

Broadcaster

September 12, 2012

GREETINGS

I thought that you might be interested in some of my remarks made at the GCC Leadership Retreat on August 25, 2012, in the thirteenth month of my serving GCC as its Transitional Senior Minister.

I give heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made my period of serving you transparent, productive and joyful. Most especially to:

- Pam, not only for being a wonderful partner in ministry, but also for greatly improving the efficiency of many of our church's operations.
- Gary, for maintaining an excellent music program during the year-long search for a new Director of Adult Choirs.
- Marilyn, for being our outstanding parish nurse (faith community nurse) for over 25 years, and recently taking on the responsibility of revitalizing and coordinating GCC's Called to Care Ministry.
- Elizabeth, for developing and maintaining a clear understanding of her work with our youth and their parents, and for granting me the privilege of being her mentor in a year-long field-experience course in her Master of Divinity program at Chicago Theological Seminary.
- Bill Dailey, for being a willing and thoughtful listener, and a careful decision maker.

In my presentation at the leadership retreat last year, I spoke of sincere and open interaction between clergy and laity being vital to the health and growth of a church. During my first five months with you, I gained an appreciation of the characteristics of interaction with former called ministers. The numerous interviews that I initially had with congregants pointed not only to significant

recent issues that had generated conflict, but to a willingness to use the transitional period for reconciliation with the past in preparation for a new Senior Minister to guide GCC into a spiritually and economically healthy future.

Also in my presentation, I talked about the "five R's" that would engage our self-study during the transitional period.

- Remembering - coming to terms with history. Examples are the individual meetings that I have had with congregants, and the Archival Project and Heritage Sunday.
- Renewing - discovering a new identity. Examples are creation of Communication and Technology Committee and selection of a new Director of Adult Choirs.
- Rearranging - making needed staff and leadership changes. Examples are re-write of staff position descriptions and planning for staffing additions to meet anticipated church growth needs.
- Reconnecting - reaffirming denominational connections. An example is GCC hosting the joint fall meeting of the Chicago Metropolitan and Fox Valley Associations in October.
- Recommitting - commitment to new directions in ministry. This "R" has fueled the excellent work of the Senior Minister Search Committee.

Finally, I should point out that our leadership retreat last year brought to light a major issue that generated initiatives with which many here will be engaged in the coming months. As our Church Profile

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WORSHIP SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

10:00 a.m. *Community Worship*

Scripture:

Psalms 29
Mark 8:27-38

Sermon: Dialogue

"Who Are You, Jesus?"

Rev. Dr. Doug Busby and
Rev. Dr. Doug Runnels

SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

10:00 a.m. *Community Worship*

Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Mark 12:41-44

Sermon:

"Giving from the Heart"

Rev. Dr. Doug Busby

SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

10:00 a.m. *Community Worship*

Scripture:

Psalms 124
Mark 9:38-50

Sermon:

"At Risk"

Rev. Dr. Pam Keckler

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points out, from 2006 to 2011, our membership gradually declined by 17% and our average attendance at worship gradually declined 33%. One recent, plausible explanation for these declines, as stated in the profile, is that they reflect growing clergy-laity tension arising from a top-down clergy leadership style versus a bottom-up laity-leadership style. Whatever the cause or causes of them, I have learned in conversations with many infrequent attendee and non-active members, that their lost interest in the church would respond favorably to a retrieval and retention effort that involves us making direct contact with them and listening to the stories that generated their discontent with the church in an appreciative and unbiased way. I should add that I have also heard that many have chosen to reduce or withhold their pledges until they have the opportunity to assess preaching and leadership qualities of the new Senior Minister - an explanation which I feel is unjustified in light of the UCC recognizing that "God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society." (Article VI, of the Constitution). This shared ministry at the root of what we embrace as congregationalism, which recognizes ordained ministers simply as those who are called to a specific form of ministry for which ecclesiastical authorization is required.

GCC and its great number of highly successful ministries attest to the fact that footing of this community of faith has been solidly built and even in this transitional period, remains so. And, I firmly believe, GCC will continue to be a vibrant community of faith, both fully expressing and living the gospel message for many years to come.

Yours in Christ,
Doug

Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Busby
Transitional Senior Minister

RALLY DAY RECAP

Were you one of the 476 people who attended family worship Sept. 9? What a wonderful day of blessings. From the beautiful music, to the magnificent puppets, festive banners, the balloons slowly rising to the ceiling with the sound of the chimes, and the picnic afterwards, and raising money for mission outreach. Wow! Thanks to everyone who helped!

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

A Conversation with Dave Aki
Dave will share some of his plans and objectives as Moderator and discuss questions you may have. We've also asked Dave to share some of his family story regarding his parent's internment during World War II.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

PYF Mission in Minnesota
Elizabeth Ciccolini will facilitate a presentation and discussion with PYFers taking part in <need information about the Native American reservation.

