



# CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

## INSIDE

A Quiet Christmas  
By Glen Miles  
≈≈≈  
page 3

Your Gifts Matter  
by Rachel Clement  
≈≈≈  
page 5

Glen Miles Is Grace  
by Carla Aday  
≈≈≈  
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.*

## Join Us for Christmas Eve Worship

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 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 on Sun., Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

There will be only one worship service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. No Sunday School classes or child care.

## 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) Lara Schopp, Lindsay Howes, Barbara George, Carla Aday, Rachel Wymore, Sally Huggins  
Middle row, (l-r) Rachel Clement, Mary Margaret House, Monica Lewis  
Back row, (l-r) Joe Walker, Paul Cutelli, Jeff Sidney, Anne Haraughty, Glen Miles, Jason Ashley  
Not pictured: Diana Black, Gustavo Martinez, Lisa McCleish, Chuck Pickrel, Elizabeth Pfalzgraf, Alex and Sara Goering, Dina Pannabecker Evans, Paul Tucker.



---

## **Update from the Congregational Board Chair**

By Leann Blundell

Following Dr. Glen Miles' announcement of his resignation on Nov. 30, the Congregational Board has begun to organize next steps regarding the search for the church's next senior minister. I want to share what has been done and what you can expect in the next month.

On Nov. 29, I hosted a conference call with Board members to inform them of Glen's plans, in advance of his announcement to the church staff and the congregation on Nov. 30. On Dec. 5, the Personnel Committee met with the staff as part of the annual holiday staff appreciation lunch, and Jen Parker, Personnel Committee chair, communicated with the staff the following day to provide reassurance during this period of change.

Scott Glasrud, 2017-18 Board Chair-Elect, and I have spoken with Board consultant, Dan Hotchkiss, to discuss next steps for the Board and his general advice as we navigate this change. The Personnel Committee met on Dec. 13 to review existing church policies, past experiences, a variety of search options, and the most effective ways for the Board to serve as a key resource in this process.

There is no set timeframe for this process because this is an important decision that deserves time to explore, but I will keep you updated as we move forward. In the meantime, know that the Congregational Board and the Personnel Committee, in partnership with the staff, remain committed to the continued growth and evolution of our congregation, and we will continue to serve the ministries and mission of our church.

If you would like to speak with someone about this process, please email me at [leann\\_jones66@yahoo.com](mailto:leann_jones66@yahoo.com).

## **New Phone System to Be Installed Dec. 28**

The church is getting a new phone system installed on Wed., Dec. 28. During the transition to the new system, it is possible there may be a brief interruption of phone service. If you need to reach the church for any reason on Dec. 28 and are unable to, please call 816-809-0383.

This new Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system features direct dial lines and allows staff to receive voice mail messages both in the traditional way and via email, ensuring your messages are received in a timely manner, especially if staff members are out of the building. The church phone number will not change.

## **Christmas Offering to Benefit Heart to Heart International**

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.

Disasters such as Hurricane Matthew 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 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.

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.

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 worship.



## A Quiet Christmas

By Dr. R. Glen Miles



Julie and I spent my day off last week beginning the process of prepping our house for sale. We decided to leave most of the Christmas decor in storage. We will hang the stockings over the fireplace and we have a beautiful Christmas arrangement of flowers from friends on display but nothing more.

At first I was saddened by this. It's our last Christmas in the home where we have so many wonderful memories of holidays past. I kinda sorta wanted to go ahead and unpack all of the boxes marked "Xmas" and just decorate anyway. I tried to talk myself into setting up the creche with the baby Jesus and the flying angel, hanging the mistletoe above the entryway and putting up all of the many wonderful decorations Julie has collected over the years.

At some point when we were talking about whether we should or should not do our usual thing for December Julie said, "The more I think about this, the more I like the idea of a quiet Christmas. We can put up the stockings, wrap the presents, plan a wonderful meal and simply enjoy each other without going all out like we usually do."

I liked her idea. But it wasn't an easy decision. Sometimes we teasingly call Julie, "Christmas Carol." She loves everything about Christmas. Especially decorating the house inside and out. If she has not figured out her plan for decking the halls by August she feels like she is way behind.

So there is some sadness, but frankly there is some relief, too. We will be free to get the garage sale set up. The time spent placing the candles just so will go toward something much more practical like grooming the dogs.

