

SEND ME A BILL

John and Kay were introduced to the church when their son married a young lady whose parents were pillar members of that congregation. In fact, her great grandfather had signed the charter and his name was cast in the bronze of the church bell.

John and Kay were deeply steeped in the Greek Orthodox Church – a church that was faith, culture and family for them. And this church where their son was being married was a United Church of Christ congregation – a denomination they'd never even heard of. But they were so thoroughly impressed with their welcome that they left the Greek Orthodox Church where they'd been all of their lives and joined that UCC church. And they seldom missed a Sunday.

Now skip ahead about fifteen years. John called me on the phone to ask if I would come to their house for a visit. When I arrived, coffee and fresh baklava were waiting. After catching up on family, John got to the point. **We've decided to go back to the Greek Orthodox Church.** I told him how sad I was that they were leaving, but that it must have been hard to be away from their Greek church and culture. He said that it was. But then he added this: **The hardest thing for us is that you don't tell us how much to give. We have to decide for ourselves. And the Greek Orthodox Church just sends us a bill!**

George was a retired civil engineer and Leona was an accomplished homemaker. They had been members of the church since they were newlyweds, and George even served as the Church Treasurer for a few years. George had had a fall, so I made a pastoral call in their home. Not surprisingly our conversation got around to church finances. **How much is the church budget?** George asked. I answered, **\$125,000.** Then he asked, **And how many members do we have?** **250** was my response. **Well,** he said, **\$125,000 divided by 250 members is \$500 per member. There are two of us, so that means that we owe the church \$1,000 this year.** Then George told me with pride that he and Leona were very well off financially. So I said that his formula was one way to decide how much they'd give to the church. Then, with some trepidation, I added that, if they had been blessed with wealth, they should also consider their ability to give. That suggestion was deeply offensive to George! Pounding his finger on the table, he insisted that everybody needed to pay their fair share, and that that fair share for Leona and him was \$1,000!

John and Kay...George and Leona: these are two true stories about two real-life couples and their understanding of giving to the church. I've been thinking about both couples lately as we struggle to secure the money we need for GCC's Message, Ministries and Mission in 2017.

Here's the hard truth: unless our giving commitment for 2017 increases by nearly \$200,000 from where it presently stands, GCC's Message, Ministries and Mission must be immediately and dramatically reduced.

We're not alone in this sinking financial boat. Many churches and other non-profit outreach organizations that depend on free-will giving are struggling just as much as are we. The question is, **What are we going to do about it? What shall be our strategy?**

Should we take John's advice and send every family a bill? Should we take George's advice, determining what each member's fair share is, and then instructing our households to multiply that number by the number of church members who are a part of their family? Or, perhaps we might try what some congregations have done. We could divide our church budget by 52. Then, each Sunday, we could take the offering early and count it right then. If we were short of our weekly need, we would then pass the plate again...and again...and again until we had enough!

Here's what I think. I don't think we should send bills, because we understand giving from the perspective of God's abundant and unbounded grace. We give in response to what we have already gotten, not to purchase God's forgiveness and blessings. As my favorite stewardship hymn says it: **Because I have been given much, I, too, must give!** Or, as another great hymn sings it: **Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!** The first letter of John says: **We love, because God first loved us.** Paraphrased for stewardship, that verse means: **We give, because God first blessed us.**

**We give, because God first
blessed us.**

continued from the front page

I also don't think we should divide the church budget by the number of our members. George thought that was fair. It isn't! We each have varying resources and abilities. That means that what is fair is proportional giving. You see, someone who gives \$10 per week to the church out of meager resources may well be giving far more than someone who gives \$1,000 each week to the church out of abundant resources.

What I pray we will all do is to consider our giving prayerfully and seriously. ***Is our giving a true thanksgiving for God's grace to us? And, out of our abilities and resources, are we giving our fair share?***

Because I have been given much, I, too, must give!

