



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

INSIDE

Excitement and Sadness
By Glen Miles
≈≈≈
page 3

Advent for Children
by Lindsay Howes
≈≈≈
page 5

Focus on What We Have
by Monica Lewis
≈≈≈
page 7

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.

A Christmas Festival – for All Ages

Sun., Dec. 11

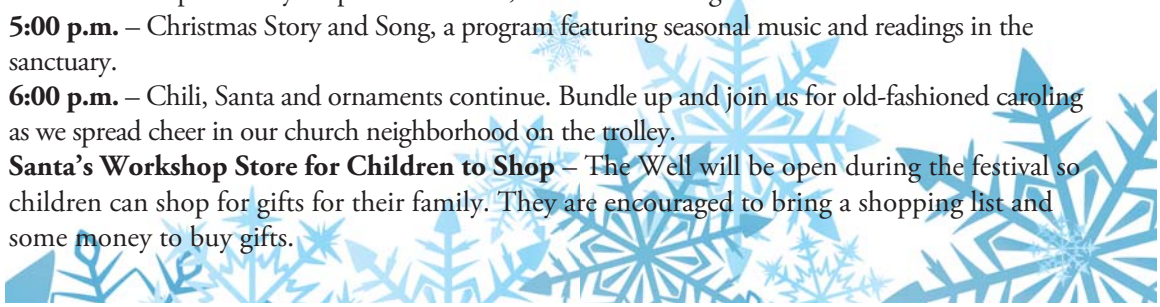
This holiday tradition for all ages is designed so you can enjoy all or part of the festivities as your schedule allows. Bring your kiddos for cookies with Santa, come just for the program, or stick around to carol with your friends.

4:00 p.m. – The whole church is invited to enjoy chili and cookies with Santa. Have your photo taken for a complimentary keepsake ornament; cookie decorating and reindeer food.

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Story and Song, a program featuring seasonal music and readings in the sanctuary.

6:00 p.m. – Chili, Santa and ornaments continue. Bundle up and join us for old-fashioned caroling as we spread cheer in our church neighborhood on the trolley.

Santa’s Workshop Store for Children to Shop – The Well will be open during the festival so children can shop for gifts for their family. They are encouraged to bring a shopping list and some money to buy gifts.



Christmas Offering to Heart to Heart

By Lance Jessee

Each year at this time the Outreach Grants and Special Offering Team of Country Club Christian Church chooses a recipient

for our Christmas offering. This season’s offering will be directed to a local charity, Heart to Heart International. Heart to Heart continues to provide relief and help for the victims of Hurricane Matthew, and these efforts are what led us to choose Heart to Heart as our offering recipient.



Clinic in Haiti

damage to Haiti and the coast of Florida and the Carolinas is immense.

In Haiti, an estimated 200,000 homes were destroyed leaving 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian aid. In North Carolina an estimated 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. The damage to infrastructure and agricultural crops was estimated to be in the billions of dollars.

continued on page 2

Disasters such as Hurricane Matthew, which hit in October 2016, make the news when they happen, but all too often our attention is drawn away from the suffering and need for help by other news such as the recent elections. The

Dr. Miles Accepts New Position

See page 3 for more information.



Christmas offering, *continued from page 1*

Heart to Heart prepared in advance of Hurricane Matthew by storing needed medical supplies and equipment in Port au Prince so that they could respond immediately to help the victims there. They dispatched mobile medical units to Florida and the Carolinas to help provide medical help there as well.

Our annual Christmas Offering is a way for our church to extend its reach and to carry out the Christian mission to help others in need. Heart to Heart is making a difference in the lives of many people, and they deserve our support.



Preparing hygiene kits

Please consider participating in this special offering. Mark your gift “Christmas Offering” and mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate at Sunday worship.

Lance Jessee is chair of the Outreach Grants and Special Offering Team.

Join Us this Advent Season

Brass Christmas Concert

Tues., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. Get into the Christmas spirit as the Kansas City Brass present a traditional concert featuring seasonal favorites in the sanctuary.

Country Club Singers Holiday Concert

10:00 a.m., Dec. 18, Sanctuary. Christmas music by Country Club Singers.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Dec. 24

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services. During each of our Christmas Eve services, we encourage you to worship as a family, taking children of all ages with you to worship. Child care not provided.

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

8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Traditional candlelight service featuring the Kansas City Brass. Communion at 11:00 p.m. service only.

Christmas Day Worship

On Sun., Dec. 25, we will have one service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. No child care or Sunday school classes.

New Year's Day Worship

On Sun., Jan. 1, 2017, we will have one service at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. No child care or Sunday school classes.

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!



Volunteers for Christmas Season

To make our Christmas season a success we need your help. Many opportunities to serve to make our events a success are available – A Christmas Festival and Christmas Eve services. Sign up in the parlor today. For more information, contact Anne Haraughty, anneh@cccckc.org.

