Pilgrims Progress

The Sunday following Thanksgiving worshipers were greeted with, "Happy New Year!" We've been off balance ever since, if not before. But the church should be off balance with the culture. The church is a counter-cultural movement although too much of the time we try to blend in with the culture, do what the culture says, be what the culture wants.

Part of what keeps us off balance is the Christian calendar. The Christian calendar identifies the seasons of the year based on the life of Christ. It is complicated because it is a triple calendar. The Christian Church grew up in the Roman Empire but it was greatly influenced by the Jewish festivals. Some parts of the Christian calendar are governed by the moon and some by the sun and all parts are governed by the intent to trace the work of God in Christ throughout the year. The seasons of spring, summer, fall, and winter mark our journey through the vear. The seasons of the Christian calendar mark our journey through the year in worship. The seasons on the Christian calendar are Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, and Pentecost. The Church overlaid these seasons on the Roman and Jewish calendars.

We are entering the fourth week of Advent on our way to Christmas. Advent is a season of wakening. Advent is about preparation and expectation. We make our way to church and there seems to be a disconnection between what we experience in our daily lives and our weekly sojourn to church. There is talk at church about waiting, preparing, expecting, and anticipating.

Language fails us. We talk about God coming to the world. Such a statement implies that most of time God is withdrawn and absent from the world. It really is a misnomer to suggest that God came to the world through the birth of Jesus or that God will come to the world

again. Such language implies that at other times, most of the time. God is absent from the world. That is not true. God is constantly present in the world. We may be unresponsive, unwilling, or unable to respond to God's presence. The worship season of Advent urges us to be more intentional in our efforts to look for and experience God's presence in the world and in our lives. As we move through Advent toward Christmas we are invited, encouraged, challenged to experience and encounter God in new and fresh ways that change our patterns and outlook like the birth of a baby changes our schedule, our routine, and our perspective of life.

As we have encounters with the everpresent God, we can expect God to comfort, confront and challenge us. Join in worship this last Sunday of Advent so that individually and collectively we can encounter God in fresh and creative ways. May the result be not only that we receive the gifts of hope, love, peace, and joy but also that we become bearers of these gifts to others. May your life be blessed through the remainder of the Advent season and into the Christmas season.

Howard

To Listen, To Look

Kneeling in Bethlehem

Is it all sewn up – my life?
Is it at this point so predictable,
so orderly, so neat, so arranged, so right,
that I don't have time or space
for listening for the rustle of angels' wings
or running to stables to see a baby?
Could this be what he meant when he said
Listen, those who have ears to hear...
Look, those who have eyes to see?
O God, give me the humbleness of those
shepherds
who saw in the cold December darkness
the coming of Light
the Advent of Love!
Ann Weems.

SUNDAY SERVICES

DECEMBER 19, 2010 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-4, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon:

"The Long Week" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2010

4:30

Intergenerational Singers and the Kevin Kizer Ouintet

Worship led by Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

7:30

Contemplations, Carols, Communion Pilgrim Wind Ensemble

Worship led by Rev. Dr. Pam Keckler

11:00

Service of Celebration, Carols, Scripture and Reflection

Worship led by Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts with the Festival Choir and Handbells



DECEMBER 26, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12, Colossians 3:12-17

Sermon:

"Downside, Upside, Upside Down" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts



A concert to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign, will continue the holiday season of giving on Saturday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The concert is filled with the music of the holiday season and is FREE to the public, but in the spirit of giving, we ask that you consider bringing NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS to the concert to donate at the door and help the Marines raise toys for underprivileged children. It is an evening filled with holiday magic, music, and Marines and the wonderful opportunity to do something good this holiday season! It'll warm your heart! Bring your family and friends, but most of all— BRING SOME TOYS! For information, call (847)724-2210. Toys may also be dropped off at any of the 5 Glenview Fire

The 17th Annual A Time For Healing

Stress from our hectic schedule has a cumulative effect on our bodies. Over time this "dis-ease" and lack of balance can lead to health issues.

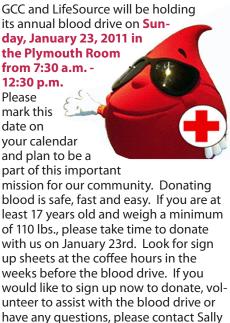
Each of us deserves a sacred space and time set aside for our own healing and health. Starting the 2nd week in January, space and time will be available to you in our GCC library. Healing Touch sessions will be available by appointment during the day and evening on Jan 13th.

