



JUNE 8 2016

## MINISTRY IN THE MORTAR JOINTS

That title is inspired by Millard Fuller's book, **Love in the Mortar Joints**. Millard Fuller was a wildly successful entrepreneur by the time he was 30. He had every physical possession he had ever dreamed of, and some of them many times over. But he was losing his soul, his wife, and his life to his obsession with possessions. So he stopped. He and his wife Linda found their way to Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia and a radical Baptist preacher named Clarence Jordan. There they were saved from the religion of greed. There they were converted to the gracious faith of Jesus. Clarence Jordan challenged Millard and Linda to begin a ministry. So they began building houses for homeless people. The name they chose for that new ministry is **Habitat for Humanity**. And **Love in the Mortar Joints** is Millard's telling of that Habitat story. For Millard and Linda Fuller, love landed and became real in the roofs, walls and floors of the houses they built. For them, love isn't a concept, an emotion, a feeling. If love isn't something tangible that we can touch and experience, it isn't real. Love is in the details. Love must be in the mortar joints.

It's the same way for ministry. Ministry can't be straight-jacketed by fuzzy feelings that don't touch the details of our lives and the struggles of our world. God's love is real. That means it interacts with the mortar joints of our lives. Finley Peter Dunne's quip about newspapers is also pointedly true for ministry. Its job is to **comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable**, right here and right now...in the mortar joints of our lives.

In the three years and three months that I have been blessed to share ministry with Pam Keckler at Glenview Community Church, I've come to know that **Ministry in the Mortar Joints** is an accurate and apt description of Pam's work. Pam's lower level office is symbolic of how Pam does ministry.

She never calls attention to herself. Instead, she just quietly, competently and faithfully carries out her ministry. Pam takes care of the details. Her ministry does the opposite of calling attention to itself. If Pam didn't do what she does so well, I guarantee you would notice! But you don't, because Pam never settles for good enough. Yes, Pam is powerfully present in our lives and in this church in her gentleness...in her integrity...in her diligence...in her deep love for God and God's children...and in her unwavering devotion to the members and friends of Glenview Community Church. She is the epitome of **ministry in the mortar joints**.

After three years and three months together, Pam and I have forged a rare partnership in ministry. That took us both a little while. I am not like the other senior pastors with whom Pam served. I have my own style...my own idiosyncrasies...my own passion about what ministry means. And Pam is not like the other pastors with whom I have served. She has her own style...her own idiosyncrasies...her own passion about what ministry means. I thank God that we've found our way into a strong, honest, caring, challenging, harmonious partnership where we respect each other greatly and trust each other completely.

Like Pam, I don't know how to do ministry without tending to the mortar joints. Whether that's straightening up rooms in the church, or tuning pipes in the organ, or dealing with air conditioning compressors and oil tanks (there's an article), or being the face of God's love at moments of great joy and deep tragedy, the mortar joints are where ministry happens.

All of this is my thanksgiving for the ministry of the **Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler**

*continued on the next page*

## WORSHIP SERVICES

JUNE 12, 2016

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN TRINITY**  
**Baccalaureate Sunday**  
**Commissioning of Forward in Faith Campaign Volunteers**

10:00 a.m.

**Scripture:**

1 Kings 21:1-21a  
Luke 7:36-8:3

**Sermon:**

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize  
**Greed or Grace?**

JUNE 19, 2016

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN TRINITY**  
**Father's Day**

10:00 a.m.

**Scripture:**

1 Kings 19:1-16  
Luke 8:26-39

**Sermon:**

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize  
**The Commitment after the Storm**

JUNE 26, 2016

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN TRINITY**

10:00 a.m.

**Scripture:**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

**Sermon:**

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize  
**On a Mission from God**

continued from the front page

whose double celebration we enjoyed on June 5th. Twenty five years of ordained Christian ministry and twenty years on the pastoral staff of Glenview Community Church! May God continue to bless Pam, and to bless us through Pam...in the mortar joints! See you in church!

Chuck Mize

## STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT APRIL, 2016

We have completed the stewardship campaign and are grateful for your pledges. However, to deliver on our Message, Ministries and Mission we need to remain current on our contributions against those pledges. The reality is that everyone is very busy, so to keep our progress against our pledge commitments in focus, this Stewardship Snapshot will be updated monthly and included in the worship bulletin and Broadcaster.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/ UNDER
APRIL	\$62,337	\$56,088	\$6,249
YTD	\$367,419	\$373,146	-\$5,727

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

Please pick up your new pictorial directory in the Narthex following worship on Sunday or in the office during the week. If you had a picture taken or submitted, your book is in alphabetical order with a label of your name and address. Extra copies are available for households or for those who were unable to have a picture taken. A donation of \$5.00 will help defray the cost of the extra directories. If you would like us to mail you a directory, please contact Rev. Pam Keckler.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

We have a few Sundays open for friends and members to sponsor the altar flowers for worship. The flowers are then delivered to one of our homebound members by our Pastoral Care Board. If you would like more details, please contact Susan Woodsome in the church office.