Guitar Society Concert

The Kansas City Guitar Society is holding its 2016-17 concert series in Combs Memorial Chapel with the support of the Music Ministry. The next concert in the series is on Sun., Dec. 4, at 3:30 p.m. The hour-long event is free and open to the public. All are invited!

Upcoming Guest Lunch

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend this luncheon from 12:15-1:30 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 15 to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and church. Lunch will be served in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). For more information or to RSVP, contact Barbara George barbarag@cccckc.org.



Excitement and Sadness

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



I write with a mixture of excitement and sadness to tell you I have accepted an invitation from the Governing Board of the First Community Church of Columbus, Ohio, to become their next Senior Minister. This 5,000 member congregation is a strong and vital one much like Country Club Christian Church. They have three campuses, a media ministry, a staff of 75, and ministries that extend around the globe.

Julie and I have thoroughly enjoyed our 14 years here in Kansas City. You all have graciously welcomed us into your homes, encouraged us in ways too numerous to recount and continually been a source of joy and comfort. There will surely be tears of sadness in our eyes on the day we leave to take on this new adventure.

My final Sunday will be Feb. 5, 2017. There will be more information coming soon about that day. In the meantime, there is much to do and say. I am looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with you on Christmas Eve. We will also celebrate together, in the weeks ahead, the many gifts Country Club Christian Church has to share with the world.

Change and transition can bring worry and wonder but you are well-suited for the future. You are led well by the Congregational Board and a dedicated staff. I could not be more proud of all that we have accomplished together and all that the Spirit of God is leading this church toward in the years ahead.

Grace and peace to you,

Advent Sermon Series

The advent sermon series, “Where the Love Light Beams,” continues as it invites all of us to allow the light of Christ’s birth to guide us on a journey to peace, hope and joy. The sentimental Christmas carol, “I’ll be Home for Christmas,” is a reminder of the desire of every human heart to find its way home.

Dec. 4 – If Only, *Isaiah 11:1-10*

Dec. 11 – A Long Road Back, *Isaiah 35:1-10*

Dec. 18 – Home for Christmas, *Isaiah 7:10-16*. The Chancel Choir will sing a version of “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” arranged by Paul Tucker.

Worship with us!

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

**Advent Sermon Series
Where the Love Light Beams**

Dec. 4 – Part 2:
If Only
Isaiah 11:1-10

Dec. 11 – Part 3:
A Long Road Back
Isaiah 35:1-10

Dec. 18 – Part 4:
Home for Christmas
Isaiah 7:10-16

Dec. 25 – 10:30 a.m. only
Rev. Joe Walker preaching

Jan. 1 – 10:30 a.m. only
Dr. Glen Miles preaching

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Dec. 11. We have three ways to donate:

- Bring canned goods to our donation points in the parlor and chapel any Sunday.
- Make a financial contribution on the Harvesters Community Food Network website. On Dec. 11, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation. (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org).
- Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope “food drive.”

Purchases through AmazonSmile Benefit Week of Compassion through The Well

Every time you shop through AmazonSmile, your purchases can benefit Week of Compassion through The Well. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same prices and selection as amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to The Well for Week of Compassion.



To shop at AmazonSmile go to smile.amazon.com using your regular account from Amazon.com. Your shopping cart and other account settings are the same. You need to select Country Club Christian Church as your charitable organization to receive donations before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Faithbook: Women Exploring Scripture and Forming Friendships

FaithBook is a place for women to connect and reconnect, a place to share stories, a place to challenge one another to grow in faith. All are welcome. Meet amazing women forming friendships and sharing scripture. Come and go as your schedule permits on either Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. Carla Aday presents a scripture and small groups discuss.

Winter/Spring Session – Jan. 3/4 through Apr. 4/5

Topics: Jesus and Muhammed – Let's Talk; Women in the Gospels; Paul's Invitation

Faith and Grief Luncheon

Our Faith and Grief Lunch Ministry offers a safe place for those who grieve to remember, listen, and pray together. The next lunch is Tues., Dec. 6. The meal begins at noon and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome – those of all faiths as well as those who profess no spiritual beliefs. The lunch is free, provided by the sponsoring churches. A free will offering basket is available for those who wish to support this ministry.

The ministry is a collaboration of five churches, St. Andrew's Episcopal, St. John's United Methodist, Second Presbyterian, Village Presbyterian, and Country Club. Lunches are hosted at Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village.

For information: Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org. To register: (469) 251-9612.

Via Spiritual Renewal Retreats in 2017

Save the dates for men's and women's spiritual retreats at Tall Oaks Conference Center in 2017.

