

CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

This is the 50th season for my favorite TV Christmas special. I was a student in Mrs. Stewart's fifth grade class **A Charlie Brown Christmas** debuted on CBS on December 9, 1965. It was one of the first children's Christmas TV specials to tackle the very adult issue of Christmas consumerism by reminding us that the heart of this holy season is the birth of Jesus. When Dr. Seuss' **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** debuted on CBS a year later, it extended that social commentary as the Grinch learned that it's in giving, not getting, that our hearts grow.

Nevertheless, the relentless countdown of shopping days left until December 25 still stirs us into a retail frenzy, and the official Christmas shopping season has crept backward from the early hours of Black Friday into Thanksgiving Day. So keeping the true spirit of Christmas...keeping Christ in Christmas...isn't easy.

Though it doesn't command the national spotlight as do Charlie Brown and the Grinch, **The Nativity** – our church's homegrown Christmas pageant – that was first presented in 1951 has an even longer history of infusing Christmas with its true spirit. Pageant Sunday this year is December 7, with presentations at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Don't miss it!

A recent Facebook post from the *Just Grace Gospel Music Band* caught me up short with its direct profoundity:

Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies and do unto others as you would have them do unto you. This year the Glenview Community Church has been keeping Christ in Christmas in this very way. As of this writing the Heifer Living Gift Market in the Mayflower Room on November 9 and 16 has raised \$6,000 to purchase animals so that their recipients can feed themselves. For Heifer, \$5,000 purchases an ARK. In the spirit of Noah, an ARK holds just the right number of every animal that Heifer uses in human development. So, in this first year of the Heifer Living Gift Market, GCC has provided more than an ARK of animals through Heifer for a hungry world. *Wow!!!* In the Mayflower Room on November 16, participants in last month's HOP/GCC tour of Israel and Palestine sold 63 olive trees for **Tent of Nations**. Amazing!!! Owned by Daoud (David) Nassar, this Palestinian farm in the West Bank near Bethlehem brings Israelis, Palestinians and others from around the world together in peaceful and peacemaking dialogue. However, because Tent of Nations is desirable for expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the farm has experienced challenging events, including the destruction of hundreds of olive trees last spring. Undaunted, Daoud (a Christian) is committed to gentleness and kindness that turns the other cheek and literally turns swords into plowshares.

Also, through the leadership of Melissa Aki and the Missions Outreach Board, 156 GCC members and friends signed up to pack meals for *Feed My Starving Children* on Saturday, November 22. That's 16 more people than the goal of 140 that not so long ago seemed much too ambitious! *Incredible!!!* For GCC, the possibilities for keeping Christ in Christmas and being the body of Christ are limitless! This is irrefutable evidence that we believe that we are *Blessed*

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[†] WORSHIP<u>SERVICES</u>

NOVEMBER 30, 2014 communion

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: *Don't Miss It...* Rev. Dr. Pam Keckler

DECEMBER 7, 2014

Second Sunday of Advent

The Nativity 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 14, 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

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

Sermon: *Refreshing Repenting* Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

DECEMBER 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m.

Scripture: Psalm 89, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38 Sermon: Building God's House Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

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to be a Blessing.

So, in the inspiration of that theme, we continue to work toward our stewardship campaign goal of \$1.1million. As of this writing we have received 278 financial commitments totaling nearly \$742,000. That means that we are more than two thirds of the way to our goal. That also means that we still need to receive \$360,000. If you haven't yet made your financial commitment to the message, ministries and mission of GCC in 2015, please do so today!

Keeping Christ in Christmas...receiving Jesus in our hearts...being Christ's body in the world: GCC...that means you and I... are doing these things and excelling in our goals because God has blessed us...and because we have decided to be a blessing. And what a thrill it is to discover the joy of turning our blessings into blessings for God.

See you in church!

