A Pilgrim's Progress

A clamor for certainty and security seems to run at fever pitch these days. One of the symptoms is a resistance to change and one place we struggle with the challenge of change is in the church. At times this struggle with change takes the form of rigidity. Eric Elnes, a colleague and fellow UCC minister, has written well about this. Here are some of Eric's thoughts.

When Christians maintain a rigid orthodoxy, their theology and community life may attain a certain level of decency and order, but they rarely produce something that raises our hearts to the heavens or makes us "new creations."

By invoking the term "rigid orthodoxy" here, I'm not simply thinking of churches at the conservative end of the theological swimming pool (or beer tank, as the case may be). I have in mind the churches in which we "live, move, and have our being" - those of the United Church of Christ. Can it not be said that we in the UCC have our own rigid orthodoxy - or "purity of form" - with respect to worship and mission, to community life and theological articulation? Particularly with respect to worship, my forty-six year experience in the UCC leads me to conclude that we have a more rigid (though largely unwritten) sense of orthodoxy than even much more conservative denominations. God forbid we change our Communion format or mess with the music!

To be sure, purity of form occasionally produces faith communities of exceptional beauty and grace. Over the years, I've visited a handful of such communities around the country. Each time my heart fills with joy and appreciation over the level of authenticity and discipleship they exude. I think to myself, if all our churches were like this, there'd be no such phrase as "mainline decline." But these churches are the exception - one or two percent - not the rule. In making this observation, I do not mean to imply that

other churches are not working hard or trying to be faithful. Rather, I believe that many are working hard and striving to be faithful to the wrong paradigm.

In my experience, purity is wildly overrated. Christian faith has never been about purity. It's about transformation and forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption. Adhering to a lofty vision of purity - of any sort - does more to mess things up than put things together. What consistently produces full-bodied, robust spiritual community is not purity of form, but a fierce and creative spirit of experimentation. Call it a "heady heterodoxy." A culture of "heady heterodoxy" is not an "anything goes" culture, but one that is so heavily invested in following where the Spirit leads that it is not only willing to make mistakes in the process, but views mistakes made in this way as signs of faithfulness, not heresy.

If people of faith aren't willing to try stepping out of the box and into the darkness to follow a fresh hunch from the Spirit, things get stale. What keeps a "heady heterodoxy" fresh and vital, and ensures that it does not devolve into mayhem and chaos are the principles of intense love of the craft and commitment to producing at the peak of one's abilities, not the midpoint ("Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength ...").

Thanks, Eric, for offering us a fresh hunch about how we can change and continue making progress as pilgrims.

Howard



SUNDAY SERVICES

OCTOBER 17, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir Joyful Ringers

Scripture:

Exodus 32:1-14, Philippians 4:1-9

Sermon:

"Peace Beyond Understanding" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

OCTOBER 24, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Pilgrim Chorus

Scripture:

Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 99, Matthew 22:15-22

Sermon:

"The God and Country Dilemma" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

OCTOBER 31, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir

Scripture:

Exodus 34:29-35, Matthew 23:13-28

Sermon:

"Unmasking Our Identities" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

NOVEMBER 7, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir

Scripture:

Psalm 43, Matthew 23:1-12

Sermon:

*"Saintly Living"*Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

NOVEMBER 7, 2010

ALL CHURCH MEMORIAL

3:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS

OCTOBER 17, 2010

The fall New Member Orientation Class is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 17 from 3-6 p.m. and includes dinner. Now may be the time for you to join Glenview Community Church or at least explore membership. Please join us in the class. If you are interested, please call Jane Payne at (847)724-2210 ext. 25 or email her at jane.payne@gccucc.org and she will gladly send you information about the class along with a registration form.

Chapter 20 Presents SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Join us on Wednesday, October 20 in the Chapel at 10 AM. Mickey Johnson will tell of happenings and events from farm fields to fields afar, remaining a farm girl throughout. Mickey went to a one-room school house, earned various degrees and went on to develop the drivers education curriculum for the Glenbrook High Schools, become a writer, publisher and volunteer. She leads a full life after 90! Guests are welcome to experience Mickey's story and perhaps be stimulated to recall or write their own.

GCC To Set Up Refugee Apartment

Watch for weekly updates as GCC partners with RefugeeOne to set up an apartment in Chicago for a refugee family. We will receive and share details about the family members shortly but, as of now, we know that November is our deadline! There is a collection box outside the GCC office and we need the following new or like new items: tea pot, various size pots and pans, kitchen dish cloths/towels, and a dish drainer/tray. In November, we will need people to help set up the apartment so please respond to that opportunity when the time comes. Please contact Kris Voelker kristine voelker a *yahoo.com* with questions.