## WELCOME JULY WITH A PAIR OF SPECIAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS OPEN TO ALL GCC MEMBERS AND THE ENTIRE GLENVIEW COMMUNITY!

The Glenview Concert Band, directed by Greg Wojcik, will perform a free concert of patriotic songs, show tunes, and musical standards on GCC's South Lawn at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 3. Complimentary lemonade will be served. Bring family, friends, and lawn chairs or blankets for sitting! (In case of inclement weather, the concert will be cancelled).

Staged readings of **Our Town**, often labeled "America's Favorite Play," will be presented in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 10, and Monday, July 11. Thornton Wilder's masterpiece chronicles small-town lives in the midst of birth, marriage, family life, and death, ultimately affirming the precious memories that all of us carry with us. Both identical performances will feature an all-GCC intergenerational cast of familiar faces, directed by Debby Shellard. A free-will offering will be taken.

## OIL TANKS AND AIR CONDITIONING COMPRESSORS!

In recent weeks we have discovered that we have two expensive repairs that we must make as soon as possible. The first is two abandoned heating oil tanks buried in the Elm Street lawn of the church from the days when our boilers were oil fired. These tanks are leaking and came to our attention when a large patch of grass above them died. The tanks are an environmental hazard, are contaminating the soil around them, and must be removed. The cost of their removal is \$22,000.

The second is the failure of the sanctuary air conditioning. A compressor in this thirteen year old system must be replaced. A temporary patch has been implemented for the time being, but it could fail at any time. The cost for the new compressor is \$9,000. Both of these unexpected expenses – over \$30,000 in aggregate – are powerful and pointed illustrations of why our Forward in Faith Capital Campaign is so crucial for the future of GCC.

Chuck Mize

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE TO BENEFIT ONWARD HOUSE THIS SUMMER!

As you are de-cluttering from the school year, please consider supporting the GCC Women's Association Chapter 10 School Supplies Drive going on all summer to benefit the school-aged children's program at Onward House. Onward House serves lower income families and individuals in the community of Belmont Cragin, a neighborhood in west Chicago. Specifically they are in need of markers, crayons, #2 pencils, colored pencils, notebook paper, folders, glue/glue sticks, scissors, pencil boxes/cases and erasers. New or gently used items are appreciated. Look for collection boxes by the church office. Please contact Tara Call at [tarablinn@yahoo.com](mailto:tarablinn@yahoo.com) or Karen Monckton at [karenmonckton@gmail.com](mailto:karenmonckton@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you!

## CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

Glenview Community Church Women's Association is embarking on some new knitting projects. Women's Association is sponsoring this project, but anyone in the GCC community is invited to participate (teen and men knitters, that includes you.)

Current projects are; hats, scarves, and mittens in any size for the mitten tree at Christmas; 8" squares, hats, hand warmers and cuddly toys for the Knit-A-Square project. Patterns are on the Knit-A-Square website at [knit-a-square.com](http://knit-a-square.com). The knit-a-square project is for AIDS orphans in South Africa. If you are not a knitter, and would like to learn to knit, please email [mizebond@comcast.net](mailto:mizebond@comcast.net) and send your name and that you are interested in learning to knit. When we get a few people who are interested in knitting, we will begin a class.

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location
<b>Thursday, 09 June 2016</b>		
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	BSA 156 - Court of Honor	Mayflower
<b>Friday, 10 June 2016</b>		
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA Meeting	Parlor
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library
<b>Saturday, 11 June 2016</b>		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Mens Open Gym	Gym
<b>Sunday, 12 June 2016</b>		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Glenview Community Church Worship Service	Sanctuary
<b>Monday, 13 June 2016</b>		
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Faith in Action Team	Parlor
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Patrol Leader Meetings	Founders
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Mission Outreach Board Mtg.	Parlor
<b>Tuesday, 14 June 2016</b>		
11:30 AM to 1:30 PM	WA Chapter 8 Meeting-GCC Back Up Location	OFF SITE
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Adult Ed Meeting	Library
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Services & Sacraments Meeting	Room 210
<b>Wednesday, 15 June 2016</b>		
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Mission Trip Pre-Retreat	Mayflower
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Common Ground	Founders
<b>Friday, 17 June 2016</b>		
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA Meeting	Parlor
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library
<b>Saturday, 18 June 2016</b>		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Mens Open Gym	Gym
<b>Sunday, 19 June 2016</b>		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Glenview Community Church Worship Service	Sanctuary
<b>Monday, 20 June 2016</b>		
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Finance Board Meeting	Room 210
<b>Tuesday, 21 June 2016</b>		
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Myra Lorris Presentation	Mayflower
<b>Friday, 24 June 2016</b>		
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA Meeting	Parlor
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library
<b>Saturday, 25 June 2016</b>		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Mens Open Gym	Gym
<b>Sunday, 26 June 2016</b>		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Glenview Community Church Worship Service	Sanctuary
<b>Tuesday, 28 June 2016</b>		
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Hands of Peace Orientation	Mayflower
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Spiritual Council Meeting	Plymouth Room
<b>Friday, 01 July 2016</b>		
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA Meeting	Parlor
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library
<b>Saturday, 02 July 2016</b>		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Mens Open Gym	Gym
<b>Sunday, 03 July 2016</b>		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Glenview Community Church Worship Service	Sanctuary
<b>Monday, 04 July 2016</b>		
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	Church Closed - Happy 4th of July!	Sanctuary

