he guessed enthusiastically. And, it turns out, correctly. I gave too many clues.

I stumbled upon this particular version of the Advent calendar on Facebook, where someone had shared a photo with some comments about the ridiculous commercialization of the season. And while

I'm inclined to agree that influences both material and secular run rampant through the holiest month on the Christian calendar, this particular Advent calendar held spiritual significance to me.

Admittedly, at first I just thought it would be a hilarious present for my brother who has loved both Legos and Star Wars for the majority of his nearly 40 years on this earth.

Then I was struck by the powerful force of nostalgia, remembering hours spent on the floor of our grandparent's living room creating grand structures from tiny colored blocks, and observing epic battles between Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader and a host of other molded plastic figurines with light sabers.

I suppose I'm not alone in feeling a bit melancholy each year about this time, remembering loved ones no longer here; longing for the idyllic, uncomplicated holidays of my childhood.

We often associate the season of Advent with a time of waiting... for the arrival of the Christ child, or, if you're like my nieces (and my brother) waiting for the moment each day when you get to open the little window on your Advent calendar to get your piece of chocolate (or Lego figurine).

But for me Advent becomes more about longing...for a simpler time, for stillness, for meaningful moments with family and friends, for peace on earth.

Either way, a long time ago, in a land far, far away, a baby was born to bring a new hope to this world...

May the force of God's love be with you and with all of humankind during this holy season.

(With apologies to George Lucas)

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 betcwilsonkc@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. 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! Each participant needs to bring a signed permission slip to the event.

Christmas Pageant

Sat., Dec. 13 – Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary.

- 9:00-10:45 a.m. – Children and Students
- 10:50-11:15 a.m. – Grow Choir (ages 3-kindergarten)

Sun., Dec. 14 – Pageant, 4:30 p.m. Sanctuary. All ages, 3 years-12th grade are singing. Please wear dress clothes for the performance. No costumes. We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for pre-performance rehearsal.

Student Group

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.

Sun., Jan. 4 – Middle School Night Out. 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Middle school students get ready! We are going to Chuy's on the Plaza for dinner and fellowship. The cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to Allie Cobb at alliec@cccckc.org.

Sun., Jan. 4 – No Youth Group for high school students.

2015 High School Mission Trip

Parents of high school youth are invited to a parent information meeting for the high school mission trip on Sun., Jan. 25, 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. in the Youth Center. Please note that due to the organization for the mission trip, the trip dates have changed to June 14-20, 2015. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Middle School students and parents please stay tuned for information on the Middle School Mission Trip 2015 coming soon.

Advent in Advance



Russell Smith, David Bell and Kathy McDandel work on crafts.

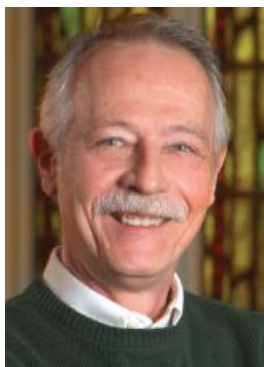


Amelia and Isabelle Hicks display their handiwork.



Keeping Christmas in Our Hearts

Rev. David Diebold, Minister of Music



Every year at this time, my wife and I look at each other and say “Next year we won’t allow ourselves to get so stressed out over the holidays.” Here it is early December and, once again, we’ve hit that place where, between her work and mine, getting the house ready for guests, shopping, wrapping, etc., we are feeling the stress. And so we once again say, “next year...” I know we are not alone. And, I know it doesn’t have to be this way every year, but even with advance planning, things usually come up that crowd the Christmas spirit out of our lives.

One thing that has lessened the stress for me somewhat this year happened by accident. I was picking literature for the annual Country Club Singers program, and was truly wrestling with it. I was trying to match the format of recent years, inviting guest instrumentalists to join us. But, I couldn’t find anything new and fresh that matched those criteria. Then, I vaguely remembered a piece that I had glanced at that had to do with keeping Christmas in our hearts. I went back and looked at it and found the key piece of the program. From there I did several Google searches about that same theme and found a great number of pieces that speak directly to how our hearts play such an important part in feeling and living with that Christmas spirit.

I think when we make the time, as scripture tells us, “to ponder...in our hearts,” the true meaning of this holiday shines through. It can be a life-changing moment when we can drop the stress and remember that what we are called to be through (and beyond) this holiday is God’s agents of change in our world.

My wish for you as you check your calendars, wrap the presents and decorate for the holidays, is that you find peace, and that you come to realize that Christmas is experienced in your heart, and not measured by the amount of “things” that you do during the month of December.

David

Children and Families

Christmas Pageant

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- 9:00-10:45 a.m. – Children and Students
- 10:50-11:15 a.m. – Grow Choir (ages 3-kindergarten)

Sun., Dec. 14 – Pageant, 4:30 p.m.

Sanctuary. All ages, 3 years-12th grade are singing. Please wear dress clothes for the performance. No costumes. We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for pre-performance rehearsal.

Club Kids (Grades 3-5)

Sky Zone – Jan. 11

Club Kids will resume Sun., Jan. 11 at Sky Zone, 6495 Quivira Road, Shawnee, KS) at 4:00 p.m. Pick up will be at 6:00 p.m. \$10 per person. RSVP by Jan. 5, 2015 to Jason Ashley at jasona@cccckc.org.

First Steps of Faithfulness

Beginning Mar. 1, join us the first Sunday of the month as families with children birth-2 years old will explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness.

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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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Allie Cobb Director of Student Ministries
Rev. Carla Aday Senior Associate Minister	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. David Diebold Minister of Music	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Dr. Meredith Holladay Minister of Member Development	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
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Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

David W. Hewitt

Memorials

Pamela Burke

Kathleen Burke

Carol Chapman

Donna Sue Calvin
Annette McLaughlin
Norma Tilton

Carol Chapman (Capital Campaign)

John & Jane Marty

David Hewitt

John & Erma Hess

David Hewitt (Capital Campaign)

John & Jane Marty

Fontelle Hilfinger

Gloria McLerran

Betty Major

Rick & Seven Bartley
James & Phyllis Buckley
Mary Elizabeth Ingram
Maureen McGinty
Jill Reynolds
Wilda Zollars

Harvey & Dorothy Ray

Bill, Jan & Curt Daniels
Patricia Martin
June Turley
TRI C's Sunday School Class

Harvey & Dorothy Ray (Capital Campaign)

John & Jane Marty