

Pilgrims Progress

Philip Gulley suggests (chapter 8) that if the church were Christian peace would be more important than power. To explore this idea, here is an excerpt from Gulley's experience.

Gulley was "Intern Pastor" in a small Quaker congregation with eight elders. Most of the elders were deeply committed to the church's mission. During the first meeting of the elders Gulley attended, one of the elders had "clear designs on power." She bullied and intimidated the other elders to get her way. While some voiced frustration about the elder's behavior, the church as a whole seemed ill-equipped to deal with her self-absorbed behavior. Over the course of time Gulley watched as the elder generated such ill will in the congregation that people left rather than endure spiritual and emotional maltreatment. Gulley noted that in nearly every congregation with which he has worked he has seen a pattern of a small minority of people wanting power and control, and others react passively, preferring an accommodating peace over appropriate confrontation, such that the church's ability to progress and grow is stymied. Gulley says that eventually healthy people come to view the church as spiritually and ethically injurious and they leave. If they remain, they become cynical and even contemptuous of organized religion. Gulley says, "Time and again, I have seen how those bent on power lack the one quality necessary for their spiritual growth—the ability to assess their spiritual condition honestly so that transformation can take root and grow." A further observation Gulley makes is that because religion is attractive to people interested in control, a vital focus of the church should be the appropriate use of our corporate and individual power toward positive ends. The church should teach us to use power redemptively, to accomplish works of mercy, peace, and reconciliation.

There is a correlation between our failure

to learn to use power redemptively in the church and some of the most strident voices for military force emanating from many within the church, at times conferring God's blessing to the most immoral undertakings.

This hasn't always been the case. During the first several hundred years of the church, Christians believed the ethic of Jesus called them to love and redeem their enemies, not kill them. Things changed when Constantine became emperor and was favorably disposed toward Christians. Christians then had a stake in Constantine's rule and forsook pacifism to perpetuate their position of privilege. Thus began the uneasy alliance between state and church where allegiance to the former almost always compromises the integrity of the latter. Our failure to steep ourselves in the alternative world view of Jesus has contributed significantly to many Christians viewing military might and power as appropriate tools in the struggle for a transformed world.

Very little of the church's time and effort are spent on a substantive consideration of peace. Not only does this reveal the modest value we assign to peace but also reveals our discomfort with challenging our culture's love affair with violence and abusive power. In some instances this may even suggest the church's complicity. Certainly the church is called to be a light of peace in a world of hate. Churches should be laboratories of peace, modeling the principles of reconciliation among ourselves, then inviting and equipping the world to do the same. If the goal of the church were to teach us how to live in harmony with ourselves, then with our neighbors, and finally with creation and the world, the church would begin to regain credibility that it has been losing with each generation.

Howard

SUNDAY SERVICES

MARCH 27, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir

Scripture:

Jeremiah 33:1-9, John 5:1-18

Sermon:

"The Miracle of Wellness" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

APRIL 3, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir

Scripture:

Exodus 14:5-14, Luke 8:22-25

Sermon:

"The Miracle of Calmness" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

APRIL 10, 2011

9:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir

Scripture:

Joel 2:28-32, Mark 10:46-52

Sermon:

"The Miracle of Vision" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts





April 10! No Excuses! Fun for All!

Join us for the GCC Quiz Night and Potluck Dinner on April 10 at 5:30 p.m. Test your knowledge on a variety of topics and share a meal with friends, new and old. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend--individuals, couples, and families with children. Chapter 7 of the Women's Association is hosting and will provide the entrees, drinks, and we'll even clean up after you. If your last name

starts with A-H, please bring a dessert. If your last name starts with I-Z, please bring a salad or side dish. Walk in's are welcome on the day of the event, but an RSVP with number attending would be appreciated if you know you will be attending esnstsms@hotmail.com or (847)832-0063. Donations will be taken to benefit Northfield Food Pantry and San Lucas Food Pantry.

DISASTER RELIEF

Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami Relief

The United Church of Christ, through the Disaster and Wider Church Ministries. provides assistance all year long to national and international areas affected by natural disasters. The devastating 8.9 magnitude earthquake and tsunami last week has left thousands missing, dead, or in need of shelter and medical attention. Financial donations can be turned in to GCC with checks made out to GCC and "Pacific Earthquake" in the memo section. Please check the Missions Outreach bulletin board down the hall from the GCC office for additional information about UCC efforts. Thank you from your friends on the Missions Outreach Board.



GCC Group Walk

Spring is almost here and it is time to get out and enjoy some fresh air and exercise. (We hope the weather will cooperate, but rain or shine, we will walk.) We will leave after the service from the GCC parking lot at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 10 and car pool to Flick Park. There we will walk through the park and Estate Lane and back to our cars. This is a safe route for this time of year, it is all hard surface and we have many options of places to walk. We look forward to walking together again and cordially invite new walkers to join us. We usually go about 2 or 3 miles and those of us who can't walk as fast as others happily bring up the rear. Ouestions? call Dori Hirsch (847)724-4453.

