



VOLUME 88 · NUMBER 26

COUNTRY CLUB

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 *The Hopes and Fears of All the Years*.
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. 28

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 28, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Dr. Meredith Holloday 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, Lindsay Howes, Rachel Wymore, Carla Aday, Diana Black, Mary Margaret House, Jason Ashley
 Second row, (l-r) Lara Schopp, Joe Walker, Meredith Holladay, Paul Cutelli, Dale Ramsey, Glen Miles, David Diebold, Monica Lewis, Rachel Clement
 Not pictured: Sally Huggins, Allie Cobb, Michael Patch, Lisa McCleish



One Worship Service Only on Sun., Dec. 28

There will be only one worship service on Sun., Dec. 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Dr. Meredith Holloday preaching. No Sunday School classes will meet. Child care is available.

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. 6-Mar. 31; Spring Party Apr. 7.

Wed., 9:00-10:00 a.m., Jan. 7-Apr. 1; Spring Party, Apr. 8.

No classes held the week of Spring Break (Mar. 17 and 18).

Apr. 7 - Closing Dinner

Apr., 8 - Closing Coffee

Sign up with Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@ccccc.org or 816-333-4917.

Sign Up Now

Reserve your spot in they group of your choice by contacting Mary Margaret House at marymargareth@ccckc.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. Spring Session – Dr. Mike Graves, Professor of Preaching at St. Paul School of Theology, will lead a class on Biblical interpretation and sermon writing. If you have a scripture and you need a sermon, what are the next steps? The class will meet two evenings to begin the process. Then Mike will preach the sermon on Sunday morning. The class will then meet for a third session to debrief. Dr. Graves is a fabulous teacher. Friends are welcome. Apr. 20, 27 and May 4.

Reel Faith

Watch a movie, enjoy pizza and then discuss the movie to see what images of faith are captured by the film. Meet at the Sulgrave Regency Condominiums in the movie theater. Led by Phil and Patty Love. Limit 14 people. Sun. Feb. 8, 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Margaret House at 816-333-4917 for movie titles or to sign up.

Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed on Dec. 25-26. There will be one worship service on Sun., Dec. 28, at 10:30 a.m. The offices will close at 3:00 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 31 and will be closed for the day on Thur., Jan. 1. If you need to speak to a pastor in the event of a death or hospitalization, please call 816-853-5875.

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.ccckc.org and click on Give or contact the church office for more information.

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. All gifts to be credited for the 2014 tax year must be in the church office by Dec. 31 or postmarked by Dec. 31 if mailing to the church.



Repeat the Sounding Joy

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Ministers and church musicians do not always get excited about Advent and Christmas. Once in a while even the cheeriest, most optimistic pastors look at the work of this winter holiday and think, “Here we go again.”

This malady may actually begin when women and men are studying for the ministry in seminary. Seminarians and first-year ministers are often surprised by the fact that they are expected to work on Christmas Eve.

I remember meeting a seminary intern in Atlanta who was dismayed about this. He said, “It never even occurred to me that we would lose Christmas to the church.” I don’t think he realized the irony of that statement.

So maybe you’ll understand why every year in August when David Diebold and I sit down to work on the fall preaching and worship schedule we don’t exactly repeat the sounding joy when it comes time to plan for the season of Advent. A running joke between us every summer is this question: Are we having Christmas, AGAIN?

But that is the beauty of the season. Our bah humbug feelings remind us that this is the reason we need to repeat the sounding joy, to sing the carols, to light the candles, to retell the story of Joseph and Mary. By telling the tale again we remind ourselves of the ancient promise sung by the angels, “Peace on Earth, good will to all!”

We revisit Christmas every year in order to remember the things that are most important in this life. We sing “Joy to the World, the Lord HAS come” to remind us that we don’t have to worry about when Jesus is coming back because he has already been here. The little babe in the manger will grow to be a human being fully alive, full of wisdom and divine favor. When he does, he will call upon all of us to give our lives to the work of love.

In a world full of terrible noise and difficult news, let us in the church find the strength to repeat the sounding joy.

Grace and peace to you,

State of the Church and Branding Survey Report

Mark your calendar for the State of the Church and Branding Survey Report on Sun., Jan. 18. The event will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall and an optional box lunch will be available.