Chuck Mize

CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be three worship opportunities this year for Christmas Eve worship. Please note the new times for the first two services

3:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship for All Ages Intergenerational Choir and Primary Choir; Jazz

5:30 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion, Music by Pilgrim Wind Ensemble

11:00 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve worship, Music by Chancel Choir

NEW ADMINISTRATOR OF FACILITIES

Jeffery Thompson began his work with us as Interim Administrator of Facilities on Monday, October 13th. Jeff has many years of experience with managing facilities and building maintenance.

The Administrator of Facilities Search Team is very pleased to report that Jeffery Thompson, our Interim Administrator of Facilities, is our new Administrator of Facilities. His permanent position with GCC officially begins December 1. We are very impressed with Jeff's experience, professional competencies, relational skills and administrative strength that Jeff demonstrated in both the interview process and on the job at GCC. Jeff, his wife Christine and their children Connor and Shea live in Glenview and are active parishioners at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Please extend a warm welcome to Jeff and his family as they get to know all of us.

The Administrator of Facilities Search Team: Karen Aldrich (Chair, Personnel and Ministerial Relations Committee) Steve Gale (Chair of the Properties Board) Douglas Heurich (GCC member and former Facility Manager at GCC) Rev. Pam Keckler, Pastor

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

During the season of Advent (which begins November 30), we invite you to pick up a copy of Advent devotionals in the church office. These are written by several UCC writers and theologians. If you are unable to come to church, please call Rev. Keckler and we will mail you a copy (847-724-2210, Ext. 224.)

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDARS

Pick up a calendar that will fit inside a Christmas card to give to a friend or neighbor. The calendar lists all the programs and services happening this season at Glenview Community Church.

A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Glenview Community Church Memorial Garden Committee has purchased from GCC's PYF a seven foot Frasier Fir tree, a stand, and delivery and installation of said tree to the GCC's OUTDOOR Memorial Garden on Saturday, November 29 at or after 12:00 p.m. Note to PYF's installer/deliverer: Please put this in the center of the open space in the OUTDOOR Garden as early in the day as is possible. Why? So we can add lights and have it ready for members by Sunday morning, November 30.

When it is available, in place in the OUT-DOOR GCC Memorial Garden, a member of the GCC Memorial Garden Committee will add tiny white Italian outdoor lights to the tree, and on Sunday, November 30, or at any time thereafter, during December, it can be used by church members to add their own choice of ornaments/decoration on the tree or on the ground near the tree (if hanging, you need to provide your own "hanging device") in memory of, or in honor of, a person or persons they wish to remember in this new, added way in the 2014 Christmas season.

After the month of December, it will be removed. If one has placed an ornament or remembrance of any kind on or next to the tree, in order for it not to be discarded, the person who placed it there must remove it not later than January 1, 2015.

This comes to the GCC church members with LOVE from the members of the GCC Memorial Garden Committee.

Irene Kreer

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT WEEKEND SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1

A NEW WEBSITE FOR OUR MUSIC MINISTRY!

For the past year and a half, we have been crafting a new and wonderful website for our vibrant, bustling music ministry. From historical information to a calendar of events and a news blog to replace a music newsletter that used to be emailed to our music volunteers, we hope this website will be a one-stop shopping place for information about the music ministry. You can access it from the GCC homepage or can go straight to www.gccmusic.org. Bookmark it. Share it with your friends. Better yet, come and join us in singing and ringing in order to get first-hand knowledge of everything you will read about on our site.

Special thanks go to Laura Hancko, member of Chancel Choir, who designed the site. Thanks to Stephen Blackwelder, Gary Wendt and members of the Music Board for all of the planning and ongoing communication needed to keep this website fresh and functional!

UPCOMING CONCERTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014 7:00 PM Annual Toy-ful Celebration Holiday Concert Glenview Concert Band to benefit U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program. Concert is free, but please bring a NEW unwrapped toy to go toward a child's Christmas.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2014 7:30 PM Do-It-Yourself Messiah

The Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah will be performed in the "Do It Yourself" tradition with the entire community invited to join in. Led by the Chancel Choir, soloists and instrumentalists, all accompanied by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra. Admission: Free Will Offering.

