



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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*We joyfully
welcome
and nurture
all people
by providing
a vibrant
Christ-centered
community
of faith,
dedicated to
spiritual growth
through
worship, study
and service.*

Join Us for Christmas Eve Worship

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services. Dr. Glen Miles presents the meditation *Interrupted by Glory*.

5:30 p.m. – Children and families service

8:00 p.m. – Candlelight service. An organ prelude featuring Kansas City Brass precedes the service.

11:00 p.m. – Candlelight service with communion. An organ prelude featuring the Kansas City Brass precedes the service.

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. Rev. Chuck Murphy preaching. No Sunday School classes will meet. Child care is available.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Wishing you all the warmth and love that is the Christmas season!

–The staff of Country Club Christian Church

Front row, (l-r) William “Fish” Terrill, Sally Huggins, Heather Rotter, Jane Fletcher, Carla Aday, Lisa McCleish, Lauren Weinhold, Diana Black

Second row, (l-r) Lara Schopp, Mary Margaret House, Ron Walker, David Diebold, Rachel Clement, Catherine Stark-Corn, Glen Miles, Chuck Murphy

Not pictured: Justin Zeigler, Brian Mathias, Chuck Lusso, Karla Herrington



January Sermon Series

That's Not in the Bible!

January 13, 20, 27

The Bible gets blamed for a lot of bad theology. Many of these weak ideas are heard in statements like, "It's all part of God's plan" or "God never gives you anything you can't handle." This series will point out several things that are NOT in the Bible, while paying attention to what can be found on the pages of scripture.

New Faithbook Session Begins in January

More than 60 women ages 25-65 are participating in this faith formation group. Any women interested in joining in the discussion are invited to come to the next session, starting Jan. 8/9 or sign up by calling 816-333-4917. Join us to explore how the Bible and friendship deepen the spiritual journey as we listen to a brief Bible presentation and then share reflections in guided small groups. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. OR Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Pick the time frame that works best for your schedule. Led by Rev. Carla Aday.

During the winter and spring, we will explore the following topics:

- Beginning Jan. 8/9 - Women in the Bible
- Beginning Feb. 12/13 - Lent
- Beginning April 2/3 - Who was Jesus and why does it matter?
- Beginning March 19/20 - No classes held the week of spring break
- April 30 - Closing Dinner
- May 1 - Closing Coffee

Embracing an Adult Faith

Who was Jesus? Who is God? What is salvation? How do we practice our faith? If you've pondered these questions, then you are encouraged to participate in Embracing an Adult Faith. This five-session class is for those seeking a richer understanding of issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology. Led by Lauren Weinhold. Cost is \$13 including book. The class will meet Wednesdays, Feb. 13 through March 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information or to RSVP, contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org.

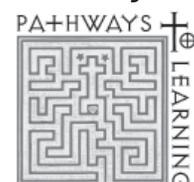
The New Testament Bible Study

Begins January 10

This eight-week class uses the best of modern Biblical scholarship to explore the story of Jesus and its claim on our lives. You will learn the major themes of the New Testament and be challenged to respond to this compelling story. Cost is \$12 for materials. Led by Don Bennett.

Thursdays, beginning Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Pathways to Learning in January



Jeremiah and Jesus: Understanding the Biblical Roots of Christ's Message, Ministry, and Passion

Dr. Harold Washington, Professor of Hebrew Bible, Saint Paul School of Theology.

Jan. 13, 20, 27, Sundays, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall

Year-End Giving

Please remember to bring your annual pledge up to date with a gift to the church. Complete your gift today and you will receive the tax benefits as well as the satisfaction of supporting your church.

As you consider your year-end gifts, please remember that because of the increase in the cost of the repair of the exterior of our building from \$2.0 million to \$3.6 million, we have increased our goal for the Capital Campaign from \$3.3 million to \$4.9 million. We are conducting an Updated Capital Campaign to raise the additional funds, and your year-end gift could help. Please prayerfully consider making an additional pledge or gift by considering one of the following: 1) Making an additional cash gift to the Capital Campaign. 2) Adding an additional amount to your existing pledge. 3) Extending your existing pledge by one, two, or three years. To qualify for a 2012 charitable income tax deduction, cash gifts must be made by Dec. 31, 2012. Updated pledges can be made by contacting Rachel at 816-333-4917 or by completing a pledge card, available in the church office.

You may give electronically to either the annual or capital campaign by visiting cccckc.org and clicking the Give tab.

4th Annual Celebration Auction and Dinner

Save the date for Country Club Christian Church's 4th annual celebration dinner and auction. Sat., May 4.



Grace for Christmas

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



My father-in-law, Roy Pomeroy was, like Mary’s husband Joseph, a carpenter. A few years ago Roy flew out from his home in Oregon to help us build some book shelves and a deck. Ok, he built the shelves and the deck. I tried to help but he kept me out of the way by sending me on errands for things we didn’t really need. He was a smart man.

I loved watching Roy work. He had a careful plan. He knew exactly what he was going to do.