Then, on Christmas Eve, within the stunning beauty of our sanctuary, sometime around midnight, Julie and our boys and 800 of you will raise candles in the darkness remembering, most likely with tears in our eyes, the Christ Child, who came and lived among us. We will recall the words of the Gospel of John proclaiming, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

This is one of the holiest moments of the church year. Time seems to stand still. In the past I swear I could almost hear the angels singing somewhere in the distance.

I wonder. Maybe a quiet Christmas is what we need to finally hear "The blessed angels sing."

Grace and peace to you in this holy time,

## 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](mailto:barbarag@cccckc.org).

## Worship with us!

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

**Advent Sermon Series  
Where the Love Light Beams  
Dec. 18 – Part 4:  
Home for Christmas  
*Isaiah 7:10-16***

**Dec. 25 – 10:30 a.m. only  
A Trip to the Manger  
*Luke 2:1-20*  
Rev. Joe Walker preaching**

**Jan. 1 – 10:30 a.m. only  
Glory  
*John 1: 1-18*  
Dr. Glen Miles preaching**

---

# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Christian Community Camp Registration

Registration opens Jan. 15 for the 2017 camp June 3-10. A \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. 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. Cost is \$1,700 (\$1,600 if paid in full by Feb. 1, 2017) for a private room; \$375 (\$275 if paid in full by Feb. 1, 2017) for the women's bunk room. Food and activity fee of \$85 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Lewis at [monical@cccckc.org](mailto:monical@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

---

## 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](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the same prices and selection as [amazon.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 . . .

## 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 in 2016. 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.

Cost is \$125 per person. Early registration is \$110 by Jan. 15 for men's retreat and by Aug. 15 for women's retreat.



Women's retreat in 2016.

---

## Save the Date! 2017 Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the 8th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction, Fri., Apr. 7, 2017 at the College Basketball Experience (1401 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106). Sunday School classes are encouraged to include this event on your schedule as your April social event.



**New This Year** – Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join in the fun at an event designed just for them on the first floor of the College Basketball Experience. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend for an evening of games, food and fun!

Tickets are available for purchase in The Well.



## Your Gifts Matter

By Rachel Clement, Director of Finance



Thank you ...

I am blessed to receive your annual giving pledges but also to see your gifts at work. Each time I write a check to pay a bill I am reminded that your contributions make so many things possible. The generosity of your gifts should be celebrated.

This year was what I call the year of projects. Some fun – new carpet and tile in the preschool. Some not so fun – new pans on the HVAC system. But all important.

Last year we received a few generous year-end gifts. One of those gifts remodeled the library. Have you seen it? It is truly beautiful and also useful! Many meetings will be held in the space. Families will gather there before celebrating the lives of their loved ones. Another gift you may not notice but is a tremendous support for those who work here: our building is now wireless. This was thanks to a few donors and their technology gifts. These gifts also helped fund the new design of our website. Staying connected and finding information is now much easier. Our calendar is constantly updated on the site so you will always know what is happening.

There are so many ways to make a gift to the church. You can give through our online giving with your credit card or automatic deduction from your checking account. New this year you can even text in your gift! (See instructions on the right.) I have already received many calls from members donating stock to the church. And of course we always accept checks and cash!

Please remember now is a great time to bring your annual pledge up to date. All gifts to be credited for the 2016 tax year must be in the church office by 5:00 p.m. Fri., Dec. 30 or postmarked by Dec. 31 if mailing to the church.

I know you have many options when you consider your year-end giving but I hope that you remember that gifts to Country Club Christian Church touch lives in so many ways, both inside our congregation and in the world at large.

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support of Country Club Christian Church and its ministries at this time of year and all year long.

### Text your Gift!

Make a contribution to the Christmas offering or a year-end gift to the church via text from your phone:

1. Text the word CHRISTMAS or the word CHURCH to 816-839-9410 and include the amount you'd like to contribute. Example:  
Christmas \$100  
OR  
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. 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. If you choose, you may also text your gift at a later time.

### Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed on Dec. 26 and 27 and Jan. 2. If you need to speak to a pastor in the event of a death or hospitalization, please call 816-853-5875.

---

## 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](mailto:chuckp@cccckc.org) for more information and registration.

## Volunteers for Della Lamb's Operation Santa Claus

This year, Country Club Christian Church provided 26 volunteers (including 10 staff members) who worked a total of 187 hours helping sort clothes and bundle them for Della Lamb clients. Della Lamb will provide new clothing outfits for about 2,000 children, including refugees, those in the early education program and others whose families have registered with Della Lamb social services. The parents also select toys for their children and teenagers will receive gift bags and backpacks filled with school supplies, personal items and candy. Adults also receive gifts, and families will receive fresh and non perishable foods for a holiday family dinner. The total number of people served is well over 5,000. The items were distributed last week over four days.



## Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next Virginia Reed Food Drive is Jan. 15. 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 Jan. 15, a computer will be available in the parlor to make an online donation. ([christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org](http://christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org)).
- 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.

## Children's Music in December

**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](mailto:sarag@cccckc.org)

Alex: [alexg@cccckc.org](mailto:alexg@cccckc.org)

## Sermons Available on iTunes and SoundCloud

Sermon audio files are now available for download via iTunes or SoundCloud.

Miss a Sunday? Download the most recent sermon and listen to it on your handheld device at your convenience. To find the sermon files, go to iTunes (or, if you use an iPhone or iPad, open the Podcast app) and search Country Club Christian Church. Or, download the free SoundCloud app onto your handheld device and search Country Club Christian Church. Subscribe to ensure you never miss a sermon. If you have questions about subscribing or downloading, ask a staff member on Sunday morning, or email [laras@cccckc.org](mailto:laras@cccckc.org).



## Glen Miles Is Grace

By Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



He was the first person I told that I had cancer. And he was wise enough to say nothing. Week after week he has shaped my thinking about God and challenged me to risk my life to follow the Savior of the world. So like you, I too felt sad when I learned that our Senior Minister was resigning to accept a call to serve another of the greatest churches in this country.

For 14 years I have been able to shout across the hall from my desk at him. There were days when I spent more hours in meetings with him than I did with my family at home. There were days when we gave high fives and fist bumps because we knew that the hard work of this congregation had proclaimed God's love with crystal clear trumpet blasts. And there were days when we wept because we didn't know if the Holy Spirit was anywhere in the vicinity. We co-officiated at weddings and funerals. We collaborated on sermons. We counseled each other out of tough professional and personal dilemmas. He knows my weaknesses. And I know his.

Maybe that is why the word that we will always think of when we think of Glen Miles is grace.

Grace.

Grace.

He not only preached grace. But he practiced grace. Like a prism he held up the word and invited us to see a new side of it. Like a race, he ran it, never giving up. He wouldn't let us off the hook. He wanted us to know grace was real for each of us and for the world. And so it is only natural that we would pause now to feel the sadness of one chapter of the church life shifting. And it is only natural that we would wonder aloud "what next?"

Advent is the season of waiting. We not only wait for the Messiah to be born on Dec 24. We also wait to see where God will lead our congregation next. We wait. And sometimes waiting is so annoying. So frustrating. So long. So uncomfortable. But sometimes when we wait, sacred and wonderful mysteries unfold.

*Carla*

## Children and Families

### 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 next meeting is Jan. 11. For more information on MOPs, check out [www.mops.org](http://www.mops.org).

#### Sunday School

Deep Blue curriculum is inspired by the verse, "In the depths of who I am, I rejoice in God my Savior." (Luke 1:47 CEB) The children will discover what it means to be a disciple of Christ today through science experiments, art and crafts, animated videos and active games; making the Bible stories, characters and verses part of their lives. Parents, please check out the site, [www.deepbluekids.com](http://www.deepbluekids.com).

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## PROGRAM STAFF

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

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, [laras@cccckc.org](mailto:laras@cccckc.org)

816-333-4917

email: [office@cccckc.org](mailto:office@cccckc.org) website: [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org)

# Our Church Family

## Sympathy

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

**Georgene Swank**  
**Carlene Neihart**

## 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.

### Wayne Heady, for the Music Department

Gene & Lynn Brice  
Margaret Brinkman  
Mary Buehler  
M.G. Dyer  
Sandy & Steve Graves  
Jerry & Coe Kindig  
Donna McDonald  
Maureen McGinty  
Bob & Kay Moffat  
Phyllis Moore  
Nancy Ralston  
R.D. Rathford  
Karen Slater  
John & Mary Jane Stewart  
Jo Strickler  
James & Lynn Turley  
Rex & Doris Whitton

### Nola Odle

Jo Strickler  
The TRI-C's Sunday School Class of Country Club  
Christian Church

### Nola Odle, for Congregational Care

Robert Jones

### Marianne See, for Congregational Care

John & Mary Jane Stewart  
The TRI-C's Sunday School Class of Country Club  
Christian Church

### Donald White, for the Stephen Ministries of Country Club Christian Church

John & Mary Jane Stewart