

## **Pilgrims Progress**

I'm struck by how much of the biblical material is about the wilderness. The writers of Genesis tell us that Abraham went out from Ur of the Chaldees and then they trace his wanderings to Haran and Shechem and Egypt and back. The writers of Exodus tell about the Israelites' release from slavery and then they chase them for forty years through the wilderness from Egypt to the Red Sea to Sinai, to the desert of Sin, and finally into Canaan. Two of the Gospel writers tell that Jesus ended his carpentry work with an agonizing struggle in the wilderness for forty days. Other writers tell about the horrible end to Jesus' life and the frightening wilderness in which his followers existed before the church was born. The history of the church has been a series of endings and beginnings with lots of wilderness in the middle.

The wilderness wandering of the Israelites and the wilderness experience of Jesus serve as backdrops for wilderness to be a metaphor for the Lenten season. The purpose of Lent is to focus for six weeks on one's personal and spiritual growth, intentionally working on a specific issue to improve one's life and relationship with God.

Sometimes people choose to spend time in the wilderness. Jesus consciously decided to go into the wilderness and explore who he was and what he was going to do. The circumstance of being freed by the Pharaoh forced the Israelites into the wilderness. There was no where else for them to go. The wilderness segments of our lives are similar. Sometimes we consciously choose to go into uncharted territory to learn, study, be challenged, and to grow. On other occasions we are in the wilderness only because of the circumstances of our lives. If we had had any choice in the matter, we would have chosen to be somewhere else doing almost anything else.

Often our experiences during the Lenten season are a strange combination of a conscious decision to journey into the

wilderness and the unintentional results of life's circumstances that force us to confront and wrestle with things we preferred to leave alone and not face.

Wilderness isn't fun. That's what the Israelites said. In the midst of their struggle they griped, complained, and blamed Moses and God for bringing them out into the wilderness to starve to death. They said they would rather have died in Egypt as slaves having all they wanted to eat, than starve to death in the wilderness.

I am intrigued by the instruction that Moses gave to the people. In the midst of their struggle and agony, Moses directed them to look to the wilderness. Moses was saying to them that somehow the very resources they needed to deal with the agony of the wilderness would come from the wilderness. An old Chinese proverb says, "Go to the heart of trouble. There you will find peace." Somehow the solution to our agony is found in the very middle of the agony. How to make it through the wilderness is found by looking to the wilderness.

During this Lenten season may we look into the wilderness and discover there the solution to whatever agony or struggle we are experiencing. May we discover anew that wherever we are in the wilderness, God is there beside us, supporting, loving, and encouraging us to become the best human beings we can be. May our love for God and for one another grow deeper and stronger as we journey through the Lenten wilderness.

Howard

## **Devotional Booklets**

Lenten Devotional Booklets are available in the church office, Narthex and west entrance for your spiritual readings during this Lenten season. February 24, 2010

### SUNDAY SERVICES

#### **FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

#### Lent 2

3:30 a.m.	Bell Choir
10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir and
	Chancel Choir

#### Scripture:

Deuteronomy 6:13-16, Luke 4:1-13

#### Sermon:

"The Struggling Words of Jesus" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

#### MARCH 7, 2010

#### Lent 3

8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir & Primary Choir

#### Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-4, Luke 4:14-30

**Sermon:** "The Ministering Words of Jesus" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

#### MARCH 14, 2010

#### Lent 4

8:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

#### Scripture:

Psalm 31:1-11, Luke 23:26-35

#### Sermon: "Forgive Them"

Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

## LOOKING FOR LECTORS

If you are interested in reading the scripture during the 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. service, WE NEED YOU! Commitment is once a year at the service of your choice. Don't delay, respond today! contact: colleenmackimm@hotmail.com

## **Adult Education**

**February 28, 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel** Please join us for Nick Bubnovich's presentation on "Baruch Spinoza, He Must Have Had it Right". Nick will highlight some of the thoughts and beliefs of Spinoza. An excommunicated Dutch Jew of the 1600's, Spinoza is still considered a heretic by today's orthodox Jewish community due to his rejection of organized religion and his controversial thoughts on philosophy and science. Please join us.

#### Prayer Shawl Ministry This past Sunday, February 21, the altar

This past Sunday, February 21, the altar was adorned with prayer shawls made by many GCC women and friends. Care and the love of knitting have been combined into this prayerful ministry that reaches out to those within our church congregation. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. Rev. Pam Keckler and Marilyn Belleau, Parish Nurse deliver these special gifts to others.

## 1st Sunday Conversations

Join the Senior Minister for 1st Sunday Conversations, March 7. The discussion is open ended around your topic of choice, including sermons, worship, church life, moral and ethical decisions. We'll gather in the Founders' Room following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Join us in the Mayflower Room for refreshments and make your way to the Founders' Room for conversation with the Senior Minister.

