



# 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 *'Twas the Night*.

**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. 29

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Rev. Monica Lewis 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)** Joe Walker, Tammy Hoyer-Pearson, Lisa McCleish, Hayley Holt, Carla Aday, Mary Margaret House. **Second row, (l-r)** Monica Lewis, Alexis Blackmon, Sally Huggins, David Diebold, Lauren Weinhold, Lara Schopp. **Back row (l-r)** Michael Patch, Glen Miles, Rachel Clement, John Clemmer. Not pictured: William “Fish” Terrill, Brian Mathias, Diana Black



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## New Sermon Series Starts in January

### What God Wants to Know

Inspired by the book *What God Wants to Know*, by Bruce Larson, this sermon series will take a look at the questions God asks throughout scripture, looking deeply into the heart of these questions in order to find new and contemporary ideas for us today.

Jan. 5 – Where Are You?, Genesis 3:8-11

Jan. 12 – Do You Want to be Well? John 5:1-9

Jan. 19 – What Do You Want Me to Do For You? Mark 10:46-52

## 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.

Tues., 7:00-8:00 p.m., Jan. 7-Apr. 22.

Wed., 9:00-10:00 a.m., Jan. 8-Apr. 23.

No classes held the week of Spring Break (Mar. 18 and 19).

Apr. 29 - Closing Dinner

Apr., 30 - Closing Coffee

Sign up with Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@ccccc.org](mailto:marymargareth@ccccc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Faith Academy

Designed for those who seek to stretch the mind and expand the heart to explore new paths of faithful living, Faith Academy involves reading an academic text and discussing it in class with a clergy person or professor as mentor and guide. To prepare for this seminar type experience, pick up the text and begin reading now. Winter session led by Dr. Nancy Howell, professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion at St. Paul School of Theology, will lead this evening session. Book is *On the Mystery* by Catherine Keller, available in The Well. Thursdays, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

## Enneagram

Dr. George Gordon, Minister Emeritus of Congregational Care, will lead this session that explores the nine ways that we obstruct our relationships with ourselves, with other and with God and the nine virtues or “gifts of the spirit” into which they can be transformed. Thursdays, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 7:00-8:45 p.m.

## 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.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.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.

### Sign Up Now

Reserve your spot in they group of your choice by contacting Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@ccccc.org](mailto:marymargareth@ccccc.org) or 816-333-4917.



# Kneeling with the Shepherd in the Snow

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



An angel appears before a young woman named Mary and declares, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” The angel goes on to tell her that she will bear a son, that she will partner with God to change the world. She asks, “How can this be?” The angel replies with some theologically unusual sounding words and phrases about the Holy Spirit. The angel tells her that the “Most High will overshadow you.” What exactly does that mean? It’s hard to say for sure.

But in the long run it is enough for Mary to know that God is with her, to know that somehow there is a Spirit at work in this world. One that is faithful to see that no matter how hard things get we are never left alone, we are never left behind.

Do you remember what Mary says next? She must be afraid but she finds the courage to proclaim, “God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly...”

There is more but you get the point. Things are about to change! This is her way of letting everyone know that what is about to happen in Jesus is a great reversal. This is what Dallas Willard calls “the law of inversion,” which is what the Kingdom of God is founded upon.

When Jesus begins to teach and preach he says the same thing. Oh not in exact quotes, but you can hear an echo of his mother’s words when he proclaims in the Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God, Blessed are you who are hungry now for you will be filled.”

Do you hear the message? In God’s world things will be turned around and the church is called to lead the way.

Maybe that is why we celebrate Christmas every year. Perhaps that is why we take time to trudge through the snow, to kneel with the shepherds to see this child of poor, wandering parents, so that we can be reminded where we will most likely find God.

Are you looking for God this year? Do you feel as though God is absent from your life, like you have no idea where to go or what to do? Are you filled with fear and uncertainty, doubt or worry? Maybe all you need to do is take a knee in the snow and look closely, for God has taken flesh.

Grace and peace to you,

## Visitor Information Luncheon on January 26

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. 26, from 12:15-1:45 p.m. Then, if you’re ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Feb. 2.** 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](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).

## State of the Church Dinner

Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future on Thur., Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m., in the Social Hall. Mark your calendar to hear Dr. Miles’ report.

## Worship with us!

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

**Advent Sermon Series  
A Christmas Carol**

**Dec. 22**

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

**Dec. 29 – 10:30 a.m. only**

Rev. Monica Lewis preaching  
Listening and Asking  
*Luke 2: 41-52*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Lunch Bunch Features Bill Tammeus



Bill Tammeus, author and the former Faith columnist for The Kansas City Star, will be the speaker at The Lunch Bunch on Tues., Jan. 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. His topic is “Who’s Afraid of Other Religions” about why interfaith dialogue and understanding is crucial today.