Healing Touch

Healing Touch one hour sessions will be available again in the GCC library on April 7 and May 5 from 11:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. and in the evening from 5:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. There will be no charge for sessions. A donation box will be available for those wishing to donate to Glenview Community Church.

Healing Touch can benefit you by: Reducing stress, easing acute and chronic conditions, decreasing pain, creating a sense of well being, promoting wound healing, enhancing surgical recovery, supporting cancer care, calming anxiety, depression.

For more information on Healing Touch, go to the <u>www.healingtouchprogram.com</u> and view a short, 9 minute video. You may also view the video "Healing Touch Program: An Introduction to Healing" on YouTube.

To set up an appointment call Susan Johnson at (847) 804-6363 or email with your requested time to <u>s.h.johnson@comcast.net</u>.



Easter Eggstravaganza

To Benefit By The Hand Club for Kids

Sponsored By:

Chapters 7 & 11, Children's Board and Missions Outreach Board

Please join us for our Eggstraordinary Easter Eggstrvaganza on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Eggsactly 9:30 a.m. in the Mayflower Room.

Watch for your invitation in the mail or visit the website <u>www.gccucc.org</u> for a mail in form. Respond in advance and receive an extra raffle ticket!



Break Bread Together

Saturday, April 30 is the inauguration of the Fellowship Board's new "Break Bread Together" dinner program!

What is it?

An opportunity to build and nourish new relationships with fellow GCC members by breaking bread together (enjoying dinner), either at a members' home or at a restaurant on Saturday, April 30th.

Who can join?

All adults are welcome to sign up. You will be placed in groups of 8 with the goal of gathering people together who

do not know each other, so that new GCC friendships can be fostered. The intent is that the groups will stay together and meet three more times over the coming year.

What do I do if I am interested?

Coming soon, an email blast, as well as subsequent information in the Broadcaster and Bulletin, will include information about how to sign up. You will also be able to sign up on several Sundays after church. The deadline for signing up will be early April.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rob and Emily Burrice on the birth of their son, Zachary Allen Burrice - born on March 2, 2011. Proud Grandparent Christabel Rocap, a member of GCC.



Our prayers and sympathy to Beryl and her family upon the death of her husband Dave Bills who died on March 17, 2011.

There will be a memorial service held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. with a reception following in the Mayflower Room.

Our prayers and sympathy for the family of Bob Lawrence, who died on March 18, 2011. A memorial service was held at GCC on March 22, 2011.



Mid-Week Lenten Soup-Study-Worship

Join us for a Lenten time together each Wednesday evening during Lent. The theme is "Telling Our Stories" and will include discussion around the tables. We'll offer a simple soup supper from 6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. followed by a Lenten study at 6:45 p.m. -7:30 p.m. centered on stories of Jesus and closing prayers. Leaders: Rev. Pam Keckler and Marilyn Belleau, Parish Nurse. If you are planning to eat supper, please call the office with a reservation. A free will donation basket will be available for the meal.

A Lenten Prayer

Spirit of the Living God:
You drive us out into the desert
where we can count on nothing
but your grace.
Drive us to our knees;
teach us to trust;
shape us into a people
acceptable in your sight,
O God our Rock and our Redeemer.

Paul Fayter

Chapel Open During Lent

The Chapel will be open during Lent for your prayer and meditation now through April 20. Come Monday through Friday anytime from Noon until 6:00 p.m. If you are here at other times and would like to pray in the Chapel or Sanctuary, please come to the church office and we will unlock it for you if the space is available.

Sunday School

Regular Sunday school classes will not be in session on March 27 and April 3. Classes will resume April 10. Nursery care will be available. Children are welcome to join their families in worship.

Confirmation

No Confirmation classes March 27 or April 3 during spring break. Classes will resume on April 10.

PYF

March 27

We will be off for spring break Sunday, March 27, but watch for an updated list of exciting Spring activities arriving in your mailbox soon. 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 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, Music

AFFILIATES:

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

Return Service Requested

At A Glance

THRS 3/24 9:00 am Resale Shop open until 5:00 pm, Plymouth Rm

12:00 pm Meditation and Prayer, Chapel

6:30 pm N.Suburban Family Day Care Assn., Mayflower Rm

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

FRI 3/25 9:00 am Resale Shop open until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm

12:00 pm Meditation and Prayer, Chapel

2:30 pm CSA 156 Den Meeting, Rm 201

8:00 pm AA Mtg., Parlor 8:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg., Rm 201

SAT 3/26 9:00 am Resale Shop open until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm

9:00 am Men's Open Gym, Gym

1:00 pm Memorial Service for Dave Bills, Sanctuary

SUN 3/27 9:30 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:30 am Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm

10:45 am Adult Education, Chapel

10:45 am Joyful Ringers Rehearsal, Bell Rm

MON 3/28 12:00 pm Meditation and Prayer, Chapel

TUE 3/29 12:00 pm Meditation and Prayer, Chapel

WED 3/30 12:00 pm Meditation and Prayer, Chapel

6:00 pm PFY Small Groups, Youth Rm 6:15 pm Lenten Soup & Study, Founders Rm

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8:00 pm Venture Crew, Rm 210 & Gym

Broadcaster Deadlines:

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