# Save the Date

EGGSTRAVAGANAZA

#### Family Quiz Night The GCC Women's Association (Chapter

The GCC Women's Association (*Chapter* 7) invites you to join in an evening of fun at the second annual *Potluck Dinner and Quiz Night* on Sunday, February 28, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The event is designed for GCC members, visitors and families of all ages. Please bring the following to share, based on your last name:

**A-L /** entrée/main dish **M-P /** dessert **Q-Z** / salad/side dish

Drinks will be provided.

Additionally, Chapter 7 requests that you bring non-perishable food item(s) or a cash donation to benefit the Iglesia San Lucas UCC and Northfield Food Pantries.

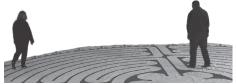
To RSVP for this exciting event, please contact Kim Yagelski at (847)998-4071 or Tracey Noe at tracey.noe@sbcglobal.net.

## **Altar Flowers**

We have openings for altar flower orders for 2010. If you would like to purchase flowers for our altar, forms are available in the church office or Narthex.

#### **OPEN DATES**

August 1, 15



## Walking the Labyrinth

A Labyrinth is a spiritual tool dating back to ancient times. It is believed that Christian pilgrims who could not afford to make the long journey to the Holy Land walked the Labyrinth as a metaphor for their pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It offers a pathway of prayer and a walking meditation. Walking a Labyrinth is your own personal journey or pilgrimage. You will have the unique opportunity to experience walking the Labyrinth at GCC. It will be here in the Mayflower/Founders Rooms on the following dates and times:

Palm Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 29 & Tuesday, March 30 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 31 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Board)

## Saturday, March 20 9:30 a.m. GCC Church Grounds

## Soup & Bread

Each Wednesday during Lent evening, Soup & Bread will be served in the Founders room beginning at 6:15 p.m. and followed by a different program beginning at 7:00 pm.

Attending each Wednesday will result in your having the opportunity for wonderful fellowship, the tasting of a variety of delicious soups, and the experiencing of different meaningful programs on each of the Wednesday nights through March 24th.

Make your reservations in the office or by calling 724-2210 and leaving your name.

Invite a friend or neighbor.

## Taize Service

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 AND 24 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

"In the Spirit of Taize" is an ecumenical form of prayer modeled after the Taize community in France. The purpose of this prayer service during Lent is to foster reconciliation and peace among all people and to draw closer to God. The service consists of songs/chants, scripture, candlelight, silent meditation and prayers.

## **Meditation in the Chapel**

During the Lenten season the chape will be open Monday through Friday from Noon to 6:00 p.m. for individual prayers and meditation. Enter through the West Entrance.

## **Adult Education**

9:30 a.m. in the Chapel March 14

#### A Christian's Walk Through the Holy Land

Come and see pictures from Gretchen Grad's recent trip to Israel/Palestine with UCC's Global Missions Partners. She will share stories about visits to the Sea of Galilee, the wedding church at Cana and Jesus' tomb in Jerusalem. Cross checkpoints and see a Palestinian refugee camp. This trip included meetings with those who live in the Holy Land today: Jews, Christians and Muslims. What does it mean to bear witness to the conflict that exists today? Bring your questions and your curiosity.

## **PYF FEBRUARY & MARCH**

FEBRUARY 28 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Topic: Destiny, Young Adulthood & Responsibility Fellowship Activity: PYF Survivor

#### MARCH 5

**5:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.** Join us for this tradition of making chocolate covered pretzels to sell and late night fun afterwards.

#### MARCH 7 PYF AM Pretzel Sellir

PYF AM Pretzel Selling and open youth room

#### MARCH 14

Topic: Destiny: Questions about Afterlife

#### MARCH 21

3:30 p.m. Putting Edge - Mini Golf: Meet at the Church at 3:30 p.m. return to the Church at 6:15.

## Shoes for Haiti

Glenview Community Church Nursery School (GCCNS), in conjunction with Fleet Feet Sports, is collecting all types of



children's shoes and adult athletic shoes for the folks in Haiti. Here's an opportunity to assist those affected by the devastating earthquake and to show our children how to help those less fortunate than us. Collection boxes are in front of the preschool entrance and will be there for the next few weeks.

So get started early on that spring cleaning! Go through your closets and dig out



all those shoes that the kids have outgrown. If you also have any gently used adult athletic shoes, throw those

in as well and drop them all into the designated tubs at GCCNS.

Fleet Feet Sports is working with an organization in Tennessee who will be responsible for getting our collection to Haiti.



### Your Support Helps Those In Need

GCC has approximately 100 people stop in each year looking for assistance. The church provides a \$25 dollar food card for an individual once a year. PYF will be making hygiene kits to be passed out with the food cards. Please help us by bringing in any of the following items:

- Deodorant
- Soap
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Travel-size shampoo/conditioner
- Washcloths
- Lotion
- Chap stick
- Kleenex
- Razors/shaving cream

A box will be located outside of the PYF room where these items can be dropped off. Thank you for your help.