60 PLUS WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 12:00 noon
in the Mayflower Room.

It's exciting to begin another season of our famous 60 Plus Luncheons. Join us for an afternoon enjoying home made soup, bread, and delicious dessert.

Our special guest will be Helen White, coach and personal trainer who teaches at various facilities in the North Shore and also facilitates a weight training class at GCC. She will present ways to exercise and weight train for all ages. Some of the best weights may be the can goods you have in your pantry. Come and have fun with us! You're invited to bring a friend.

Need a ride? Call Marilyn Belleau, Parish Nurse at (847)724-2210 ext. 230.

GCC LIBRARY NEWS

What is the emerging Church? Author Brian D. McLaren presents ten questions for us to ponder in his book *A New Kind of Christianity* including: "The Church Question: What do we do about the Church and what future should our Christian community pursue? What are our primary, essential functions? How will we cope with the many changes we face?"

You are welcome to borrow McLaren's book and others from the church library collection. Don't forget that the Church Library Catalog is available online: www.librarything.com/catalog/librarygcc



THANK YOU

I just wanted to thank everyone who made contributions to the Matanya's Hope collection box. I have had yet another extremely successful Kenya mission. I was so pleased to be able to personally give out each of your donations to Kenyan children in need of clothes, shoes, and school supplies. A special thank you to PYF for all of the fleece blankets. Many of the blankets went to girls in the dormitory at Victory Academy, where I spent the night. Again, a huge thank you to all of you who helped change the lives of these children.

I am excited to announce that another collection box will be set up at church in a location to be determined in the coming weeks, so please keep an eye out and feel free to make any donations. The focus for the 2013 summer mission donations will be new or gently used children's shoes.

Thank you, Erika Grad
Youth Ambassador, Matanya's Hope





THE RAINBOW GARDEN!

As fall approaches and the temperatures begin to cool, the need to harvest suddenly explodes and we've been very busy in the Rainbow Garden. For several weeks now, our Sunday school gardeners have been harvesting primarily string beans (green, yellow, and especially yummy purple ones!), hot and sweet peppers, collards, and swiss chard. Our patty pan squash pretty much took over the small bed by the office entrance and have been very busy producing for us while the eggplant continues to explode for another bed of beautiful purple deliciousness. We continue to pick fresh herbs which are a delightful and much-loved treat to Northfield Food Pantry patrons. Recently we harvested some beautiful potatoes from our potato cages and we also pulled our first leek. We anticipate ongoing harvesting for several weeks to come so please stop by to see what else we're growing. If your garden at home is producing faster than you can eat, please consider donating your surplus to the Northfield Food Pantry. If you bring your produce on Sundays, we'd be happy to drop it off for you.

Many people have expressed concern or frustration that we had to remove a portion of the garden to accommodate the construction on the south lawn. We couldn't be happier! Jen Helgren and her team have been absolutely fantastic and my hat goes off to them. Jen agonized over having to call me and I think it was harder for her to deliver the news than it was for me to take it. She offered to try to wrangle some help but once I was able to lay out a plan, the Facility staff took over and within a few hours they had most of the work done themselves! This disruption in the garden

has truly been an asset for us and I hope you will see that as well. First, it's a great reminder to TOPP that GCC has been incredibly generous in the use of land and in all of the support that we have received for the garden and for our mission to provide organic produce to people in need in our community. Second, it's an opportunity to assess the condition of our wooden garden beds. We use untreated wood for most of our beds because it's a healthier option but that means they won't last as long as treated woods. With the beds lifted out, we can see they are showing significant signs of age after three seasons so we anticipate that we will need to begin replacing them after next year. Third, this was a great test in creative gardening. We were able to successfully transplant several of our veggies to new locations both within the Rainbow Garden and to other TOPP locations. Some of these veggies, like beets, are not generally transplant-tolerant but still made the move despite crazy heat and our ongoing drought. In fact, the zucchini we moved to my back yard had originally come from my own garden and are now better looking than the zucchini that spent the entire summer in one place!

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to garden at GCC and we are incredibly grateful to Jen Helgren and the Properties Board for their ongoing support, Kathy Lifton for sharing her Sunday schoolers with us, and our wonderful waterers: Kevin Count, Cathy Shapiro, Laura Hill, and the Jablonski family. We couldn't have done any of this without you!

Laura Heyser
GCC Member and Vice President of The Organic Pantry Project



ATTENTION GCC MEMBERS:

Please note that Prairie Street will be blocked off on Sunday, September 30, 2012 from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. The OLPH Fun Run 5k run/walk is taking place that morning in the Swainwood neighborhood. If you are going to be arriving at the church during these hours, please remember to enter off Glenview Road. If you have any questions, please email Kerri Noard at kerri-noard@gmail.com. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION

Please come to the Plymouth Room ready to begin at 8:50 a.m. If you would like refreshments, they will be available at 8:45 a.m. in the Plymouth Room. Please enter through the west entrance.