He measured twice and cut once. He squared every corner, he plumbed every line. He was very attentive. I am sure Joseph would have liked working with Roy.

Joseph brought a carpenter’s approach to his understanding of the Bible. There were careful lines to draw and corners to be squared. When he learned that Mary was pregnant and that he was not the father he decided to send her away. He knew the law. He was aware of the lines.

Then a miracle occurred. Joseph learned to think outside of the lines. He came to the realization that he is not the one drawing the lines, squaring the edges. This time he is a tool in the hand of God. He realizes that it is not his job to determine the rules. It is not up to Joseph to decide where the lines need to be drawn. That is God’s job. God uses Joseph to help bring the good news of Emmanuel, God with us, to the world.

An angel says to Joseph in a dream, “Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid...” Before this dream Joseph’s actions and choices were determined by fear. This carpenter who measured twice and cut once could not see beyond the limits of his own life but when he was able to dream with God his fear was conquered. And the old lines disappeared.

John Ortberg helped me see that Joseph says no to judgmentalism and yes to grace. Joseph discovers that grace does what judgmentalism can never do: produce a changed life.

The gift of Christmas needed by every family everywhere is the joy of a life lived without fear. It seems impossible to find a life like that in a dark and frightening world like ours but on Christmas Eve we will light the Christ candle and wait with hope for “a new and glorious morn.”

Merry Christmas to you all,

Listen to Glen’s sermon on Dec. 16, Weeping for Our Children. Click here:

<http://tiny.cc/dec16sermon>

Visitor Information Luncheon on January 13

You’re invited to an informational gathering to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and church at a luncheon on Sun., Jan. 13, from 12:15-1:45 p.m. Then, if you’re ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Feb. 10**. For more information or to reserve your spot at the luncheon, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

Worship with us!

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

Dec. 23

Part 4 – In a Baby

Luke 2: 16-20

Dec. 30 – 10:30 a.m. only

Rev. Chuck Murphy preaching
Seeking Sacred Space

Luke 2: 41-52

Jan. 6

Rev. Carla Aday preaching
Following Dreams

Matthew 2: 1-12

**January Sermon Series
That’s Not in the Bible!**

Jan. 13, 20, 27

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

New Orleans Mission Trip

A mission team will return to New Orleans Feb. 10-16 to continue the work on housing issues. We will be doing hands-on work as well as a ministry of presence and make some attempts to discuss what the underlying, systemic issues are that New Orleans and surrounding areas have had in providing safe, affordable housing. Cost is \$525. If you are interested in participating, contact Betsy Wilson at betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com by Dec. 28.

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. The team will continue to help with the recovery following the 2011 tornado.



2012 Mission Team

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 desposit 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 six to eight. We now have a male bunk room and a female bunk room available. Food and activity fee of \$75 per person. For more information, contact Jane Fletcher at janef@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



Micah Stockings Delivered



Tom Thornton with a carload of stockings for Micah Ministry. Thanks to everyone who donated supplies to fill 600 stockings. The stockings were delivered on Dec. 17 at Micah's annual Christmas dinner.

Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Mondays, Feb. 4-25, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Lauren Weinhold at laurenw@cccckc.org or call the church at 816-333-4917.

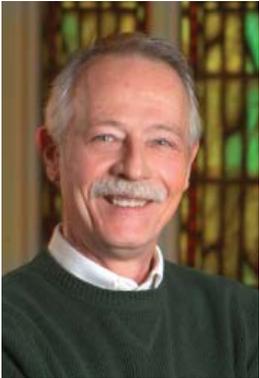
New Member Sunday February 10

We typically welcome new members on New Member Sundays. The next opportunity will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sun., Feb. 10. Email or call Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, to express your desire to join the church. Lauren will work with you to make your New Member Sunday a memorable and meaningful one. Contact Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.



Music Search Continues

by David Diebold, Minister of Music



The search for a new Director of Children's and Youth Music continues in full force. By the time you receive this issue, the search committee will have interviewed four well-qualified candidates. There are two men and two women under consideration for the position. Each brings to the process solid experience. At the same time each brings unique gifts. Initial interviews were held on two successive Saturdays in December.

This process has been on-going since Laine Riley resigned in September. The search committee, chaired by Tepríng Crocker is comprised of Andy Berry, Erin Howard, Marcia Ramsey, Jim Wells and myself. Each brings something particular to the committee, whether as a current or retired public school music educator, a choir parent, or as one who had worked closely with Laine while she was with us.

Once the holidays are over, we intend to invite our top candidates back for a second interview. This time they will be placed in a rehearsal situation with the younger choirs. Our hope is to be able to offer the position to one candidate toward the middle of January. Who that choice is will determine when the new director will start. Some can begin almost immediately, while others may need to give two weeks notice at the current place of employment.