You’ll learn about the Branding Survey on our church name and how our church is perceived by area residents. You’ll also hear updates on church financials, individual staff responsibilities and a review of the State of the Church from Glen. There will also be an opportunity to provide input on what you’d like to know more about in 2015.

New Sermon Series: Life Before Death

January 11, 18, 25

Living the God life in the here and now.

Worship with us!

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

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

Dec. 21

Part 4: Why Can’t I Hear
the Music Play?

Luke 2: 16-20

Dec. 28 – 10:30 a.m. only

Don’t Call it Optimism
Isaiah 61: 10-62.3; Galatians 4: 4-7
Dr. Meredith Holloway preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Sign Up for 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 private room costs \$1,650 or a bunk room is \$350, plus each participant pays a \$80 food and activity fee. For more information, go online to <http://tinyurl.com/camp2015>.

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 are available. 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.



New Members



Diane Barrett

New Member Host: Maureen McGinty



Doug & Dana Flora with children, Bryce and Reagan Flora

New Member Hosts: Steve and Andrea Bough



Chris and Allison Hettinger. Not pictured: Kate, Jack and Christian

New Member Host: Brook and Chris Howard



Chelsea Good

New Member Hosts: Jaclyn and Chris Hains

Upcoming Visitor Event

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend an upcoming social and informational gathering to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and congregation. Sun., Jan. 25, 12:15-1:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Meredith Holladay at meredithh@cccckc.org.

New Member Sunday on Feb. 15

Are you interested in joining the Country Club Christian Church family? The next New Member Sunday is Feb. 15. Contact Meredith Holladay at 816-333-4917 or meredithh@cccckc.org for more information.



Photos from Pageant and Praise

By Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Youth and Families



This past weekend our children and students became local celebrities during Country Club Christian’s Pageant and Praise. Our Grow Choir (3 years-Kindergarten) and Children and Student Choirs were joined by a bunch of egg-shaking, rag-tag 2-year-olds. It was pretty stinking cute! If you missed it and want to see a whole lot of adorable, you should join us for our Spring Musical, *iAm: An App for All That*.



Cole Keller rocking out with his rhythm sticks while Thomas Sweeney and Caroline Rose jam with their egg shakers!



Ben and Elizabeth Crocker brought down the house with their duet of “Mary Did You Know?”



Caroline Schopp did an amazing job in her musical solo debut singing “Away in the Manger.”



We all got warm fuzzies by singing “Joy to the World” together!

A special thanks to Michael Patch, Director of Children and Student Music, for putting together the whole show; Rev. David Deibold for accompanying the singers; and The Sticks and Phones Orffestra for their beautiful music.

Seasonal Gifts Span Generations

Each year, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, volunteers deliver a special seasonal gift to our sick and homebound members as another reminder that they are always in our thoughts and prayers. This year our seasonal gift represents a joyful collaboration that spans our generations.

During Advent in Advance, our children exercised their creativity and imaginations to make a Christmas card or bookmark to include in the package. Our sewing ministry took time out from making gifts for charities



and hospitals to fashion a handy household pouch for each recipient. Volunteers of all ages are making the personal deliveries and gifting our homebound with their time and presence. Each visit blesses the volunteer, too, as they have an opportunity to become acquainted with someone they might not otherwise meet.

There are many ways you can be a part of this heart-warming ministry. Our sewing ministry and knitters welcome donations of fabric and yarn. Before you know it, we will be organizing the delivery of flowers – our seasonal gift for Easter. To learn about how you can help with our spring gifts and visits, call Joe Walker or email care@cccckc.org.

Upcoming Student Events

Sunday Evenings

Middle School and High School students are encouraged to participate in Youth Group, a monthly fellowship opportunity. We'll gather for a light meal, fellowship, and a time to explore a life of faith with one another. We will frequently participate in service opportunities and community-building outings. Annual permission slips to cover these events are available on the Student Ministries page of our website or in the 2014/2015 Student Ministry packet.

High School Youth Group: Third Sunday of the month.

Jan. 18 – High School Music Night. Join us for a night of dinner and music. The Floras will bring in a variety of musical instruments to use. Feel free to join in or sit back and just enjoy. 5:00-7:00 p.m., Social Hall.

