

Broadcaster

GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

DECEMBER 8, 2010

Pilgrims Progress

Christmas has become the most popular holiday for both religious and non-religious people in the United States. However, this has not always been the case and actually has evolved in popularity over the last 135 years. For many of the early years of our nation's history, Christmas was outlawed in many places in the country, especially where the Puritans (our UCC forbearers) had influence. The widespread acceptance of Christmas began late in the 19th century, including Dutch and German immigrants who brought their own religious and cultural views of Christmas.

An article by Pam Durso, Assistant Professor of Church History and Baptist Heritage at Campbell University Divinity School in Buies Creek, N.C., communicates well the evolution from outlawing Christmas to Christmas becoming the most popular holiday in our culture. The following paragraphs come from Durso's article.

The fascination--even obsession--with the celebration of Christmas has not always been part of the American landscape. In fact, the earliest Americans opposed and even made laws against the observance of Christmas.

Many of the Puritan settlers in New England were convinced that Christmas was a "popish" or Catholic celebration. These settlers had left the Church of England because they felt that the church desperately needed purification and renewal. Included in their complaints against the church was this idea that the church continued to hold onto "relics of Popery," including "Christ-mass." The Puritans believed that Christmas celebrations were human inventions having no biblical basis.

As a result of these anti-Christmas sentiments, many early American colonies outlawed Christmas. The colony of Connecticut banned the celebration of Christmas in 1659, including a ban on mincemeat pies! Puritan Massachusetts passed a similar law in the same year, and anyone caught observing the holiday was required to pay a five-shilling fine or be whipped. Anti-Christmas sentiment in these and other colonies resulted in Christmas Day being treated like any other workday or school day.

The Puritans' solemn ideas about Christmas, however, were not universally accepted. Immigrants to this new land were diverse, and many of them brought more tolerant beliefs about Christmas, as well as their own Christian customs. The steady stream of immigrants led to the repeal of Massachusetts's anti-Christmas law in 1681. By 1686, Christmas services were being held in Boston's town hall.

Despite the growing acceptance of Christmas celebrations, the Puritans continued their opposition, and those settlers who did celebrate Christmas encountered discrimination and even violence. In 1706, a Puritan mob smashed the windows of King's Chapel in Boston as Anglicans held a Christmas service there. Adults in Boston continued to be required to work on Christmas Day, and children in Boston continued to be required to attend school on Christmas Day.

In 1855, Massachusetts became the 14th state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. Even so, Boston schools did not close for Christmas until 1870, and as late as 1874, Henry Ward Beecher, a prominent American preacher, said, "To me,

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SUNDAY SERVICES

DECEMBER 12, 2010

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. "Magnificat in D Major"
J. S. Bach
Chancel Choir, Soloists
and Orchestra

Scripture:

Luke 1:26-33, Luke 1:39-55

DECEMBER 19, 2010

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

Scripture:

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

Sermon:

"The Long Week"

Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2010

4:30

Intergenerational Singers and the Kevin Kizer Quintet

Worship led by Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

7:30

Contemplations, Carols, Communion
Pilgrim Wind Ensemble

Worship led by Rev. Dr. Pam Keckler

11:00

Service of Celebration, Carols,
Scripture and Reflection

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

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Christmas is a foreign day." Because of the Puritan influence, the festive aspects of Christmas were not accepted in New England until around 1875.

The German immigrants, even when surrounded by some of the holiday's staunchest opponents, continued their merry celebrations of Christmas and gradually gained converts through their joyous Christmas spirit. The Dutch immigrants brought St. Nicholas with them, and Americans, especially American children, quickly adopted this tradition. Children's books and women's magazines also played a vital role in spreading the customs of Christmas celebrations, particularly the traditions of decorated trees and gifts delivered by Santa Claus.

I find this brief history of Christmas in the United States to be fascinating and enlightening. It is fascinating to recognize how prejudice and religious identity contributed to attitude and actions related to Christ. It is enlightening that with something as significant as Christmas we cannot say, "We've always done it this way."

Christmas has become commercially successful and is now the most-loved holiday in the United States. Is it not ironic that this current obsession developed in a country where Christmas once faced extreme opposition and was even an outlawed holiday?

Howard

Pastoral Care

Andy Lewis' mother, Carol Ann Lewis, died on Saturday, December 4. The funeral service was on Tuesday at the Salem Lutheran Church in Moline, IL. Please keep Andy and his family in your prayers.