**The next Deadline for the Broadcaster is July 6, 2016 at 9:00 AM**

## GCC HYMN FAVORITES SURVEY

On Sunday, October 23, as part of our 75th anniversary celebration, we will welcome guest director Paul Leddington Wright to lead us in Hymn Fest 10. We plan to include favorite hymns of our congregation into our worship celebration. Please note: we will only be able to accommodate a limited number of hymns in the service. There are 2 ways to fill out the survey:

1) Fill out the form below and mail or turn into the GCC office, addressed to Gary Wendt.

2) Go online to <http://goo.gl/forms/skXjiPqvyX5bWhuw1> and it will be automatically submitted.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 1**

### GCC HYMN FAVORITES FORM

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

What is a favorite hymn you would like to see included in Hymn Fest 10? If you cannot think of the title, include as many lyrics as possible and we'll do our best to look it up.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT GCC

Vacation Bible School is a great opportunity for children to make new friends, discover new things about themselves, and grow their faith. The VBS theme this year is "Love Your Neighbor." We will engage in crafts, games and Bible stories that remind us and teach us to love our neighbors. The cost is \$50 a child with an option of lunch. The dates are August 15 – 17 from 9 – 12. Lunch will be from 12-12:30. Please email Pastor Elizabeth with any questions. Go to [www.gccucc.org](http://www.gccucc.org) to sign up for VBS.

## CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

All middle school students who will be in 7th grade next year are invited to register for the Confirmation program at GCC. A letter was recently emailed to each family, but extra copies are also in the church office or contact Rev. Keckler for more information.

## 2ND ANNUAL ALL CHURCH RETREAT

### FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE AND FUN!

Our theme is Relationships. The date is September 3 - 4, 2016, with option to stay until September 5. The location is at Tower Hill in Sawyer, MI. The drive is about 1.5 hrs from Chicago. We need an r.s.v.p. by June 15; email to [lumistutz@yahoo.com](mailto:lumistutz@yahoo.com).

### COST:

Children 7 and under FREE, children 8-13 - \$60, children 13 + - adult \$90

**Sign up early for savings!**

**The price will go up after June 15.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS THAT PUT YOUR FAITH IN ACTION

### JUNE 11

Community Renewal Society Leadership Council - Get involved in CRS's vision and planning at Shiloh Baptist Church in Waukegan from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information contact the event's co-chair Nancy Mullarkey at [mullarkeyn@hotmail.com](mailto:mullarkeyn@hotmail.com).

### JUNE 14

"Social Justice At the Heart of Religions" - Program located at the Muslim Community Center in Morton Grove, 6-9 p.m. including dinner. Contact Betsy Martin at [betsy-wisemartin@att.net](mailto:betsy-wisemartin@att.net) for more information.

### JUNE 19

Race Against Hate - Walk or run, a little or a lot, on the morning of Father's Day along Evanston's lake front. Sign up at [www.ywca.org/RAH2016](http://www.ywca.org/RAH2016) and join the "Glenview Community Church" team. Contact Kristine Voelker at [kristinev818@gmail.com](mailto:kristinev818@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### JUNE 26

Chicago Pride Parade - March with the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches to show your support for the LGBTQ community. Contact Kathie Wilson at [kmccw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmccw@sbcglobal.net) to participate in this wonderful event.

## MYRA LORIS ON THE 1950'S

Join us for dessert and a lecture by Myra Loris as she relives the 1950's. Dessert is at 7:00 p.m., and the lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased after worship on Sundays during fellowship hour or by calling Beryl Bills at (847)724-1694. Tickets are \$15 each or \$35 for a series of three.

**June 21: "Good Times"** looks at the booming economy and rising prosperity of the decade and focuses on three unique entrepreneurs whose achievements changed the future of the daily life of ordinary Americans.

### FALL DATES:

September 13, **The Dark Side**; October 4, **The Golden Age**; October 25 **Equal Justice Under the Law**; November 15, **Out of this World**.

## CAMPAIGN CORNER



***The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,  
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.  
Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.  
2 Corinthians 9:6-7***

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...a training meeting took place for the volunteer Team Members on Wednesday, June 1, 2016? The volunteers are excited and ready to begin contacting the members of our congregation. Your time is valuable and so is that of our Team Members. Please welcome these fellow members as they call upon you.