Healing Touch uses the noninvasive technique of touch to clear the energy field around the body. The goal of all healing touch sessions is to restore balance and harmony into the energy system of your body, placing you in a position for self healing. A sacred space is provided for you and the intent set that this energy be to your highest good for healing.

For more information on the power of Healing Touch, go to the website <u>www.</u> <u>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. Healing Touch will be the topic of the Jan 9th Adult Education class.

To set up an appointment call Susan Johnson at (847)297-0002 or email with your requested time to <u>s.h.johnson@comcast.net.</u>

GCC BLOOD DRIVE



Mailing

Hicks at (847)729-3162.

If you would like to have the Broadcaster mailed to you First Class, please return a check to the office marked "First Class Broadcaster Mailing" in the amount of \$22.00. The deadline is December 31, 2010.



Avoid Snail Mail Go GREEN

If you would like to have the Broadcaster come to you on the same day it goes out in the mail then log onto the GCC website to register for the electronic version.

You can stay current and up-to-date with what's happening at GCC when you go green with the electronic newsletter.
To subscribe just click on this link http://www.gccucc.org/news_subscribe.html and follow the instructions. If you are experiencing any difficulty with the subscribing process, just give me a call at the office and I will be happy to help with it.

Tania McCarthy at (847)724-2210 ext 26.

Adult Work Trip

Stations from

now through

December 18!

The Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ (CMA/UCC), continues to sponsor and organize volunteer groups to go to New Orleans and participate in the rebuilding and recovery process. Funding for UCC recovery efforts in New Orleans is running low so 2011 may be the last year in which to participate!

For 2011, the confirmed dates and lodging are as follows:

- February 24 March 7 with lodging at St. Paul UCC
- September 24 October 3 with lodging at St. Paul UCC

For more information and registration materials for the work trip, please contact Rev. Roger Dart at (847)274-2626 or at redart@comcast.net



Equal Exchange

December 19th Equal Exchange products and gift baskets will be available for sale in the Mayflower Room. These tasty products make lovely gifts for friend, staff or hostess at the holiday season. Because the coffees are organic and shade-grown responsibly to sustain our environment, hundreds of varieties of birds continue to migrate in the Americas to forests that have been left intact, helping people, wildlife, birds and our planet to survive and enjoy this lovely season



January 29-30, 2011

A great Christmas gift would be a weekend away at the Women's Winter Retreat. We're going to the Hilton in Northbrook and Allgauer's Restaurant on January 29-30, 2011, Saturday morning through Sunday noon.

For girls only! Theme is "The Friendship of Women" and the speaker this year is Jill Bates. Dr. Bates is an experienced retreat leader, spiritual director and hospital chaplain. Registration forms are available in the church office. Sign up and invite a friend! We look forward to welcoming you! Questions, contact Rev. Keckler or Marilyn Belleau at church.

Time is Running Out

Don't forget to stop by the Resale Shop for your holiday shopping. There are still plenty of items to be purchased.

Please note; the Resale Shop will be closed during the Christmas week of December 22 thru 25 and New Year's week of December 29 thru January 1, 2011. The Resale shop's opening day for 2011 will be Wednesday, January 5th.

Thank you.

Blankets to Keep Warm

Blanket Sponsorship for The Night Ministry on December 19, 2010

Come to the Mayflower Room after the worship service on December 19 and sponsor a blanket to be given to a client of The Night Ministry. In these cold winter months, share some warmth with someone in need. The Night Ministry focuses on homeless, precariously housed, and at-risk adults and youth and provides a variety of comprehensive programs and housing services. GCC is a long time and committed partner in the important work of The Night Ministry. Special cards and ornaments are available for you to take in exchange for blanket sponsorship. Thank you from the ladies of Chapter 20 and the Missions Outreach Board.

Choir Practice For The Intergenrational Choir

Sunday, December 19, 4 - 6 p.m.Regular Voices of GCC practice in room 201. All adults and older siblings are invited to attend if they want to sing on Christmas Eve with Voices of GCC in the Intergenerational Choir at the 4:30 p.m. service.

Thursday, December 23, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Rehearsal will be in the Sanctuary for the Intergenerational Choir.

Friday, December 24 3:30 p.m. SHARP

Intergenerational Choir practice in the Sanctuary before 4:30 service.