Thank you from your friends on the GCC Missions Outreach Board.



SO PLUS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 19 at 12 noon

Celebrate Halloween by wearing your favorite black and orange. We will have a delicious soup, bread, and special Fall/Halloween dessert.

Our special guest will be GCC member, Ellen Scholly, who will speak to us about the new Glenview Library. She will bring pictures and some handouts. There will also be time to have your questions answered. Don't miss this highly informative afternoon.

Wear your orange and black and join others for a Halloween celebration! Enjoy a delicious soup and bread luncheon followed by an "especially scary" dessert!! Mark your calendar and bring a friend.



Need a ride? Call Marilyn, Parish Nurse at 847-724-2210 ext. 30.

Halloween Pancake Breakfast

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 8:00 A.M. – **11:30 A.M.**

The Glenview Community Church Confirmands will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, October 31. The cost of \$5 will include a serving of sausage, beverage of choice and all the pancakes you can eat!

Breakfast will be served in the Mayflower Room.

Tickets will be sold in advance at the coffee hours after church service Sunday, October 17 & 24th. Walk-ins on October 31 are welcome.



This event is sponsored by the Resource Development Committee, supporting Glenview Community Church programs through faith, fellowship and fun!

Treats & Prizes for those in Costume



New Life for Old Bags

A big thank you from Audrey to all plastic bag contributors! "I have completed two mats and still continue making them - so please keep the bags coming for the "New Life for Old Bags" project started at the Bethesda Home in Chicago."

These mats are used by the homeless as beds.

GCC Career Network

We normally meet the last Monday of the month at noon as we find support and answers from our featured speaker and other participants in looking for a job or considering job transition. We are now looking for someone who would like to assume the leadership of organizing the meetings and speakers with Rev. Keckler. Do you have an interest in this? Call Pam Keckler at (847)724-2210, Ext. 24 or pam.

keckler@gccucc.org.



Bradley Berg of Troop 32 is collecting used gym shoes for an Eagle Project! The shoes must be gym shoes, (no Velcro, or crocs, or boots can be accepted). The collection of shoes will benefit communities world-wide, by supplying them with material for running tracks and different types of playing fields. The material used for these projects are shredded shoes, done by Nike's processing plant, and is called Regrind. Shoe collections will take place through October 18th. Boxes are located throughout Glenview, including Glenview Community Church.

Thank you for your Donations!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry participants will meet on Tuesday evening, October 19 in the chapel to come together and talk about our plans for the year. There will be a chance to swap patterns and yarn and think about making warm blankets on cold winter evenings. Marilyn and Pam will lead a brief service as we dedicate our prayer shawl women and girls. All are welcome. Bring a friend. See you at 7:00 p.m.



Beija Voce

Sunday, October 17 at 3 p.m.

Once again the Glenview Community Church will host the Bella Voce vocal ensemble, under the direction of our own nies? Andy Lewis, in their opening concert of the season. In this concert the music of Gabriel Jackson will be featured. Although a contemporary composer, his music is rich in textures and clarity of expression reminiscent of Herbert Howells. The concert will also offer the music of other Tudor-era composers. It is a concert that you will not want to miss. Tickets range in price from \$35 for premium seating, \$28 for general seating, but only \$15 per ticket for groups of 10 or more GCC members.

For tickets contact Andy Lewis at: <u>Andy.</u> <u>Lewis@gccucc.org</u> or phone him at the church (847)724- 2210.

Sunday School

Have you noticed the bulletin board full of wooden crosses in the main hallway? The crosses were decorated over the past several years by students in Steve Lochen's 6th grade Sunday School classes. Each one represents the unique creative spirit alive in the student who decorated it. If you know a 7th or 8th grader, ask him or her if a cross is theirs.

Also, you will notice informational flyers on the board from time to time. Every week there will be the updated schedule of Sunday School classrooms and pick-up information. Please check bulletin boards around the building for important happenings in and around GCC.

Confirmation

Revised worship reflection sheets are available by the Youth Room bulletin board. Regular class on October 17 followed by closing prayers in the Youth Room. The Crop Walk on October 24 at 7:30 a.m. Meet at the West Entrance and bring \$20 for your CROP Walk contribution.