The Spiritual Council is recommending to the Mid-Winter Meeting that we postpone our 2017 budget approval to our Annual Meeting at the end of May so that we have additional time to secure the pledges we need for God's work at GCC. So let my two questions above work on your hearts! And, when the Stewardship Board provides you with a new opportunity to grow your giving, respond according to God's perfect love.

Or, we could just send you a bill!

See you in church!

Chuck Mize

BECOMING A MEMBER AT GCC

Have you been thinking about officially becoming a part of Glenview Community Church? You are invited to a family/adult breakfast on Sunday morning, March 19 at 8:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided after breakfast as the adults meet with the pastors. Then later that morning, we will receive you into the church at the 10:00 worship. For more details, contact Rev. Pam Keckler.

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 1ST

7-8 A.M.

The sanctuary will be open for prayer, conversation with one of the pastors, and the imposition of ashes. Join us for this quiet time of prayer early as you begin your day. A printed Devotional Guide will be available for your use.

7:30 P.M.

Worship in the Sanctuary in the style of Taizé. Taizé worship is a gift to us from an ecumenical religious community in France. It is meditative in nature, filled with light, and employs simple, repetitive songs. We will share the Lord's Supper. The imposition of ashes will be offered.

60 PLUS

Feel like it's been a long winter? It's time to lift our spirits and get together for the 60+ luncheon on February 21 from noon-1:30 p.m. After a delicious lasagna meal amid Valentine décor, we'll hear Tom Amos share his always fascinating anecdotes. See you soon! *The Pastoral Care Board*

Worship 10:00 a.m. FEBRUARY

19

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Scripture:

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Sermon:

Me? Holy?

Rev. Dr. Pam Keckler

26

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Scripture:

II Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon:

Established in the Truth

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

MARCH

1

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

See the article "ASH WEDNESDAY" for worship information

5

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT In Parables:

Little Treasures of Light and Love

Scripture:

Matthew 13:24-30

Sermon:

The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

MIDWINTER CONGREGATIONAL MTG

The Glenview Community Church's Midwinter Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary following the Worship Service on Sunday, February 26, 2017. Agenda topics for this meeting include a presentation on church finances and a vote on the Spiritual Council's proposal to delay consideration of a 2017 budget until May, allowing time for completion of an extended stewardship campaign; reports from the Church Clerk, Treasurer and Stewardship Board; the election of the Church Clerk and Church Treasurer; and updates from task forces.

This notice constitutes the official call to meeting. All members of the church are urged to be present.

HOP ALUMNI IN ACTION!

Last month four American alums (Sara, Mohammed, Genevieve and Sam) led a "Bystander Intervention Training" session for youth and adults at the Glenview Public Library, sharing the skills they learned in the HOP summer program. They are determined to stand up and speak out if they witness injustice in the community, and want others to be empowered as well.

Here's why GCC member Jessica Schott joined the HOP Advisory Board:

"I think it's exciting to watch people discover that we are more alike than not. I enjoy listening to the participants as they share their stories & express their joy in finding unexpected friendships. I am deeply moved when I see that long held misconceptions can be diminished through peaceful conversations & an open heart. What excites me more than anything is that these young adults seek out this journey and leave knowing that they are part of something so much bigger, that they can make a difference, and that they are in fact game changers."

For information on being a teen participant, host family or volunteer, please contact Chicago Site Director Rhonda McCarty at rmc-carty@handsofpeace.org or 901-230-7119



at the Turkish-American Society in Mt. Prospect on Sunday, February 19th. We will experience the premiere of a new play called "Keeping Faith: Three sisters of Story" where three exceptional storytellers share stories from their own faiths -Muslim, Jewish and Christian-to transcend differences through shared belief in the power of compassion. An important message now more than ever.

The event runs from 4:00-7:30 including a reception and bake sale, performance and audience discussion. The cost is only \$20 per person for GCC members. We will plan to meet in the church parking lot at 3:45. We will have rides available for those who do not wish to drive.