2015 LINNEA CALENDARS

Perfect for Christmas, hostess, and birthday gifts....or as a gift for yourself! Beautiful monthly designs in both wall and desk sizes (with or without frames). Purchase at coffee hour or contact Sandy Bradbury (sandbag4@ me.com). All proceeds benefit local social service agencies.

Dew!!!

CONFIRMANDS

There is no confirmation class December 7 (Christmas Pageant). Regular classes will resume on December 14. See you on Pageant Sunday.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Thanks to all the confirmands who have completed a variety of service projects this fall. From helping with A Just Harvest to raking leaves for Helping Hands; from being part of the 150 plus GCC delegation who participated in Feed My Starving Children to singing the chicken song when you helped with the Heifer Store. Keep up the great work and outreach to others!

THANK YOU

The confirmands wish to thank our panel who recently talked with us about their trip to the Middle East: Rev. Mize, Gretchen Grad and Terri Morgan. Also, Tori Lothian shared about her Hands of Peace Experience. To Gary Wendt – thanks for teaching us about Worship and Music and for demonstrating the various instruments and sounds on our pipe organ.

CHRISTMAS, PIZZA AND FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Join us for Pizza after the worship service on December 14. There will be pizza, Christmas music, fellowship, kids crafts and games in the gym. Please bring side dish or a dessert. RSVP at Coffee hour or just show up! Sponsored by the Children's and Fellowship Board.

MYRA LORIS

DECEMBER 9: "LONG, TALL AND

STRONG" reflects on the history of the construction and importance of the Brooklyn and Golden Gate Bridges as marvels of American technology and ingenuity.

DESSERT	7:00 p.m.
PROGRAM	7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
TICKETS:	\$15 per lecture

Tickets can be purchased following worship on Sundays, or call Beryl Bills (847)724-1604.

ZUM GALIS CALLING ALL PARENTS WITH KIDS YOUNGER THAN KINDERGARTENERS!

We welcome you to participate in the Pageant. Start out your holiday season, and hopefully a lifelong tradition for your children, by participating as "Zum Galis". We need "a cast of thousands" to participate. You need only to show up to one practice on the afternoon of Saturday, December 6 and then choose to be in either the 10:30 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. service on Pageant Sunday, December 7. Simple costumes are provided. If you are interested, please e-mail C.J. Sultz at <u>cjsultz@comcast.net</u> and indicate which service is better for you.

PILGRIM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP 4-6 PM DECEMBER 14 / MISSION PROJECT

We will be assembling new mother kits for the Night Ministry. Please bring in any of the following; diapers, onesies, pacifiers, baby blankets, baby lotion, baby soap, diaper cream, bottles, etc. 4-6 p.m. Youth Room.

DECEMBER 21 / CHRISTMAS PARTY!

POW (PYF on Wednesdays)

Each Wednesday from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. We started a new book of the Bible 11/12. Please join us!

PYF WINTER TRIP!

1/23-1/24: Cascade & the Kalahari. Cost is \$110 for tubing, and \$160 for skiing. Deposit of \$75 due 12/10. Attendance requirement is 4 times.

PYF MISSION TRIP!

6/14-6/19: Marvell, AK. Cost of the trip is \$320 and the deposit of \$75 is due January 10th. Attendance requirement is 8 times.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GCC