...the visitation process will take place over the next eleven weeks? We hope you open your hearts to the message and information the Team Members will be sharing with you. All gifts will be joyfully accepted!

...only you can decide your level of participation in the FORWARD IN FAITH Campaign? We ask that you spend some time reflecting on our church and its vision and what it means to you. Remember, your gift will need to be above and beyond what you give to Stewardship which is also important to continuing our work. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration!

...Auto Giving + recurring online bill pay with your bank are available for your capital campaign gift? The campaign Team Member will discuss this option with you when you meet.

...the IRA Charitable Rollover Contribution has been made permanent and is an excellent way to make a pledge to the FORWARD IN FAITH Campaign or make a payment on your pledge? The Team Member will leave information on this option with you to consider.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karen and Tom Aldrich, our Campaign Coordinators at: 847-729-1168 or email: [campaign@gccucc.org](mailto:campaign@gccucc.org)

***Remember, God loves a cheerful giver!***

***"HONORING OUR PAST, SECURING OUR FUTURE"***

## GREETINGS!

Youth Sunday this year was spectacular. The senior participants this year were Tori Brown, Ross Foley, Ann Isaacs, Tori Lothian, Ryan McFaul, Grace O'Malley, and Gracie Sands.

We have had a great program year at PYF. The youth have engaged their faith and each other. I am continually impressed by our youth as they think about the importance of scripture, faith and how that impacts their daily lives and our call to serve others as a representation of God's love.

PYF meets on Sundays, Tuesdays (seniors only) and Wednesdays.

Blessings, *Elizabeth*

### Pilgrim Youth Fellowship Adult Leaders

Terry Adams  
Leanne Drennan  
Christine Foley  
Bob McGee  
Jim Mergl  
Michelle Monteith

### MEMBERS OF PYF 2015-16

#### Freshmen

Branstorm, Emma  
Burrowes, Lindsay  
Isaacs, Emma  
McCarthy, Corren  
McNeela, Grace  
McNeela, Sarah  
Mead, Richard  
Mergl, Ben  
Morgan, Carter  
Nelson, Trinity  
Ornduff, Stephanie

#### Sophomores

Adams, Zach  
Anderson, Michelle  
Barnes, Mia  
Dean, Lauren  
Heyser, Kathryn  
Jablonski, Kayla  
McNeela, Michael  
Nelson, Zoe  
Prewett, Sydney  
Rahaly, Hank  
Sanders, William  
St.Clair, Madelyn

#### Juniors

Berg, Carolyn  
Ciccolini, Andrea  
Frerichs, Zimmie  
Koloms, Charlie  
Matik, Chris  
McCarthy, Colm  
Ornduff, Katelyn  
Riordan, Caitlin  
Roth, Alex  
Schwabe, Ben  
Sultz, Julia  
Tilman, Lauren  
Zenola, Stephanie

#### Seniors

Aki, Michael  
Brown, Tori  
Foley, Ross  
Isaacs, Ann  
Jabolonski, Ty  
Lothian, Tori  
McFaul, Ryan  
O'Hare, Alli  
O'Malley, Grace  
Sands, Grace  
Stewart, Perri  
Winters, Michael

## ANN ISAACS

PYF is, first and foremost, a community. And what is a community? It's a kind of a nebulous word, because like "traffic" or "team", while it defines a particular collection of items or people, it's also the idea of what those items are when brought together. Traffic is cars, road, and road construction, but it's also the idea of all this coming together to make it difficult to drive downtown on a Friday evening. A team is the players on it, as well as the supporting staff, but it's also the weird, fuzzy concept people support year after year regardless of who's on the team. Community means all the community's members. And then what is the combining factor? Stories. Our community is made up of the stories we tell.

When I first heard about the mission trip, I didn't hear about the people on it. I heard the stories. I heard stories about the kids at kid's camp, about work projects, about people met, about things done. I didn't go on mission trip my first year, instead choosing to work at my old summer camp, but I heard all the stories. My first PYF meeting ever, I felt somewhat lost as everyone around me shared stories of mission trip. In retrospect, I don't really know if it was because I hadn't gone on the trip or because I was just a scared little freshman, but I know for sure that those stories were the beginnings of a community.

The next year, I went on the trip, and made my own stories. What stories they are doesn't matter much; as a writer, I spent most of my time making up stories. The important part is that I did not make stories on my own--I made them with the people around me. The stories we made together built the community as we lived our stories. Each little narrative linked people together in a thread of common experience, eventually tying a tight knot that could be said to be the community.

So what are our stories? Well, there is the story of the time we went for ice cream in the rain in Kansas City, or playing Frisbee with those poor charred hamburgers as we wrestled with the grill. There's the story of how Ben lost his phone twice on one fall retreat and found it both times fully functional. Or how we danced to "What Child Is This?" in a clearing in the woods on another

fall retreat. There's the time Michael Aki ran over my skis on winter trip and the slopes were so icy I needed someone else to retrieve my ski pole, just two feet above my head. These little tidbits in the larger narrative of the week or weekend constitute the stories that connect people. Each story I mentioned was an event that happened not only to someone, but with someone. The shared experience the first time connects people, to be sure, but it's the story that keeps pulling them closer, that ties one story to another to another to eventually build the community.