If interested in attending this special evening-please contact Linda Crowder at 847-922-6827 or lccrowder@comcast.net. We are trying to get a full count for the society so please get back to Linda with your interest no later than Friday February 17th.

HANDS OF PEACE



SEEKING HOST FAMILIES FOR HANDS OF PEACE

Hands of Peace (HOP) is an interfaith organization that empowers young people to raise their voices as leaders of change. Through the power of dialogue, Palestinians, Israelis and Americans partner to pursue peace, equality, freedom and justice. Hands of Peace believes the future depends on the leadership of the next generation. Whether hosting an Israeli, Palestinian or American participant, hosting allows families to be immersed in the Hands of Peace experience. We are looking for families who can host one or two teens from the Middle East. Whether you have children or teens or are empty-nesters, this promises to be one of the most rewarding experiences you can have. The program will take place from July 12 – July 31, 2017, at Glenview Community Church. If you would like to learn more about Hands of Peace, please consult our website at [.handsofpeace.org](http://handsofpeace.org). For more information about becoming a host family, contact Rhonda McCarty at 901-230-7119 or RMcCarty@handsofpeace.org.

SOCIETY EVENT

GCC ATTENDS "KEEPING FAITH- THREE SISTERS OF STORY"

The Faith in Action Team is sponsoring an opportunity for GCC members to attend a special and moving event

CONCERT FOR PEACE

Come hear a roster of local professional musicians including Katherine Hughes, violinist; Kevin Kizer, saxophonist; the HAWK String Quartet (Carol Kalvonjian, violinist, Benton Wedge, violist, and Jill Kaeding, cellist); Gary Wendt, organist; Jade Maze, jazz vocalist; and the rhythm section of Kent Wehman, Ken Haebich, and Neal Wehman, in a concert exploring the theme of peace. Collaborating with these musicians will be representatives of different faith communities including Hazzan Roger Weisberg from Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove and participants from the Turkish American Society in Mount Prospect. The concert is on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Listen to and sing along with songs about peace, with a variety of styles and ensembles from traditional to contemporary. Check out the accompanying art show, curated by Pat Albano from Aaron Galleries in Glenview. There will be a free will offering to benefit Hands of Peace. handsofpeace.org



OPEN MOSQUE DAY

The Muslim Community Center is pleased to invite you, your family, friends and colleagues to upcoming **Open Mosque Day** at Muslim Community Center on February 19 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

LOCATION

Muslim Community Center
4380 N. Elston Ave, Chicago IL 60641

Date/Time: 02-19-17, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

This event has been specially organized to provide an opportunity for guests to meet their Muslim neighbors and to get first hand information about Islamic faith. There will be a Mosque tour, basics of Islam presentation, discussion, Q&A, refreshments, heena design and much more.

Hope to you see you there.

Please RSVP by either sending an email mccinterfaithteam@gmail.com or by calling 1-442-264-7526.

PYF FEBRUARY

4:00-6:00

FEBRUARY 19

PYF Cooks! We will cook together. Either a cooking competition or we will learn to cook something new.

FEBRUARY 26

PYF Game On! Come and enjoy different gym and non-gym games.

Questions: contact Rev. Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini, email elizabeth.ciccolini@gccucc.org, call or text 708-228-4304.

POW-PYF ON WEDNESDAYS 7/8 CLUB

We are working on "Tough Stuff". Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by fellowship time and ending with some fun Bible discussions.

PARENT ROUND TABLE 9-12: SETTING BOUNDARIES

February 16 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.- Join us for the second parent round table discussion on setting boundaries. There will be discussion and articles for us to learn from. Youth Room

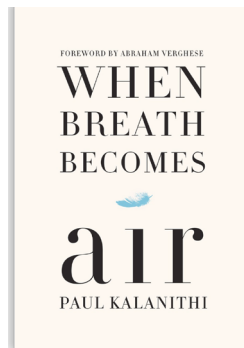
WOMEN'S RETREAT Making the Most of Your Life

The women will gather for their annual retreat on March 10-12, Friday evening through Sunday morning at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel in Northbrook. Registration forms and details are available in the church office. Sign up and invite a friend to join you!