Our current interim, Debra Anderson, will continue until the new person is on the job. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Until then,
Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

David

Thank You to Micah Ministries Volunteers

By Mary Buehler and Karen Robinson

We wish to thank everyone who donated pumpkin pies (125 of you!), made cakes each month, and filled socks with goodies for the patrons of Micah Ministries at Independence Boulevard Christian Church. Thanks to Debbie Shaw who drives the church van loaded with volunteers to help serve once a month, and the people who cut and plate the cakes. Thank you to those who bring clothes and help sort them, to the knitters and the sewers. Also special thanks to Cindy Irey and Phil Woodford for helping cook. Many of you donate not only food and your time, but also provide financial support. We thank you, and the 900 plus guests we serve every Monday thank you. As of Dec. 1, we have served 40,000 plates of food in 2012.

On the second Monday of each month, volunteers from Country Club Christian Church serve dinner at Micah Ministries at Independence Boulevard Christian Church, providing free, nourishing suppers to those in need. Each meal requires 18-20 volunteers. Children age 11 and older are welcome when accompanied by an adult. If you would like to volunteer for please contact Rev. Carla Aday at carlaa@cccckc.org.

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.

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

Pastors' Class

Beginning Wed., Jan. 16, Pastors' Class for youth 6th grade and older will meet on Wednesday evenings until Palm Sunday. The class is designed to provide time, space, and tools to help students more clearly name their identity as Christians and their connection to this faith community. The sessions will help the youth identify what God is doing in the world; reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; and explore how this impacts who and how they are in the world. Students will have the opportunity to celebrate these insights and transformation through the ritual of baptism and church membership on Palm Sunday, Mar. 24. The class will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For information, contact Justin Zeigler at justinz@cccckc.org.

Chi Rho Retreat

All Chi Rho youth are invited to a retreat at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Watch for details! Fri., Jan. 18-Sun., Jan. 20. Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org

Youth Deacon and Elder Retreat

We will have an afternoon youth deacon and elder retreat the last weekend in January. Watch for more information.

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.

Chi Rho Mission Trip

This summer the 6th-8th graders will go to Indianapolis, IN, in July to work on justice projects including working with people who experience poverty and people who are striving to escape violence. This is a great opportunity to learn how to serve in a very direct way as well as be in a new city and have some fun! Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org.

CYF Mission Trip

CYF will travel to Chicago in July to continue working in the city with local organizations to address issues of homelessness, poverty and racial injustices. Contact Justin Zeigler, justinz@cccckc.org.

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 Chuck Murphy at 816-333-4917 for more information.





Families Take Many Forms

by Justin Zeigler, Minister to Youth



A friend told her daughter that they were participating in the “adopt-a-family” program. She then had to explain to her sweet child that it didn’t mean that they were actually bringing an entire family to live with them, just helping them purchase Christmas presents.

I had to laugh at the story, not only because it was cute, but because this family has actually adopted me over the past few years. I’m not complaining in the least, but working as a minister at a church

means that you can’t go home for Christmas Eve or Easter (the two big holidays in my family). Living six hours away from everyone else in my family means that I can’t make it home on my birthday, when something good happens at work, or even just because I feel like sitting down at a table with people who I love and who love me.

Last Christmas Eve when I was homesick and really wanted to be celebrating with the rest of the Zeiglers, I was comforted when my friend’s mother gave me a hug and said “it’s good to be with family...and that’s what you are, part of our family.” I looked at the people in the room and realized that this collection of odd humanity was my family.

We are married, we are single, we are old and young, we are gay and straight, and we don’t all vote in the same way. That doesn’t matter to us. What matters is that we love each other. I thank God that I have a family here, a family to show me grace, a family to challenge and advise me, and most of all a family that loves me.

This Christmas we are talking about finding God in surprising places, and although my Kansas City family doesn’t necessarily look “normal,” it’s where I find peace, it’s where I find love, it’s where I find God “because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” (1 John 4:7)

Merry Christmas to all families, no matter what they look like!

Children and Families

Club Kids

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.

Donations Needed for Hospice House

The Children and Families Ministry continues to support the KC Hospice House by providing activity bags for children that are visiting a loved one. We are in need of items to fill the bags. We fill bags suited for children ages 2-5 and bags for children 6-10 years old. Items needed include: small bubbles, bouncy balls, pens, markers, crayons, little memo pads, playdough, small toys, stickers, etc. If you can help with this, please leave your items in the basket in the children’s wing or in Karla’s office. Thank you for helping us help others!

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Kansas City, MO 64113

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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Collection Connection

Toothbrushes for Nicaragua

Country Club Christian Church is sending a group to Nicaragua to improve health and living conditions of rural families. This group will be leaving Feb. 23 and returning on Mar. 3. Part of this trip includes teaching families to use home health kits and providing basic supplies. You can help by donating toothbrushes (we need thousands) or by donating money to purchase other basic supplies such as vitamins and over-the-counter medicines. The money will be used to buy supplies in bulk. Bring your toothbrushes to the Parlor in January or leave a check in the church office.

Virginia Reed Food Drive on January 20

On Sun., Jan. 20, 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."

In the Footsteps of Paul

Join Glen and Julie Miles, Lauren Weinhold 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 or Lauren at laurenw@cccckc.org. Registration packets are available in Lauren's office. The deadline for reservations is Feb. 1, 2013.