I'm getting ready to move on from this community, as a graduating senior. I'm sure it's to move onto bigger and better things, as people always say, but I am sad to leave. If my life can be said to be a story, then I am certainly starting a new chapter. I've had a lot of fun in PYF, and learned a lot, too. I've learned a lot being in the church community as a whole. So I am sad to be leaving, of course, but when it comes right down to it, the community continues to exist. I'll always have a place for everyone in PYF in my heart, and I don't doubt we'll stay in touch. But most importantly, I'm taking the stories with me. When I talk to my new friends at my college in Minnesota, I will tell them about the time we all went to see the sunrise on fall trip, and how beautiful it was. I will tell them how we built a huge bonfire only to be forced to move it before it was lit, and about how we loved to wade back to camp in the little stream at Tower Hill, and about worship service on the beach.

So if a community is built on the stories of the people in it, then a community is never really gone. It still exists in the minds and hearts of its members, the people who once might've seen each other once or twice a week. I suppose in that way, I'll never really leave PYF--it will always be part of me. I guess you could say that while I'm not losing the nebulous part of the definition, I am losing the concrete part--for that I am sad.

One of my favorite Bible verses is one I'm sure many of you have heard--Galatians 3:28. "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." It sounds weird to say that

in our community, we are one, because we're not, really. We're each unique people with unique perspectives, ideas, thoughts, and values. But we come together to form one community. Our community, as a whole and as each individual, has doubts and fears. We question, and worry, and fret. We worry if we fit in; we worry about our hair; we worry about our classes. And we worry too about God's existence, about the question of salvation, about the importance of good works when our definition of salvation depends on faith. As a group, we talk about these things and about what we believe--as a whole and in parts. God is in our community as we tell our stories.

While I was writing this, I thought about a poem I read for sophomore year English class, "Nothing Gold Can Stay." It's by Robert Frost, and it talks about how the most beautiful things always succumb to something more ordinary in time. I know it's a little depressing, but to me it was also about the beauty of a beginning. The final lines of the poem are, "As down goes down today / nothing gold can stay." When I read those words, I think about the sunrise we saw above the sand dunes, and I think about everything else we did that day. That most beautiful beginning to the day was ephemeral and brief, but it was there. That story of that moment of gold is one we all remember. That beautiful beginning is a connecting thread of our community.

I also thought of the scripture today from Proverbs: "Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?" Each of us may listen in our own to call of wisdom, but if we do so as a community we are much stronger. As a community we can together listen to the call of wisdom and understanding and heed them; as a group we can listen together to have a greater understanding of understanding. Alone, wisdom may lead us to good or great things, but together it can lead us to amazing things.

As some of us move on to the wider world of college and some move on in high school, we will be forming new communities with new stories to tell, and perhaps retelling our old stories will help build our new communities. But as a group, we can continue to help and support each other as we listen to wisdom's call, moving on to

more golden beginnings.

## TORI BROWN

Romans 5:3-4 says "We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope." When I think of my faith journey through PYF this verse comes to mind. Although my high school experience has been filled with a variety of obstacles, I have always returned to PYF for a source of hope and security. I have grown from a shy and timid freshman, to a bold senior with a deep passion for helping others and vision for the future, and I have PYF to thank for putting me on that path.

PYF is a sanctuary for all people to reveal their toughest situations and be provided with a new and loving support system. This realization didn't hit me until my second mission trip with PYF to Newport, Tennessee. Two distinct events during this mission trip showed me that PYF was a place to be comforted and heard in times of need.

One day, as we prepared to clean up after a long day of kids camp, the wind started to pick up and dark clouds started to roll in. Having been afraid of storms for my whole life, my anxiety began to climb. As I loaded things into the YouthWorks van I heard the words that scared me the most, Tornado Warning. We quickly gathered in the gym of the middle school to wait out the storm. Realizing that my older brother was already on his way back to the shower site, tears began to roll down my face as my anxiety over storms turned to anxiety for my brother's safety. Seconds seemed to last as long as hours as we waited to hear from the other half of our group on their whereabouts. When we finally got in contact with them, tensions seemed to ease as they explained that they were safe at the shower site and had found shelter. The chaperones then turned to me and handed me the phone, telling me that I could use the phone to talk to my older brother Trevor, because he wanted to make sure I was okay. As my heart swelled with love, I knew I had found a place where people not only would look out for my physical well-being, but also my emotional well-being. I was filled with faith and hope that I had found a second family

within the realm of PYF.