COMMON GROUND

MARCH 15 / JOHN WASIK WHAT HAPPENS NOW? TRUMP AND FINANCIAL REALITY

How will the new president and Congress impact your retirement, financial well being and health security? Author/journalist John Wasik has been closely examining the impact of the most disruptive election in modern times and will distill some key insights. Begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel Room. \$10.



LENTEN BOOK GROUPS

Lent begins March 1 this year and all are invited to read together as a congregation When Breath Becomes Air, a New

York Times bestseller. The book deals with issues of life and death, but especially gives us the opportunity to look deeply at the meaning and purpose of each of our lives. The women will also be discussing this book at their retreat in March. Sign up at Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings or in the church office.



LIFE EVERLASTING

We trust the promise of the resurrection for **Leisl Bonakdarpour-Jaberg's** grandfather, **Rev. Vernon Jaberg**, who died on Sunday, January 22, even as we hold **Leisl, Borna, Nick** and their whole family in our prayers. **Rev. Jaberg** was trusted to our God at a funeral service at St. John's United Church of Christ in Sheboygan, Wisconsin that he served as pastor for a number of years... for **Toni Cucco's** father, **Dr. Lee Cucco**, who passed away on Tuesday, January 24, even as we hold **Toni** and her family in our prayers...for **Joann Vernon's** father, **George Kochikaran** who passed away Sunday, January 29, even as we hold **Joann** and **Mason**, their children **Nyla** and **Micah** and their whole family in our prayers...for **Richard Peterson** who recently died, even as we hold his wife **Pat** and his family in our prayers...and for **Cricket Kelly's** father, **Warren Evans**, who passed away on Thursday, February 2, even as we hold **Cricket, Glenn** and their family in our prayers. A celebration of **Mr. Evans'** life was held at the Village Presbyterian Church in Northbrook on Saturday, February 11.

CHILI COOK-OFF AND "HOMETOWN" AUCTION SUNDAY, APRIL 23

The Confirmation and Youth Board is now accepting donations of auction items to help raise money for this summer's mission trip to Leech Lake, Minnesota. This year's Hometown Auction is on Sunday, April 23. Popular donations in years past have included homemade items, tickets to games or shows, and overnight trips to vacation homes. Other various items are welcome too, as are any cash donations! We do request that donated items be NEW. Donation forms are available in the church office. Questions? Contact karen.ornduff@gmail.com for questions about donations or the event. Contact susan.shute@gmail.com to enter the chili cook-off.

FOOD WITH FRIENDS

Enjoy a hot meal provided by Glenbrook High School Interact Club in partnership with St. David's Episcopal Church. There is no cost for this meal. It is an opportunity to join your friends and neighbors at St. David's on every third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and fellowship. It is a chance to meet some amazing young people, break bread with your neighbors and feed your body.

Here are the dates:

February 21, March 21 and April 18.

St. David's Episcopal Church,
2410 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL
(corner of Glenview Road and Shermer Road)

FREE MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Family Behavioral Health Clinic
1455 E. Golf Rd.
Des Plaines IL, 60016 Suite 210

Professional Screening for:

- Anxiety
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Depression
- Substance Abuse

Recommendations and consultations will be made. For more information or to schedule an individual counseling intake please call (847) 390-3004