Men: Mar. 31-Apr. 2

Women: Oct. 20-22



These retreats will be the same as those offered this year. If you missed out, this is your chance to experience the renewal provided to all participants. Life gets busy and it is easy to drift away from the journey of faith. The retreats are designed to build friendships, provide personal reflection time, and have fun while also reconnecting with the Spirit of God. Participants will learn new forms of prayer and spiritual patterns, enjoy the beauty of nature, and have time to relax and play.



Men's retreat in 2016.



Advent for Children

By Lindsay Howes, Director of Children's Ministries



I don't know about you, but Advent in our house is a very exciting time. Let me be clear, there are lists upon lists, drawings upon drawings, gibberish upon gibberish on paper letting us know "exactly" what our children want for Christmas. It drives me crazy!

I love to see the joy in their faces when we talk about Christmas, but sometimes I feel defeated when it all falls back to wants, toys, STUFF. To give them (and myself) some credit, there are also moments of remembering Christ's birth, the excitement of trying to explain to a 4-year-old what Christmas is all about, and the weekly lighting of our Advent candle but unfortunately and honestly these moments are not as often as I would hope.

To see our children listening to the stories from the bible, processing in their minds the miracles and best of all, asking questions—that is when we really feel the excitement of Christmas.

My hope is for you all to take a moment, read the scripture, share the joy and and, most importantly, feel the true excitement of this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas!

TED Talk Discussions

Discuss the intersection of social issues, ideas and our shared faith in a series utilizing TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talks from the immensely popular TED live events, videos and podcasts. Participants watch the talks together and then participate in a discussion. Open to all ages. Facilitated by Craig Doty. 10:00-10:50 a.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205).

■ Dec. 4 – My Year of Biblical Living, AJ Jacobs

Text Giving

Make a contribution to the church via text from your phone:

1. Text the word CHURCH to 816-839-9410 and include the amount you'd like to contribute. Example: Church \$100
2. You will receive a reply text. Click on the link.
3. Fill in your name, email, address and your credit or debit card. It's fast and easy.
4. You will receive an email receipt and your gift will be applied to your giving record at the church. You must complete your transaction within 15 minutes.

reStart the MusiKC Concert Raised for Homeless Teens



Country Club Christian Church students Reagan and Bryce Flora played in one of the bands at our reStart the MusiKC concert on Nov. 22. The concert raised \$800 to benefit reStart, the city's only emergency shelter for homeless youth.

Upcoming Student Events

Middle School Christmas Party – Sun., Dec. 18, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Youth Center (Rm. 205). Dinner provided. Bring an unwrapped child's gift for donation, and a gender neutral wrapped gift for exchange. Friends are welcome!

High School Christmas Lock-in – Wed., Dec. 21, 8:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m. Bring unwrapped child's gift for donation, and a gender neutral wrapped gift for exchange. Friends are welcome!

Greater Kansas City Midwinter retreat – Jan. 6-8, 7:00 p.m.-11:00 a.m. 9th-12th grade youth at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Students from all over Kansas City gather for fellowship, worship and fun. Cost is \$80 before Dec. 19 or \$95 after. Contact Chuck at chuckp@cccckc.org for more information and registration.

Pie Delivery to Micah



Thanks to donations of pies and cash, volunteers were able to deliver 97 pies for Micah Ministry's Thanksgiving dinner.

Pick Up Your Poinsettia

If you purchased a poinsettia from Country Club Christian Church students, your plant will be available for pick up from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 4, in the parlor. Thanks for supporting the student mission trip scholarship fund.

Children's Music in December

Sun., Dec. 4 – 11:00-11:30 a.m. Rehearsal in Rm 213.

Sun., Dec. 11:

11:00-11:30 a.m. Rehearsal in Rm 213.
5:00 p.m. Sing "When God is a Child" at the Christmas Festival program in the sanctuary. The choir will sit together before singing and are welcome to sit with parents afterward.

Sun., Dec. 18 – Sing at 11:00 a.m. service in the sanctuary. Singers meet in Rm 213 at 11:00 a.m. and walk to the sanctuary as a group. Return to Rm. 213 for a short rehearsal until 11:45 a.m. to prepare for Christmas Eve.

Sat., Dec. 24 – Sing at the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve children and families service.

Please let Sara and Alex Goering, directors, know which performances you are available to sing.

Sara: sarag@cccckc.org

Alex: alexg@cccckc.org



Focus on What We Have

By Rev. Monica Lewis, Minister to Children, Students and Families



Until I met my husband I had never been shopping on Black Friday. My family still lives in a small town so when I was home for Thanksgiving there weren't really many opportunities to do so. My husband is also from a small town—his in eastern Kentucky.