The second moment that instilled my lifelong love for PYF is a story that you have heard before. Four years ago a young woman stood up here and told the congregation a story: a story of a fellow PYF girl who came to her looking for help with her struggle with depression. A girl who had nowhere to go and no one to turn to. A girl who not only found help, but support through two years of treatment and therapy by checking in at every PYF meeting. That younger girl was me. On our mission trip to Tennessee, this fellow PYF girl opened up about her own experience with depression. As she talked about the support and treatment she was getting, my heart broke knowing that I was not receiving the treatment, that according to her, everyone deserved. I told her that I too was struggling, but I did not know how to handle my situation, or how to approach it with my parents. She provided me with an abundance of advice, and more importantly love. Following our conversation she gave me her phone number and told me to reach out at anytime. She then led me to join Erika's Lighthouse, a club at school that focuses on spreading awareness about adolescent depression. I dedicated countless hours to this program and even interned at the larger mother organization this past summer. As the current President of the club at Glenbrook South, I have grown significantly since that conversation in the parking lot of a church and I owe a lot of it to PYF. That small act of kindness not only influenced my trip, but influenced my life, as I dedicated my time at PYF to reaching out to younger kids, just as that one girl had reached out to me.

Over the years this congregation has heard various stories of love and faith stemming from the family that is PYF. Each story different in some way, but something always remains the same. PYF is not only time to relax and have fun with peers, but it is a place to grow in your relationship with God as you're accepted into a loving community that will provide you with endless hope. As Romans 5:5 says, "This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." In my mind, the Holy Spirit is within each member of PYF, and most importantly

within our fearless leader Elizabeth. Thank you PYF for changing my life, and thank you Elizabeth for providing me with a second family. My love for all of you is endless. GCC I thank you for providing so much support for PYF and cheering us on through all of our endeavours. We are forever indebted to our congregation for everything you have done for us. In the wise words of Elizabeth,

## TORI LOTHIAN

I know I've only had about 18 years of life experience, and although I definitely don't know everything there is to know about the world, I have come to understand one thing. I understand that life is composed of a series of choices, and those choices shape us into the people we are meant to be. Now, in my opinion, those choices are where God comes in. I believe that God walks beside us whenever a choice arises, whether it is as simple as deciding whether to get in the panini or pasta line in the school cafeteria, or as impactful as deciding which college to attend. Proverbs 8:1-4 states, "Doesn't wisdom cry out, and understanding shout? Atop the heights along the path, at the crossroads she takes her stand. By the gate before the city, at the entrance she shouts: I cry out to you, people; my voice goes out to all of humanity." In this passage, wisdom and understanding are personified as women calling out to people of all kinds, urging them to make the best choices on their journeys of life. Here, wisdom and understanding may be representative of God, as God is always beside us, even in the most difficult of times, encouraging us to make the wisest choices. Throughout my life I have made a lot of choices, some great ones, and some not so good ones- Dad, I'm still really sorry about that one time you had to pick me up in the middle of the night after I got trapped inside the golf course. Hey we all make mistakes, right? However I can definitely say that God was giving me a big thumbs up as I put myself out there and decided to join PYF.

I grew up going to Glenview Community Church and participated in everything from nursery school, to Primary Choir, to Voices of GCC, to confirmation. Over the years in these hallowed halls I have made life-long friends, internalized christian values, challenged my beliefs, and proceeded to

grow along my faithful journey as well as the road to finding myself. As a Middle Schooler I simply followed the crowd, doing everything and anything I could to fit in. Looking back on who I was then, I wouldn't even say I had an identity. I dreaded alone time, because my "identity" merely consisted of smiley and giggly reactions to the people around me. However the strangest thing is that I didn't realize there was anything wrong with this. I had lots of friends, but the one thing I lacked was a sense of myself. And the worst part was I convinced myself that people only liked me because I laughed a lot and was happy all the time, so as a result I hid every ounce of sadness or insecurity deep within myself, and put on a facade of unwavering happiness.

It was upon joining PYF that I made two grand discoveries. The first one was that I didn't like who I had become in middle school, and the second was the discovery of my true self. I cannot exactly put a date on when either of these discoveries were made, but rather they were gradual throughout my first few years of PYF. Joining PYF allowed me to realize that my self-worth extended far beyond my ability to giggle and smile, and it also gave me a place where I had the total freedom to be myself, weirdness and all. Even beginning on the first day of PYF, everyone was so kind and welcoming, and it blew me away how much the older kids genuinely cared about me and wanted to know more about my life. I became very close with the members of PYF in that first year, between teaching a group of senior boys how to do the cup song from pitch perfect, to serving the community of Newport, Tennessee on our annual mission trip. Those people became my family, and although I cried buckets when it was time for all of those seniors to graduate, I knew that I still had 3 years left, and I was so excited for all of the laughing, learning, and crying that I had ahead of me. PYF became my safe haven, and I vowed to myself that I was going to do everything I could to make the incoming PYF-ers over the next three years as comfortable as I was upon first joining the group.