7th Grade

If you have not registered yet, please contact Rev. Keckler at (847) 724-2210 ext 224.

PYF- SEPTEMBER

Pilgrim Youth Fellowship will meet Sunday's from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Youth room in the month of September. The PYF theme this year is **Opening Doors**. Each week we will discuss topics that relate to ways in which we connect to ourselves, the community or the world around us.

SEPTEMBER 16

Game On! Come and enjoy your favorite games of all types.

SEPTEMBER 23

Candle Making!

SEPTEMBER 30

Progressive Dinner: Mugging, please bring a coffee mug and walk with us from member house to member house. We will eat our supper out of a mug!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GCC

THUR	9:00 AM	GCC Yoga, Narthex
9/13	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 5:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
	11:00 AM	Countdown to Fitness, Founders Rm
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
FRI	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 1:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
9/14	7:00 PM	CSA Rally Night, Mayflower Rm
	8:00 PM	AA Meeting, Parlor
	8:00 PM	Al-Anon, Rm 201
SAT	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 1:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
9/15		
SUN	8:45 AM	Confirmation Opening Prayers, Plymouth Rm
9/16	9:00 AM	Adult Education Program , Chapel
	9:00 AM	Confirmation Classes, Various Rms
	10:00 AM	Community Worship, Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Sunday School begins in Room 201
	11:00 AM	Community Fellowship Time, Mayflower Rm
	11:15 AM	Joyful Ringers Rehearsal, Bell Rm
	11:15 AM	Fellowship Board Mtg., Rm 213
	4:00 PM	PYF, Youth Rm
MON	7:00 PM	BSA 156 Patrol Council Mtg., Rm 201
9/17	7:00 PM	Finance Board Mtg., Founders Rm
TUE	12:00 PM	60 Plus Luncheon, Mayflower Rm
9/18	7:00 PM	WA Executive Board Mtg., Founders Rm
	7:00 PM	Sing To Live Rehearsal, Sanctuary & Choir Rm
WED	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 1:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
9/19	7:00 PM	Hands of Peace, Founders Rm
	7:00 PM	Pilgrim Wind Trio Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	BSA 156 Troop Mtg., Gym
	7:00 PM	Children's Board Mtg., Parlor
	8:00 PM	Venture Crew, Rm 210 & Gym
THUR	9:00 AM	GCC Yoga, Narthex
9/20	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 5:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
	9:00 AM	Healing Touch By Appointment until 4:00, Chapel
	11:00 AM	Countdown to Fitness, Founders Rm
	6:30 PM	N Suburban Family Child Care Assoc., Rm 201
	7:00 PM	BSA 156 Host Webelos First Aid, Mayflower Rm
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
FRI	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 1:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
	8:00 PM	AA Meeting, Parlor
9/21	8:00 PM	Al-Anon, Rm 201
SAT	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 1:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
9/22		
SUN	8:45 AM	Confirmation Opening Prayers, Plymouth Rm
9/23	9:00 AM	Adult Education Program , Chapel
	9:00 AM	Confirmation Classes, Various Rms
	9:15 AM	Primary Choir Rehearsal, Rm 201
	10:00 AM	Community Worship, Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Sunday School begins in Room 201

	11:00 AM	Community Fellowship Time, Mayflower Rm
	11:15 AM	Leadership Committee Mtg., Founders Rm
	11:15 AM	Joyful Ringers Rehearsal, Bell Rm
	4:00 PM	Voices of GCC, Rm 201
	4:00 PM	FPY, Youth Rm
MON	9:30 AM	Finding My Spirit, Library
9/24		
TUE	11:30 AM	WA Chapter 8 Mtg., Founders
9/25	7:00 PM	Executive Board Mtg., Mayflower Rm
	7:00 PM	Sing To Live Rehearsal, Sanctuary
WED		
9/26	9:00 AM	Resale Shop Open Until 1:00 PM, Plymouth Rm
	7:00 PM	BSA 156 Troop Mtg., Gym
	7:00 PM	Adult Education Presentation, Founders Rm
	8:00 PM	Venture Crew, Rm 201 & Gym

THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE BROADCASTER IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 9:00 AM



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

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Douglas Busby, MD, *Transitional Senior Minister*
Rev. Dr. Pamela Keckler, *Minister for Spiritual Formation & Church Operations*

DIRECTORS:

Marilyn Belleau, RN, *Health Ministry*
Kathy Lifton, *Children's Ministry*
Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini, *Youth Ministry*
Debby Shellard, *Children's Choirs*
Gary Wendt, *Music & Organist*
Stephen Blackwelder, *Adult Choir*

AFFILIATES:

Marcia Kiraly, *Director, GCC Nursery School*

Nonprofit Organization

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Liturgical youth dancers
share their interpretation of
a song in worship on August 26, 2012.*