The first time I went home with him for Thanksgiving I joined his stepmom in the madness of it. On Thanksgiving night we drove two hours, on winding roads, to the closest town with a Walmart Supercenter and then spent hours sitting on the floor of Walmart waiting on them to take down the ropes so we could buy \$4 crockpots and things of that nature. I still remember how nauseous I was when 6:00 a.m. rolled around from not sleeping. It. Was. Miserable. But somehow, even after that misery, I've managed to think I need to shop on Black Friday each year since then; the only difference now is that I don't have to drive two hours to get to a store, I will not sit on a floor or wait in line, and I try with all my might to avoid Walmart and the reminder of the trauma of that first year.

This week I saw Glennon Doyle Melton's Instagram post about the gift guide that she publishes every year. All of the gifts suggested help to promote and do good in the world. Her family has a holiday rule that all of their shopping is done by the first week in December so that they can spend the month "in peace, together, making memories instead of trips to the mall." Doesn't that sound wonderful? I'm going to try that.

I'm giving myself this week to finish up my holiday gift buying. I'm going to embrace her family's practice in hopes of doing the smallest bit of justice to the feeling of expectation Advent brings. Like Glennon I want to "spend the holidays focused on what we HAVE instead of what we WANT. And that, my friends, is the key to joy."

I realize that I'm a product of my consumeristic culture. I know that I'm not going to stop buying presents at Christmastime—at least not yet. I love to give gifts and I support organizations that help out those who are less fortunate in hopes that they'll have a better Christmas. But what I CAN do is stop, take a breath, look around me, and take inventory of all the good that I already HAVE. Will you join me in doing the same?

Monica

To see the Momastery gift guide, visit www.momastery.com. For more "good doing" shopping, visit our bookstore, The Well. All proceeds from it benefit Week of Compassion.

Children and Families

Club Kids (3rd-5th Grade)

Dec. 4 – 12:30 p.m., Sullivan Home

Join us for lunch, cookie decorating and fellowship. Please contact Lindsay at lindsayh@cccckc.org for more details or to RSVP.

A Christmas Festival

Dec. 11 - 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy chili, crafts and cookies with Santa himself. Have your photo taken for a complimentary keepsake ornament. Followed by Christmas Story and Song in the sanctuary. We will conclude with cocoa and trolley caroling. Santa and chili dinner will continue after the program.

Santa's Workshop Store for Children to Shop – The Well will be open during the festival so children can shop for gifts for their family. They are encouraged to bring a shopping list and some money to buy gifts.

Children's Collection Connection

LEGOs for India

We are collecting LEGO bricks to be recycled in sets for children at the Rambo School in Mungeli, India. Please leave your donations at the collection point on the second floor.

MOPS Group

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The

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PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Sara and Alex Goering Associate Directors of Music for Children and Students
Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Ms. Anne Haraughty Ministries Coordinator
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communications
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Ms. Elizabeth Pfalzgraf Assistant Director of Children and Student Ministries
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	Rev. Chuck Pickrel Director of Student Ministries
Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans Co-Director of Music	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Ms. Barbara George Director of Membership Development	Dr. Paul Tucker Co-Director of Music

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Our Church Family

Congratulations

Congratulations to these families on the birth of:

Kingston Cortez Morris to Carly Tucker and D'Andre Morris. Grandson of Paul and Vicki Tucker.

Saylor Ann Green to Whitney and James Green. Granddaughter of Chuck and Marilyn Dreas.

Memorials

Memorial gifts are placed into the Church's Endowment Funds, which are used to support the church now and into the future. The Endowment Trustees disperse the funds according to the Declaration of Trust approved by the official Congregational Board.

Donald White, for the Stephen Ministry of Country Club Christian Church

Chuck & Marilyn Dreas
Courtney Earnest

Ellen Lanner

The Lanner Family

Marianne See, for Congregational Care

Jane & Edwin Corley
Randy & Cindy Irely
Robert & Karen Robinson

Marianne See, for the Building Fund

Max Deweese
Chuck & Marilyn Dreas
John & Erma Hess
Howard & Mary Gay Woosley
The Anniversary Class of Country Club Christian Church

Nola Odle

Max Deweese

Wayne Heady, for the Music Department

William & Jeanne Blanck
Annie Brabson
William & Janis Daniels
Max Deweese
Chuck & Marilyn Dreas
Courtney Earnest
Hannah Fenley
Alan & Susan Garner
Alex & Barbara George
Grace Graves
Robert Graves
John & Erma Hess
Bill & Brucie Hopkins
Randy & Cindy Irely
Paul & Mary Klingsporn
Bob & Shirley Legg
Pat Martin
Jill Reynolds
Bob & Sandy Riggle
Robert & Karen Robinson
Tom Van Dyke & Kay Barnes
Jim & Joan Wells
Howard & Mary Gay Woosley
The Anniversary Class of Country Club Christian Church

Wayne Heady, for the Sewing Group

John & Doris Soltys