Bill currently writes the daily “Faith Matters” blog, a monthly column for The Presbyterian Outlook and a biweekly column for The National Catholic Reporter. Bill was a member of the Star staff that won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. His many other awards include several from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists and the American Academy of Religion, in addition to receiving the 2005 Wilbur Award given each year to the best religion column in the country. He received the David Steele Distinguished Writer Award from the Presbyterian Writers Guild in 2003 and is the author of *A Gift of Meaning*, published in 2001, and co-author of *They Were Just People: Stories of Rescue in Poland During the Holocaust*, published in 2009.

Cost for the luncheon is \$8.50 per person (\$5 without lunch). RSVP to Mary Margaret House at [marymargareth@cccckc.org](mailto:marymargareth@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

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## Sewing and Knitting Groups

A special thank you from Congregational Care Ministry to the Knitting Group and the Sewing Group of Country Club Christian Church for the shawls and lap robes they made that were delivered as Seasonal Gifts this Christmas to our home-bound church members. Both groups spent many hours knitting and sewing to make these wonderful gifts possible!

These two groups meet every week to knit and to sew products to be given to various charities. Knitted scarves go to Cross-Lines, and baby blankets and baby hats go to Truman Medical Center, as do sheets for hospital beds, lap robes, eye glass cases, and tote bags for medications. The sewing group also makes pillow case dresses for the missionary trips to Africa and Nicaragua.

These ladies love making these items, and if you would like to join either or both of these groups, contact Mary Margaret at the church at 816-333-4917.

## 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@](mailto:carlaa@)



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## Holidays at The Well

This season The Well, the church’s book and gift store, features gifts for everyone, including 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](http://www.cccckc.org) and click The Well in the top right-hand corner, then follow the instructions.







## In the Spirit of Hope

by Hayley Holt, Interim Youth Director



This past Sunday, youth and families gathered to host a holiday party for women and children at a domestic violence shelter. The morning of the project, I woke up with a checklist running in my head. Did we have enough transportation? Did I tell the Hope House speaker where to meet us for lunch? Were we going to have enough cookies and decorations? Did I think of everything?

If you have ever planned an event and you're anything like me, you may have had a similar panic. It was about 15 minutes into the party when I realized those details didn't matter. As I looked around the room, I saw a child smiling and pouring enough icing on one cookie to cover three. I saw a high-school aged girl sitting at the table creating a masterpiece out of her cookie and three women chatting as they indulged their creativity. I saw one of our middle school students sit down next to a child and help him finish a tree ornament. I heard people getting to know each other. There was an upbeat buzz in the room that stayed throughout the party. Ok, maybe that was due to the sugar high you could get just from breathing, but I think it was more than that.

There was a spirit to the party that reminded me I did not need to worry. I had done the planning, and the details no longer mattered. The people mattered. Each of these women and children are in the process of a major transition in their life. They have made the decision to go to Hope House, but that doesn't mean their process of overcoming domestic violence is over. Hope House provides many wonderful services to these women and children, and I felt humbled that we were able to provide a space and time for them to just be kids, moms, and women spending time together. Thank you to everyone who pulled together, brought cookies for us to decorate, or attended the event. You reminded me that the spirit of God is at work when we get to know our neighbors.

If you missed this opportunity for your entire family to serve, plan to join us on the second Monday of the month at Micah Ministry. Youth and their families will be serving there along with others in our church and I have a feeling the experience will be similar. Put the checklist aside, get to know your neighbors in the Northeast, and make family service a priority. It will be a meaningful experience for all involved.

## Nicaragua Mission Trip

A few spaces remain for our mission trip to Nicaragua on Feb. 22-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.

## 2014 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 18-23, 2014. To sign



2013 Mission Team

up or for more

information, contact Betsy Wilson at [betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com](mailto:betcwilsonkc@yahoo.com). The team will continue to help with the recovery following the 2011 tornado.

## Honor Flight Donations

Attendees at the Lunch Bunch on Nov. 19 when Honor Flight KC gave a presentation donated \$830 to the group. Gary Lint, vice president, said that total will cover the cost of flying two veterans to Washington, DC. "That is fantastic and very generous," he said. Honor Flight KC is the regional hub of the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit organization created for the sole purpose of thanking and honoring America's veterans for their sacrifices by flying these heroes to Washington to visit and reflect at their memorials.

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# Youth News

## Upcoming Youth Events

**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.

## Youth and Children's Musical

In 2014, the annual musical will include both youth and children. The musical is "Happily Forever After (A Musical for Kids about the Kingdom of God)." The performance will be Sunday, Mar. 9, 12:15 p.m. in the Social Hall. Auditions will be Sun., Jan. 19, at 12:15 p.m.