Please bring children or adult size cold weather items...mittens, hats, socks, etc... to the GCC Mission Tree in the Mayflower room on December 19. These items will be distributed to clients of The Night Ministry through their support programs for teens, adults, and families living on the streets of Chicago. Special cards and ornaments are available for you to take as a reminder of our neighbors in need and of your generosity. Thank you from your friends on the Missions Outreach Board.



Nucredible prices (\$5.00 and \$10.00) look for them during Fellowship Hour

Sunday School

The Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing comfort and distraction from painful procedures to children and teens who have been diagnosed with cancer by providing gifts from a treasure chest. The Foundation supports more than 7600 children and teens each month who are treated at one of 40 hospitals across the country. Last year our Sunday school students contributed \$600 in gift cards and heaps of new toys.

Perhaps this holiday season, your children will receive gifts they cannot use or return. These "white elephants" will be collected during the children's worship throughout the month of January beginning on the 9th and used to fill a local treasure chest.

Confirmation

Last class before Christmas break is December 19. We will see you again on January 9. Extra worship sheets are available near the youth room bulletin board if you need any for the holiday services. Thanks to all who helped with the Pageant and for Vicki Buzard's leadership with all the confirmands.

PYF

PILGRIM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Sundays for December and January 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

December 19

Christmas Party: PYF Relay Races

January 2

Sitting down to Dinner: Cooking through the Bible

January 9

Mission project: Lunch sacks for study buddies at Youth Services

January 16

Bowling

January 21-22

Ski – Trip: Kalahari & Cascade Winter Trip/ Retreat

January 30

Mission Project Night Ministry Cookies

The My Faith, My Church, My Commitment

The My Faith, My Church, My Commitment pledge campaign has received 386 pledges as of December 6. These pledges total \$783,564. We are counting on the remaining pledges to help us reach the necessary income to match the 2010 total pledge of \$969,878 and better yet, exceed that pledge amount to cover the additional expenses for 2011.

We extend our sincere thank you to the following people who have responded to the 2011 Stewardship Campaign with their generous financial support for our beloved church and its good work. We thank you for your love and commitment to Glenview Community Church.

The 2010-2011 Stewardship Board

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David & Melissa Aki
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Janet Aldrich
Tom & Karen Aldrich
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Kate Zarish Joyce Zylke

Stewardship 2011

The Stewardship Board is placing phone calls hoping that we will be able to encourage all church members to participate in this critical fund raising effort.

The Finance Board is in the process of preparing a preliminary budget and needs your response ASAP. At this point the funding requests for 2011 from the various Boards exceed the pledge response by over \$40,000. That does not include the hoped for increase in insurance and cost of living increases for staff members. We ask for your support for the work and ministry of this church. We are counting on your pledge.... Let us all unite for growth and renewal.

For those who have not yet pledged, please consider increasing your pledge. For those who have already pledged, if it is possible, please consider reissuing you pledge at a higher amount.

2010 - 2011 Stewardship Board



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, Adult Choir

AFFILIATES:

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

Return Service Requested

At A Glance							
THRS	12/16	9:00 am 7:30 pm	Resale Shop open until 5:00 pm, Plymouth Rm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary				
FRI	12/17	9:00 am 8:00 pm 8:00 pm	Resale Shop open until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm AA Mtg., Parlor Al-Anon Mtg., Rm 201				
SAT	12/18	9:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm	Resale Shop open until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm Men's Open Gym, Gym Toys for Tots Concert, Sanctuary				
SUN	12/19	8:45 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:20 am 10:30 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 4:00 pm 4:00 pm	Primary Choir Rehearsal, Rm 201 Worship Service, Sanctuary Confirmation 7th Grade, Founders Rm Confirmation 8th Grade, Parlor, Library, Rm 5 Sunday School, Various Rms - start in rm 201 Confirmation Closing Prayers, Youth Rm Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Adult Education, Chapel Bell Rehearsal, Bell Rm Leadership Committee Mtg., Founders Rm PYF, Youth Rm, Gym & various rms Voices of GCC, Rm 201				

MON	12/20		No Meetings Scheduled
TUE	12/21	7:00 pm	Executive Board Mtg., Mayflower Rm
WED	12/22		No Meetings Scheduled

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Pastoral Care

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Dorothy Keating who died December 6, 2010.

Broadcaster Deadlines:

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