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location
Thursday, 16 February 2017		
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
5:30 PM to 6:55 PM	12th Grade Dinner	Youth Room
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:45 PM to 8:45 PM	North Suburban Day Care Mtg - CPR	Mayflower
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	PYF Singers	Youth Room
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	BSA 156 Troop Mtg	Gym
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, 17 February 2017		
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA Meeting	Parlor
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library
Saturday, 18 February 2017		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Mens Open Gym	Gym
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
Sunday, 19 February 2017		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Church School Children Meet in Sanctuary	SanctuaryM
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Glenview Community Church Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments	Mayflower
11:15 AM to 1:00 PM	Family Fun & Pizza	Founders
11:15 AM to 12:15 PM	Membership Meeting	Parlor
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	PYF	Youth Room
Monday, 20 February 2017		
3:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Confirmation Make Ups	Room 32
Tuesday, 21 February 2017		
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM	60 Plus Luncheon	Mayflower
3:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Confirmation Make Ups	Room 32
Wednesday, 22 February 2017		
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
4:00 PM to 5:15 PM	FISH	Mayflower
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM	7/8 Club & POW	Mayflower
Thursday, 23 February 2017		
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
5:30 PM to 6:55 PM	12th Grade Dinner	Youth Room
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringer Rehearsal	Bell Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	BSA 156 Troop Mtg	Mayflower
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	PYF Singers	Youth Room
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, 24 February 2017		
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	GCC Volleyball	Gym
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA Meeting	Parlor
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library
Saturday, 25 February 2017		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Mens Open Gym	Gym

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
Sunday, 26 February 2017		
9:15 AM to 9:45 AM	Primary Choir Rehearsal	Room 201
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Church School Children Meet in Sanctuary	SanctuaryM
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Glenview Community Church Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments	Mayflower
11:15 AM to 12:15 PM	Mid Winter Congregational Meeting	SanctuaryB
3:30 PM to 5:30 PM	GCC Voices Rehearsal	Room 201
Monday, 27 February 2017		
3:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Confirmation Make Ups	Room 32
Tuesday, 28 February 2017		
3:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Confirmation Make Ups	Room 32
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Spiritual Council Meeting	Mayflower
Wednesday, 01 March 2017		
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
4:00 PM to 5:15 PM	FISH	Mayflower
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM	7/8 Club & POW	Mayflower
6:00 PM to 7:15 PM	Bible Study	Parlor
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Properties Board Meeting	Room 210
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship Services	Sanctuary

The next Deadline for the Broadcaster is February 22, 2017 at 9:00 AM

GIVING GLIMPSE DECEMBER 2016

The Message, Ministries and Mission of Glenview Community Church thrive because you fulfill your stewardship commitments and make faithful contributions. It is essential that we remain current in our giving. In the midst of our busy lives, we offer you this update reminder to keep in focus our progress on completing our financial commitments to GCC. This Giving Glimpse will be updated monthly and included in the worship bulletin and Broadcaster.

	Amount Received	Amount Pledged	Over/Under
December	\$116,331	\$123,756	-\$7,425
YTD	\$914,482	\$962,000	-\$47,518

FIELD TRIP TO TRINITY UCC IN CHICAGO

The 8th grade confirmands are taking a field trip on Sunday afternoon, March 1 to Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. Trinity is our largest UCC congregation. The confirmands will witness baptism by immersion and share communion with our African American brothers and sisters. We plan to leave GCC by bus at 4:00 p.m. and return home 8-8:30 p.m. If you would like to go with us, contact Rev. Pam Keckler.



GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Fax: (847) 724-2213
Web: www.gccucc.org

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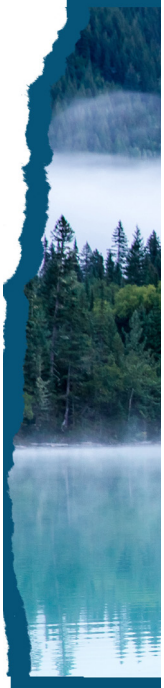
PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Charles E. Mize, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Pamela Keckler, *Pastor*
Rev. Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini, *Associate Pastor for Children and Youth*

OFFICE HOURS

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

PONDERING IN SILENCE...



If I knew who I most deeply am, would I step out of the circle of busyness in which I live? What balance of silence and words might I find?

---Paula D'Arcy