This story has knights, castles, princesses and dragons. This story is not just an excuse to brandish swords and wear tiaras. It's a captivating and gospel-rich musical that tells the story of Princess Pride, Sir Brags-a-lot, and their curious band on an amazing trek in a very faraway land. When the Carpenter from another kingdom brings the troubling news that their castle is actually built on sand and will not withstand the coming story, they hesitantly choose to follow him as he has promised to show them a better kingdom. Assuring them that he'll take them all the way and will never leave them, they encounter troubles, temptations, and some very funny characters.

Mark your calendars:

**Auditions for lead/supporting parts:** Jan. 19, 12:15 p.m.

**Practices:** Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 11:00 a.m.; Mar. 1, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Mar. 2, 11:00 a.m.,

**Dress rehearsal:** Mar. 8, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Final rehearsal/lunch:** Mar. 9, 11:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Michael Patch, Director of Children's and Youth Choirs, at [michaelp@cccckc.org](mailto:michaelp@cccckc.org).

## Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed on Dec. 25-26. There will be one worship service on Sun., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. The offices will close at 3:00 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 31 and will be closed for the day on Wed., Jan. 1. If you need to speak to a pastor in the event of a death or hospitalization, please call 816-853-5875.

## Thanks to our Carolers

On Sun., Dec. 8, 120 carolers from the church divided into groups and raised their voices in song to several of our neighbors. One couple in particular was pleased.

*"My wife and I live on 61st Terrace and just wanted to send a note of appreciation and recognition to your church for the Christmas Carolers that entertained our family with their unexpected visit Sunday evening. The timing couldn't have been better, we had family to the house for dinner and the carolers showed up and were terrific. Thanks so much and please pass along our appreciation.*

– Mike and Mary Vrabac





## The Future Is Wide Open

by Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Youth and Families



I am so excited! Are you excited? You should be.

When I was interviewing for the position of Minister to Children, Youth and Families, one of the most attractive parts of this opportunity was Country Club Christian Church's willingness to do what needs to be done to have the best Children and Youth Ministries in this city. During those interviews, we collectively realized that it would be essential for us to engage in a comprehensive assessment of both of these ministries.

That time has come.

Now do you know why I am giddy with anticipation? It's because the future is wide open! It's because we are about to engage in a process that WILL change the face of our church if we let it. It's because lives will be changed in ways that none of us can predict. It's because we are about to listen to God's voice in a way that will push us like never before. It's because this is a huge step toward our collective future of BEING the face of Jesus in our world.

Feb. 15-18, Ministry Architects will be on our campus leading us through this assessment process. They will spend Saturday and Sunday listening to YOU. It's important that a wide range of our congregation take part in these listening groups. The children and youth of this church are OUR children. We are their village. Please join me in helping create an exciting future for them – a future where they will continue to strengthen their faith.

Be on the lookout for more information about the assessment process including listening group times and how you can get involved. Great things are about to happen. I promise!

Check our Ministry Architects at [www.ymarchitects.com](http://www.ymarchitects.com) to read a little about who they are.

*Monica*

## Children and Families

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

Jan. 5-Feb. 2 — The Kingdom Parables Children participate in a rotation style program on Sunday mornings. The rotation takes seriously the spiritual development of children, utilizing a consistent structure while providing creative activities that engage children in new ways with God.

### First Steps of Faithfulness

Sun., Jan. 5, 2014, 9:55-10:55 a.m., Rm. 215. Parents with children under 3 are invited to join other families on the first Sunday of the month as we explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness.

### Fireside Chat

**Sun., Jan. 12**

As we reIMAGINE our Children's Ministry, we want to hear from you. Join us to talk with other youth and children's families and staff about what we are doing well and what we can improve. This month's focus will be the children's musical and youth mission trips. We will meet from 12:15-1:00 p.m. in the Youth Center.

### Preschool and Parents' Day Out Open House

**Jan. 28-30, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.**

Prospective families can visit the program while currently enrolled families can see the room their child will go to next year. Parent Board members will be giving tours. Registration for currently enrolled families for preschool, transition and PDO siblings will be Mon., Feb. 3, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. PDO families will enroll Tues., Feb. 4, 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Registration will be open to the general public for Preschool, Transition and PDO on Thurs., Feb. 6, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

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Return Service Requested

## Virginia Reed Food Drive on January 19

On Sun., Jan. 19, 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."

## New Members



Cole and Elizabeth Donelson

**New Member Host:** Christa Jessup

## PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Ms. Hayley Holt Interim Youth Director
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. Joe Walker Interim Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Mr. John D. Clemmer Business Administrator	Ms. Lauren Weinhold Director of Church Growth



Ron Atkinson

**New Member Host:** Greg Garrison

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