PYF

OCTOBER 17 - Great America 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Join us on this outing to Great America's Fright Fest! The cost is \$30 for a ticket and spending money for food, etc. Bring a Friend! An RSVP before October 14th is strongly encouraged.

OCTOBER 24 - Mission Projects! Rainbow Garden 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The church has grown pounds and pounds of fresh veggies for the Food Pantry and now it is our turn to help. We will prepare the garden for winter. It would be helpful if you could bring straw and/or raked leaves for covering the beds, gloves, and scissors or gardening shears for cutting the remaining plants that we pull into small pieces for composting. This is important work so the Garden is ready for next year.

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I walk into the Church and am greeted with a smile by one of the many GCC volunteers. I am serenaded by the magnificent organ. One or more of our choirs influences my mood musically. I enjoy singing hymns. Singing with others allows me to feel that even I can hit some notes that I know I could not hit alone. I look around at our dedicated staff and our facility; I hear about our many programs and our mission work and I feel comfortable that my financial gifts are being stewarded well and that the time I volunteer is time well spent. Then I focus on the reason I come to Church

each Sunday – to hear the Word of God. Sermons are very important to me. I realized a long time ago that I will be learning forever, that I will never have all the answers and that I need to take time to hear the Word, reflect on it and make my own interpretations of what it means to me in my life. With all the distractions

in the world, this is my time to really "Pay Attention." The topics can be focused on the world and our nation, but are

many times Glenview- and GCC-specific. Even more reason to pay attention. The themes have common threads – "Love thy God above all others" and "treat others fairly with love, generosity and compassion." It is easy to get caught up in the issues of the moment, so being reminded of these messages each week helps me take a broader perspective. As I leave the Sanctuary I am again greeted with a smile and a handshake. This is why I continue to come to GCC.

Scott Brady

LECTIO DIVINA

Thursday, October 14, and the second Thursday of each month. Join us for guided prayer. We use Scripture, words and silence to explore God's message in our lives. We meet from 9:30 - 11:00a.m. in Room 5. Questions? Call Facilitator Marilyn Belleau, Parish Nurse, (847)724-2210 ext. 30.

Opportunities Knocking!

Be sure to complete and return your blue Volunteer Opportunities Form. This listing of the many activities, committees, groups and events here at GCC is your opportunity to get involved. These forms can be found in the pews, at the Visitor Tables, and in the hall just outside of the Church office. Please return your completed form to the Membership Board mailbox in the office: Glenview Community Church, Attn: Membership Board, 1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL 60025. Thank you!



Sr. Helen Prejean Author of **Dead Man Walking**

Please Join us in honoring Sr. Helen Prejean, Author of *Dead Man Walking*

Thursday, October 28th, 12:30 - 2 p.m.: \$50

NAHA Restaurant, 500 N. Grand Ave., Chicago

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty is presenting Sr. Helen Prejean with the 2010 Cunningham-Carey Award for nearly two decades of dedication and tireless advocacy on behalf of the abolition of the death penalty.

Sr. Helen became spiritual adviser to convicted murderer Elmo Patrick Sonnier in Louisiana in 1982 during the months leading up to his execution. The experience gave Prejean greater insight into the process involved in executions, and she began speaking out against capital punishment. An autobiographical account of her relationship with Sonnier and other inmates on death row served as the basis for the feature film and opera

Dead Man Walking. In the film, she was portrayed by Susan Sarandon, who won an Academy Award.

Prejean's second book, The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions was published in December 2004. In it, she tells the story of two men whom she accompanied to their executions. She believes that both men were innocent. In 1998, Prejean was given the Pacem in Terris Award, named after a 1963 encyclical letter by Pope John XXIII that calls on all people of good will to secure peace among all nations.

In 1999, Prejean formed Moratorium 2000, a petition drive that eventually grew into a national education campaign. Sr. Helen now bases her work at the Death Penalty Discourse Network in New Orleans and spends her time giving talks across the United States and around the world.



Christmas Trees

14TH ANNUAL GCC CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

PYF and Confirmation

A ll trees are cut after November 20, and delivered to Chicago by refrigerated trucks. The Fraser Fir has strong branches for decoration, beautiful dark green needles, full shape, wonderful aroma, and the ability to stay fresh the longest. Because of the size and fullness of the Fraser Fir, a substantial tree stand is needed. For those interested, we will also be providing the opportunity to order the Cinco tree stand at the price of \$20.00 for the medium stand (holds up to a 8' tree), or \$25.00 for the large stand (up to 10'). These stands are durable, made of a material that will not crack or rust, easy to put the tree in and fill with water, and very economical.