Middle School Youth Group: First Sunday of the month. 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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.

Middle School Grade-Level Gatherings

6th through 8th graders are invited to participate in 30-minute quarterly gatherings that are grade specific. This offers students the chance to connect and have fun with other students in their grade. These gatherings occur just before Middle School Youth Group.

Sundays, 4:30-5:00 p.m., Youth Center

Feb. 1: 6th grade gathering

Mar. 1: 7th grade gathering

Apr. 5: 8th grade gathering

Aug. 2: 6th grade gathering

Super Bowl Party

Food. Football. Epic commercials. Half-time show. Students grades 6th-12th are invited to watch the Super Bowl, hang out with friends, and collectively decide which commercial is the worst. Sun., Feb. 1, 5:30-10:00 p.m.

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.

Pre-need Funeral Planning

Do your New Year's resolutions include pre-planning your funeral and final arrangements? In addition to advance health care directives and funeral home plans it will be helpful for your loved ones if you provide some guidance for your memorial service. Think how convenient it will be for your family to open a paper or electronic file and easily find your preferences for a Scripture or hymn, a draft obituary, and other background materials. To aid your planning process we have compiled a free packet with popular Scriptures and hymns, sample service outlines, and a columbarium and rose garden brochure. You can choose to set an appointment for a conversation about pre-planning your service or simply request a packet be mailed to you. For more information call Rev. Joe Walker, 816-333-4917, ext. 224 or email care@cccckc.org.

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.

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.



Pondering in Your Heart?

By Rev. Carla Aday, Senior Associate Minister



I still remember that mangy little tree that Dave brought home on Dec 21. It had to be one of the ugliest little trees I'd ever seen. Maybe it wouldn't have even been good enough for Charlie Brown. But it really didn't matter. Because I was holding in my arms our 4-day-old son, Connor. Love had already come to us in human form, so we didn't really need a pretty tree to get us in the spirit of Christmas.

I remember when my friend Mary came over to our house to take pictures of 1-year old Connor for our Christmas card. He was dressed in a green velvet

suit and toddling next to the base of the Christmas tree. His little smile, chubby cheeks and wispy hair were angelic.

I remember the Christmas we were robbed when I was 7 years old and my mom had to tell the detective what was in each of those wrapped boxes stolen from underneath our tree. I remember how much my teetotaling Grandmother loved spiked eggnog. And I remember the taste of divinity candy in the farm house kitchen at the yellow linoleum table in my great-grandmother's house.

What do you remember? The Gospel according to Luke says that on the first Christmas, "Mary pondered all these things." I wonder what she pondered, what she remembered, what she hoped would happen next. Did she worry about what would happen when Jesus grew up and went off to college? Did she wonder if she would have the wisdom to parent him well? Did she simply revel in how precious he was and how lucky she was to have him in her life – even if only for a while?

As you approach the manger in these final days before Christmas, what do you ponder in your heart? The Christian martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote this about our story of Christmas:

*This text speaks of the birth of a child,
Not the revolutionary deed of a strong man,
Or the breath-taking discovery of a sage,
Or the pious deed of a saint.*

*It truly boggles the mind:
The birth of a child
Is to bring about the great transformation of all things,
Is to bring salvation and redemption to all of humanity.*

Carla

Children and Families

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 explore how your infant or toddler comes to know God and what our role as parents can be in fostering faithfulness.

Preschool and Parents' Day Out Open House

Jan. 27-29, 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 sibilings will be Mon., Feb. 2, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. PDO families will enroll Tues., Feb. 3, 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Registration will be open to the general public for preschool, transition and PDO on Thurs., Feb. 5, at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

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Return Service Requested

Our Church Family

In Sympathy

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

Ruth Luhnnow

Memorials

Betty Major

Julianne Greenlease
Glenda Jo Self

Carol Chapman

Bob & Doris Calvin
Larry & Kathleen Knehans

David Hewitt

Mr. & Mrs. J. William Hopkins, Jr.
Tom & Martha Lieser
Norma Tilton

Harvey & Dorothy Ray

Ronald Cross
Mr. & Mrs. J. William Hopkins, Jr.
Randy & Cindy Irey
F.W. & Nancy Zschietz

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
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	

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816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538
email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org