## Glenview Community Church Nursery School

**Registration** for the 2010-2011 school year is underway! We have openings for 2, 3, 4, and 5 year old children. Please check out our website at <u>www.gccns.com</u> or contact Marcia Kiraly, <u>marciak@gccucc.</u> <u>org</u> or (847)729-1440 for information and to schedule a tour of the school!

## AT A GLANCE

## MARCH

## APRIL

BSA TROOP 156 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday March 6, 2010 in the Mayflower room at 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Tickets are \$5.



**ST. PATRICK'S POTLUCK DINNER** Sunday, March 7 at 5:00 p.m.



**EASTER EGGSTRAVIGANZA HUNT** Saturday, March 20 at 9:30 a.m.



GCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Check the GCC web site at www.gccucc.org to download the board minutes.



#### BELLA VOCE

Saturday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please watch the Broadcaster for details.

## 28-31

#### WALK THE LABYRINTH AT GCC

Sunday, March 28 through Wednesday, March 31 Check the article in the Broadcaster for specific times. **EASTER SUNDAY** Sunday, April 4 services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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**INTERFAITH TOUR OF THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM** Sunday, April 11 - off site Watch for details in the Broadcaster



**SIMPLE GIFTS CONCERT** Sunday, April 18 at 3:00 p.m.

GCC NURSERY SCHOOL SPRING BOUTIQUE Wednesday, April 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## GCC Sunday School shows they have HEART!





On February 14, GCC Sunday school children from 4 year olds through 4th grade were delighted to be visited by Stephanie Preiser of Heartland Animal Shelter. We learned that Heartland is a "no kill" shelter that saves about 1000 animals a year! Volunteers have even traveled as far away as Kentucky to help save or place homeless animals in need.

Stephanie explained that the Northbrook based Heartland Animal Shelter's mission is to find permanent, loving homes for homeless animals and promote responsible pet ownership through education, community outreach and collaboration while maintaining respect and compassion for all creatures. While homelessness is a difficult concept for children to understand in relation to people, every child can understand the need to find loving homes for dogs and cats.

Children were able to bring donations for Heartland to help fill our donation cage and put a heart on our doggie bone to measure our donation levels. Following Stephanie's presentation, Sunday schoolers filled the Plymouth room while participating in "heart-warming" activities including decorating adoption folders and tying off adorable fleece blankets for the animal cages at the shelter.

The Children's Board and GCC Sunday School will continue collecting your donations for the animal shelter through February 28th when our friends from Heartland return. The needs for Heartland include monetary donations (much needed), towels, newspapers, dog or cat toys without buttons or catnip, canned dog or cat food and more (see web site below for full list of acceptable food brands, toy requests, and other needs). Donations may be dropped off in room 201 during and after church services. During the week, donations can be left in the church office.

For more information about the Heartland Animal Shelter, please visit www.heartlandanimalshelter.net.

Please have a heart throughout February and donate your pet-friendly items with the GCC Sunday School Children. THANK YOU!







#### GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

1000 Elm Street Glenview, IL 60025-2897

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

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 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 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

## At A Glance

Thu 2-25	9:00 am 12:00 pm 6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Resale Shop open until 5:00 p.m., Plymouth Rm Meditation & Prayer, Chapel Bell Choir, Bell Rm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
Fri 2-26	9:00 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm 8:00 pm	Resale Shop open until 1:00 p.m., Plymouth Rm Meditation & Prayer, Chapel Girl Scout Mtg, Founders Rm Not So Young and Restless Volleyball, Gym AA, Parlor Al-Anon, Rm 201
Sat 2-27	9:00 am 9:00 am	Resale Shop open until 1:00 p.m., Plymouth Rm Men's Open Gym, Gym
Sun 2-28	9:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:45 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Confirmation Opening Prayers, Plymouth Rm 7th Grade Confirmation Class, Various Rms 8th Grade Confirmation Class, Youth Rm Adult Education, Chapel Primary Choir, Rm 201 Sunday School Gathering, Rm 201 Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Membership Board, Parlor

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#### Sunday cont.,

Sunday C	3:30 pm	Voices of GCC, Rm 201 PYF, Youth Rm Family Night Trivia Night, Mayflower Rm
Mon 3-1	9:00 am 12:00 pm	Finding My Spirit, Library Meditation & Prayer, Chapel
Tue 3-2	12:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Meditation & Prayer, Chapel Children's Board, Rm 201 Book Club, Parlor Planning Committee, Founders Rm
Wed 3-3	9:00 am 9:00 am 12:00 pm 6:15 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Resale Shop until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm WA Chapter 19, Parlor Meditation & Prayer, Chapel Lenten Soup & Bread, Founders Rm BSA Troop 156, Gym Venture Crew, Rm 210

## **Broadcaster Deadline**

Please submit all articles by 9:00 am, Wednesday, one week in advance to publishing via e-mail at tania.mccarthy@gccucc.org