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Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location	
Thursday, 27 Noven	nber 2014		
8:00 AM to 6:30 PM	Church Closed Today	Sanctuary	
Friday, 28 Novembe	r 2014		
8:00 AM to 6:30 PM	Church Closed Today	Sanctuary	
Saturday, 29 Novem	abor 2014		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Men's Open Gym	Gym	
Sunday, 30 Novemb		oy	
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Adult Ed	Chapel	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Glenview Community Church Worship	Sanctuary	
	Service	····)	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Sunday School Children Meet in Sanctuary	SanctuaryM	
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Fellowship and Refreshments	Mayflower	
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Matanya's Hope	Mayflower Room A	
3:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Pageant Rehearsal -	Sanctuary	
Monday, 01 Decemb	per 2014		
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM	Called To Care	Founders	
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	GCC Pickleball	Gym	
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	BSA 156 Committee Mtgs	Founders	
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Cub Scout Committee Mtg	Room 213	
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Yoga Class	Room 201	
Tuesday, 02 Decem	ber 2014		
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	GCC Music & Movement	Cradle/Toddler Room	
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Music & Movement	Cradle/Toddler Room	
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	PYF 12th Grade Dinner	Youth Room	
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Services & Sacraments Bd Mtg	Room 210	
Wednesday, 03 Dec			
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room	
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	GCC Music & Movement GCC Music & Movement	Cradle/Toddler Room Cradle/Toddler Room	
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	GCC Music & Movement GCC Pickleball		
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM	Bible Study	Gym Parlor	
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Coping With Grief	Library	
4:15 PM to 5:15 PM	FISH	Room 7	
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Community Dinner	Mayflower	
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	PYF/POW	Youth Room	
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	BSA 156 Troop Mtg.	Mayflower	
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Venturing Crew	Room 5	
8:31 PM to 9:00 PM	Venturing Crew	Gym	
Thursday, 04 December 2014			
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room	
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Yoga Classes	Narthex	

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location	
Friday, 05 December 2014			
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room	
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	GCC Pickleball	Gym	
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA MEETING	Parlor	
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library	
Saturday, 06 Decem	ber 2014		
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room	
Sunday, 07 Decemb	er 2014		
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM	Glenview Community Church Chirstmas Pageant	Sanctuary	
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Glenview Community Church Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary	
Monday, 08 December 2014			
All Day	Buzard Organ Tuning	Sanctuary	
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	GCC Pickleball	Gym	
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Finance Committee Mtg	Room 210	
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Faith In Action Team	Parlor	
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Patrol Leaders Council	Founders	
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Yoga Class	Room 201	
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Children's Board Meeting	Youth Room	
7:31 PM to 9:00 PM	Mission Board Mtg.	Parlor	
Tuesday, 09 December 2014			
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	GCC Music & Movement	Cradle/Toddler Room	
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Music & Movement	Cradle/Toddler Room	
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Adult Ed Mtg	Library	
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Myra Loris	Mayflower	
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Pastoral Care Mtg	Parlor	
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Confirmation and Youth Bd Mtg	Youth Room	
Wednesday, 10 December 2014			
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room	
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	GCC Music & Movement	Cradle/Toddler Room	
10:15 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Music & Movement	Cradle/Toddler Room	
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	GCC Pickleball	Gym	
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM	Bible Study	Parlor	
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM	Coping With Grief	Library	
4:15 PM to 5:15 PM	FISH	Room 7	
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	PYF/POW	Youth Room	
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	BSA - Court of Honor	Mayflower	
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Properties Board Mtg	Room 210	
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Venturing Crew	Room 5	
8:31 PM to 9:00 PM	Venturing Crew	Gym	

THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE BROADCASTER IS DECEMBER 3, 2014 AT 9:00 AM

LIFE EVERLASTING

We trust the promise of the resurrection for our former Associate Minister, **Rev. Walter "Bud" McMullen** who died at his home in Longmont, Colorado on September 5th of this year, even as we hold his wife **Jodi and their family i**n our prayers. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Jodi McMullen:

3535 Feather Reed Avenue Longmont, CO 80503-7582



THANKSGIVING OFFERING

This years Thanksgiving offering will be going to San Lucas United Church of Christ in the Humboldt Park community.

San Lucas provides many services to its surrounding community including a Hot Meal Program, a Food Pantry which provides community residents with groceries and a Thrift Store which provides residents with clothing/shoes, household needs. Thank you for your gifts to San Lucas this year.

FOOD ON THE FIRST COLLECTION IS ON DECEMBER 7

GCC's December food collection will be on Pageant Sunday. The need is great, and holiday treats are hard for low income families to afford. Please bring your gifts to the Narthex Sunday morning, December 7. Let's share our blessings with our needy neighbors. You can also make a check payable to GCC, with the name of the food pantry of your choice in the memo line. This will permit the purchase of fresh foods.