For *Glenview* residents wishing tree delivery, trees will be delivered by PYF on *Saturday, November 27*, for a fee of \$15.00. If you wish delivery, please indicate below and include directions from church to your home.

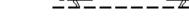
The pick-up date will be *Saturday, November 27, from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM*. If you will be unavailable on this date, please arrange for your tree to be delivered or picked-up by a friend.

The Christmas Tree Sale has become an important part of the funding for the PYF and Confirmation programs. Last year's profits were used to provide Bibles for 7th grade Confirmation students, scholarships for work camp, and funding for youth retreats and youth generated mission projects.

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Size	Price
3'	\$29.00
4'	\$35.00
5'	\$46.00
6'	\$56.00
7'	\$68.00
8'	\$90.00
9'	\$120.00
10'	\$160.00

Questions please call Pam Maga at 857-486-0235.



Orders due October 30

Mail to: Glenview Community Church Christmas Trees 1000 Elm Street, Glenview, Illinois 60025

Name	e			Phone		
Address					-	
Tree Size_		Tree	Price	Stand Size	Stand Price	
Delivery _	Yes	No	Delivery Charge_	TOTAL AMOUNT		
Please make	рауте	nt at tin	ne of order to GCCPYF. T	Thank you for your si	ıpport.	
Directions	for d	elivery	·			
		•				

GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

Glenview, IL 60025-2897

Phone: (847) 724-2210 Fax: (847) 724-2213 E-mail: gccucc@gccucc.org

OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 p.m.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Pamela Keckler, Minister for Spiritual Formation

DIRECTORS:

Marilyn Belleau, RN, Health Ministry Kathy Lifton, Children's Ministry Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini, Youth Ministry Debby Shellard, Children's Choirs Gary Wendt, Organist, Instrumental Music Andrew Lewis, Adult Choir

AFFILIATES:

Marcia Kiraly, *Director, GCC Nursery School* **Barbara Thewis,** *Manager, Resale Shop*

Nonprofit Organization

US Postage PAID Glenview, IL Permit NO. 41

At A Glance

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THRS	10/14	9:00 am 9:30 am 7:30 pm	Resale Shop, Plymouth Rm Until 5:00 pm Lectio Divina, Rm 5 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	MON	10/18	10:00 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	HOP Mailing, Founders Rm BSA 156 Troop Committee Mtg., Founders Planning Committee Mtg., Parlor Walking Angels, Sanctuary
FRI	10/15	9:00 am 8:00 pm	Resale Shop, Plymouth Room Until 1:00 pm AA Meeting, Parlor			8:00 pm	Tableau Angels, Sanctuary
		8:00 pm	Al-Anon Meeting, Room 201	TUE	10/19	12:00 pm	60 Plus Luncheon, Mayflower Rm
						4:30 pm	Hebrew School, Various Rms
SAT	10/16	9:00 am	Resale Shop, Plymouth Room Until 1:00 pm			7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Mtg., Chapel
SUN	10/17	8:45 am	Primary Choir, Rm 201	WED	10/20	9:00 am	Resale Shop until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm
		9:30 am	Worship, Sanctuary			9:15 am	Chapter 11 Mtg., Parlor
		9:30 am	Confirmation 7th Grade, Founders Rm			9:30 am	Chapter 20, Chapel
		9:30 am	Confirmation 8th Grade Classes, Parlor, Library & Rn	า 5		7:00 pm	Pilgrim Wind Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary
		9:30 am	Sunday School, Rm 201			7:00 pm	BSA Troop 156, Gym & Mayflower Rm
		10:00 am	PYF (field trip - Great America)			8:00 pm	Venturing Crew, Rm 210 & Gym
		10:20 am	Confirmation Closing Prayers, Youth Rm				•
		10:30 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm				
		10:45 am	Adult Ed, Chapel				
		10:45 am	Joyful Ringers Rehearsal, Bell Rm				
		11:45 am	Leadership Committee Mtg., Founders Rm				
		3:00 pm	Bella Voce Concert, Sanctuary (ticketed event)				
		4:00 pm	Voices of GCC Rehearsal, Room 201				

Broadcaster Deadlines:

Submit articles by 9:00 a.m., Wednesday to Tania McCarthy via e-mail at <u>tania.mccarthy@gccucc.org.</u>