The years following my first year of PYF were each amazing in their own way, as I made long-lasting friendships, learned more about my relationship with God, and discovered my love for serving others.

However, I am going to take a little time to focus on this beautiful group of people that are seated to my left. I cannot thank you enough for making my last year of PYF so incredible. Looking at each and every one of you takes me back to the awesome memories we've made this year, from going to see the sunrise on the dunes at Tower Hill, to all of you encouraging me to go bowling in footie pajamas at Kalahari (which was arguably probably not the best idea). The times we've shared have been filled with so much genuine love, joy, understanding, and friendship, and it makes me really, really sad to think that I won't be with you all next year. Whether you know it or not, you have each shaped me into the person I am today, and I could not be more thankful for that.

On the last night of the fall retreat this year, I remember sitting in one of the bedrooms with a few other senior girls crying my eyes out at the thought of leaving this group. However, the only thing that was able to comfort me back then in November was that I still had the whole year left to spend with my best friends. Well, now here we are, and that year is coming to a close. So, as I take my leave after 4 years as a real 18-year "adult", I want to encourage you all to take a look around and remember just how much you care about the people you are seated next to. Never lose the bonds you have created here, because I can promise that a group as silly, loving, compassionate, and thoughtful as this one is not easy to find.

Thank you for being my family and not telling me to shut up when I say weird things such as "am I right or am I left??" I love and hate you guys for making this such a hard goodbye, but I am confident that you all have bright futures ahead of you. So get out there, change the world for the better in whatever way you can, and never forget where you came from- I know I never will.

### **Best decision that was made for me**

- Can't exactly resist as a child (parents wanted me to learn morals)
- Dad grew up in the church, so only natural for me to as well

### **Middle School was hard because I didn't really know myself**

- Followed the crowd instead of being

myself

### **High School my parents told me to go to PYF for the first time, and I was so afraid**

- Everyone was welcoming and made me feel comfortable
- Brought a new friend every time
- Finally settled on one (grace :))
- Went on trips, fell in love with the people
- Sunrise crew-tradition ever since
- Winter Trip played pool with rowdy boys (new experience)
- Mission Trip (met amazing people, realized my love for children-Terri)

### **Ali came with me on summer trip, the place where people have the freedom to be themselves**

### **I like to keep things inside, and as a result I aim to maintain a constant outward appearance of happiness and positivity**

- PYF was the first place I found that I could let my guard down
- Always there for me, even when I'm having a bad day

I am not going to lie to you though, as I entered high school I DEFINITELY did not want to join PYF. I didn't really know anyone else who went or was going, and I was not exactly the kind of person who was willing to put myself out there. Therefore, for the first few weeks of PYF I would bring along a different friend, so that I wouldn't have to talk to the scary upperclassmen. Unfortunately most of those friends ended up having other things to do on Sunday afternoons and were unable to make the commitment, except for one friend, and who would have thought that 3 years later she would end up being my best friend, joining this church

## **ROSS FOLEY**

Good Morning, I am Ross Foley and I'm a senior at Glenbrook South. Over the course of my years at GCC, service has become a big part of my life. When I went through confirmation back in 2012, we were supposed to do a certain amount of hours of community service in order to be confirmed, and I found that those hours came very easily to me since I got to meet people with extraordinary backgrounds who I would normally never get a chance to talk to.

Throughout my high school career, both in and out of PYF, I found myself always looking for ways to help others. In PYF, we went to A Just Harvest soup kitchen to serve meals to the people in need, and I loved meeting new people and hearing their stories. Just exchanging a few words with someone can make their day, yet most people can't make time to do even that.

Service has taught me that, in Glenview, we have so much, and there are people out there who have so little, but are just as happy or happier than we are. On our mission trips around the country, I saw people living in houses that we wouldn't let our dogs live in, but they were just as optimistic about their futures as anybody else I've seen. People are so quick to judge, but we shouldn't; only God should judge.

One of my favorite activities on mission trips is the physical work of helping to redo houses. The visibility of the work we're doing and the impact it has on the people really shows how easy it is to spend a couple hours a day for a week working and how much it helps.

It is also the work that we don't see the impacts of that matters the most, like making kits for the Night Ministry, such as New Mother Kits or Birthday Kits. We don't see the direct impact on the families, but giving them hope and happiness is just as important as giving them housing. In Romans 5, it is written that "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us" In all the people in need that I've met, one common characteristic that I saw was that they all had hope. Sometimes hope was one of the only things they had, but they believed that I was fortunate enough on one occasion to join a couple people from the church and follow the Night Ministry bus around Chicago handing out meals to people who needed them. Even the little things that you don't think about, such as smiling at someone or asking them how their day has been, makes a huge difference in people's lives, since someone is treating them like a human being instead of an object on the sidewalk that must be walked around.

Serving each other in a church community is also important. I was the trip leader this

year and it provided me an opportunity to help others experience service and the benefits of serving others. It was really cool to watch everyone realize how dedicating just a little of their time makes such a huge difference in other people's lives.