VICTORY FOR THE RECLAIM CAMPAIGN!

The 2015 Cook County budget includes \$500,000 in a brand new special fund for "community-based Restorative Justice services focused on reducing violence and restoring communities!" GCC members have attended meetings, signed postcards, sent e-mails and placed phone calls to secure this victory.

GCC made a difference! County Commissioner Gregg Goslin responded to constituent urging by co-sponsoring Board President Toni Preckwinkle's budget amendment to include the funding for these programs dedicated to reducing violent crime by improving conflict management and relationship building skills in Chicago's most troubled neighborhoods.

This is the second major victory for the Reclaim Campaign, an anti-violence initiative of a coalition led by Community Renewal Society (CRS), Southsiders Together Organizing for Power, and Gamaliel of Metro Chicago. The first was Chief Judge Timothy Evans' commitments last July to reform bond court and to work with CRS pastors and other coalition leaders to develop Restorative Justice Peace Hubs and refer up to 100 people charged with low-level, nonviolent felonies to the Peace Hubs and community based mental health and substance abuse programs instead of jail. Peace Hubs will build on successful models that the Chicago Metropolitan Association (UCC) has supported in Chicago Public Schools.

ONGOING RECLAIM CAMPAIGN GOALS

States Attorney Anita Alvarez has not agreed to any of the requests of the Reclaim Campaign, stating that she has already implemented enough diversion and restorative justice programs. Her stance begs the question that 43% of Cook County drug cases are dismissed at preliminary hearing, and that the accused wait in jail for an average of 25 days, costing the County \$143 per person per day. Alvarez also effectively opposed legislation to reduce the number of days that a detainee can be held in jail pending preliminary hearing from 30 to 10. This legislation, which would bring Illinois in line with most states, is likely to be re-introduced in the 2015 legislative session. The Faith in Action Team encourages GCC members to continue to ask their state legislators and States Attorney Alvarez to support the goals of the Reclaim Campaign. Mark your calendars to attend the Community Renewal Society Martin Luther King Day Faith in Action Assembly on January 19, 2015. For more information, please contact Nancy Mullarkey at Mullarkeyn@hotmail. com.



SPREAD THE WARMTH

Please visit the Mission Tree in Narthex from now until December 14 and drop off your donations of new, adult sized cold weather items--gloves, hats, headbands, socks, etc. Items will be distributed through The Night Ministry, a long time GCC partner agency. When you make your donation, take a handmade card from the tree to display on your own tree as a reminder of your support or make a gift in someone's name. The Night Ministry provides Chicago's vulnerable youth and adults with basic self-care supplies, health care, housing and supportive services for homeless youth, referrals to other resources, and more. Services are offered at the moment of need on the street, through a mobile health bus, and shelter. www.thenightministry.org

FAIR TRADE

Mark your calendar for December 14! This will be your next opportunity to purchase Fair Trade products! Stock up on certified coffee, tea, chocolate, honey, marmalade and almonds for the holidays! These items make wonderful gifts or stocking stuffers! Thank you for continuing to support this valuable program helping small farmers and their families around the world. GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH 1000 Elm Street Glenview, IL 60025-2897

Phone: (847) 724-2210 Fax: (847) 724-2213 Web: www.gccucc.org

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

PASTORS Rev. Dr. Charles E. Mize, Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Pamela Keckler, Pastor

MINISTRY STAFF: Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini, Youth & Children's Ministry Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, Congregational Care Gary Wendt, Music Ministry and Organist Stephen Blackwelder, Adult Choirs Debby Shellard, Children's Choirs Marcia Kiraly, GCC Nursery School Martha Fergus, Resale Shop

MINISTRY SUPPORT STAFF Tania McCarthy, Office Susan Woodsome, Office Dale Wittenberg, Business Manager Jeff Thompson, Facility Manager Krzysztof Leson, Facility Miguel DelRio, Facility Gabriel Berumen, Facility



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