The service I've participated in and the benefits of helping others has directly affected my choice of career. In the fall, I'm heading to Texas A&M and participating in a ROTC program, with the goal of commissioning as an officer in the United States Navy. Service has shown me that I want to dedicate myself to something bigger than myself and help make a difference in people's lives.

Look up Romans 5:1-5 and maybe link what you're saying to the Holy Spirit and love. The love for us inspires us to serve others or something like that.

### **Romans 5:1-5 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

#### **Results of Justification**

*5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access[b] to this grace in which we stand; and we[c] boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we[d] also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

## **GRACE O'MALLEY**

Middle school is a scary place, let me tell ya. It's filled with gossip, cliques, sometimes even cooties. And worst yet, uggs are everywhere... in all variations. The awful styles still haunt me today.

My 8th grade experience was downright awful. I moved from the southwest suburbs of Chicago, and had a thick south side "accent" compared to those living here. My nasally pronunciation became the brunt of people's jokes. Introducing myself as "Grace O'Malley" was a joke itself. I became very close with 3 girls that I biked to school with everyday. And the world ended when I was kicked out of my bike group.



All jokes aside, I was torn apart, and withdrew from my peers at school. I spent the summer before freshman year alone, insecure and hopeless. As high school approached, I vowed to be someone completely different. I stepped out of my comfort zone and began to talk to new and different people. I got busy making plans with friends and exploring high school.

One day, I got a text from someone inviting me and a few others to her youth group. Now, when I pictured a youth group, I thought of people singing kumbaya around a fire that proselytized everyone. At this time, this was not appealing after being burnt out from all my Catholic education classes where I was told ouiji boards were evil.

Slightly digressing, in John 16:12-15, Jesus speaks to his disciples before his resurrection. He says, "I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. However, when the Spirit of the Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but he will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you."

In this passage, Jesus tells his disciples that the Holy Spirit will complete his teachings of truth for all when he is gone. In humanity, understanding and revealing the truth allows us to work together cohesively. Although there is comfort in ignorant bliss, it is evident that the truth has an important job in uniting with those around us. While truth in humanity works among us, personal truth creates real relationships in the world community. Without knowing and being oneself, any bond you create can easily fail.

Although this is easy for me to articulate now, I would have never been able to make this realization without my involvement in GCC.

As I grew more involved with PYF, the more excited I was to come to church. I noticed there was something different about the people who were involved in PYF. I started to wonder why and what that

was. Even though I was constantly making new friends at school, I never really felt comfortable in my own skin. On my first PYF fall retreat, a group of us painted in our free time. An upperclassman, who was an artist herself, noticed my painting. She was impressed and told me it was amazing. That little attention she gave me made me feel as though I was valuable to the group. I began to realize there was something different... but something special about me and I was important.

There is something really special about the dynamic of this group. It always truly amazes me how different we all are... yet we are still able to work together in sync. I believe it is the truth working among us at PYF. As we are finding the truth in the word of God, exploring the truth in our humanity, understanding the truth in each other and accepting each other for who we are allows this group to form unbreakable bonds. PYF becomes a sanctuary, where nothing goes unsaid... and no one goes unheard. I don't know if I will ever find a place like this again.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank that girl who texted me. Without Tori Lothian, I would be at a loss of several retreats to Kalahari and Tower Hill, long van rides full of laughter, sleepless nights on blow up mattresses, a sense of self, insightful mentors, brisk walks, chili cook offs, and most of all a best friend. I thank all those upperclassmen before me and the underclassman after me. You all are full of such wisdom and are ma-

ture beyond your years. I hope you all know how loved you are. And lastly, I would like to thank all the PYF adults. Elizabeth, Jim, Bob, Leanne, Chuck, Christine, CJ, Terry...

I look up to you so much, and I do not know where I would be without your advice, insight, laughter and jokes. And lastly, thank you to all of you.

As I leave this transformative place, I will take my understanding of the truth, just as the Holy Spirit did for Jesus. I will hold tight to the importance of knowing who I am and be willing to reveal that to others. And I hope to create bonds as unbreakable as the ones I did here.

*John 16, 12-15*

"I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. However, when the Spirit of the Truth comes, here is where you should focus on the spirit that comes after the resurrection. The Holy Spirit that brings truth. The Spirit will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own, but he will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. It is up to us to speak the truth to love and proclaim and tell people about God's love to serve to fight for what is right and stop injustice or smelting to that effect. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you."



*Every happening great and small is a parable  
whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to  
get the message.*

*Christian Journalist, Malcolm Muggeridge*

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8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## **PONDERING IN SILENCE...**

When Jesus said, "I am the bread of life," he must have meant he was scattering bits of himself like a trail of crumbs leading us to speak and act and scatter forgiveness in his name, to the ends of the earth.

*Rev. Susan Springer*