Advent Devotionals

Advent Devotional booklets are available in the Narthex, west entrance and office area. There are also Advent Calendars for children and Advent Candle Readings. Please take one home with you.



The 17th Annual "A Toy-Ful Celebration Holiday Concert!"

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



Summer Community Of Service, UCC Outreach

If you are 19-30 years old and committed to actions of service and social justice, as well as spiritual reflection, we invite you to check out the UCC and Alliance of Baptists Summer Communities of Service. You must apply online by February 1. You would serve in an agency focusing on service/justice advocacy somewhere in the United States. Housing, health insurance and small stipend for living expenses is also provided. You would serve May 30 - August 6. To find out more information contact Rev. Keckler.

LECTIO DIVINA

During this Advent season, join in a unique prayer and meditation service. Lectio Divina provides a special time to use Scripture to prepare for the birth of Jesus' message in our lives today. Available the second Thursday of each month, it will be held this Advent on Thursday, December 9. Meet in Room 5 from 9:30-11 a.m.

Questions? Call facilitator Marilyn Belleau, (847)724-2210 ext. 30

faith GCC PUPPETRY



Adults are cordially invited to learn about the remarkable GCC puppetry team, experience a sample performance and get a behind-the-scenes look. Meets in Room 205 at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 19, 2010.



Thank You

Thanks to all who purchased a Christmas tree from the youth this year. Because of your support we are able to fund retreats, mission trips and provide scholarships. Thank you.



'Tis the Season to Celebrate at the 60 Plus Luncheon!

Our gathering of those 60 yrs and older for a special Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at 12 noon in the Mayflower Room. Mark your calendar for one week earlier than when we usually meet. We will be having a special Christmas Soup and Holiday Dessert. The program for this enjoyable afternoon will be singing Christmas carols accompanied by our favorite pianist, Al TeRonde. Don't miss this time for good food and friends.

If you need a ride, call Marilyn Belleau, Parish Nurse at (847)724-2210 ext. 30.



Equal Exchange

December 12th and 19th Equal Exchange products and gift baskets will be available for sale in the Mayflower Room. These tasty products make lovely gifts for friend, staff or hostess at the holiday season. Because the coffees are organic and shade-grown responsibly to sustain our environment, hundreds of varieties of birds continue to migrate in the Americas to forests that have been left intact, helping people, wildlife, birds and our planet to survive and enjoy this lovely season

Adult Work Trip

Adult Work Trip Leaving February 24 and September 24, 2011

In the past few years, fellow GCC members George and Diane Silca, Nan and Dick Conser have all participated in the work trip described below. Please reach out to them for some been there, done that feedback on the experience!

The Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ (CMA/UCC), continues to sponsor and organize volunteer groups to go to New Orleans and participate in the rebuilding and recovery process. Over seventy volunteers from some fifteen or so CMA, Fox Valley, and Wisconsin churches have made this trip and have returned home with powerful experiences and memories. Funding for UCC recovery efforts in New Orleans is running low so 2011 may be the last year in which to participate!

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

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

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

Sunday School

Regular Sunday school classes will be in session on December 12 and 19. There will be no Sunday School classes on December 26 and January 2. Classes will resume after the holidays on January 9.

Sunday School Students Giving

After hours of Halloween trick or treating, my three children spent nearly as much time spreading their goodies on the dining room table and trading the undesirables in their collections for coveted favorites. For two Milky Ways one could usually secure a package of M&Ms. A duo of Reese's peanut butter cups once "sold" for a full size Nestle's crunch plus two mini Hershey bars. Come Thanksgiving, the best treats had been devoured and the worst landed in the bottom of the trash can, except for the popcorn ball from Mrs. Miller which fed the local birds.

For three weeks in November, during the children's worship, Sunday school students "offered up" their Halloween goodies. The candy was donated to the A Just Harvest and the women's shelter for the children who did not have the opportunity to trick or treat. Sixty eight pounds of candy, including the "good stuff" that my children would not have willingly contributed, were donated. Thanks for



January 29-30, 2011

The Women's Winter Retreat will be January 29-30, 2011 Saturday morning through Sunday noon. This year we're going to a new place -- the Hilton in Northbrook (on Milwaukee Avenue). We'll also enjoy the amazing food at All-gauer's. Registration forms and all details are available in the church office. Invite a friend to join you for this spiritual, relaxing time.



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

Confirmation

The next class will be on December 12 at 9:30 a.m. Closing prayers will be in the Youth room at 10:20 a.m. Be sure to turn in your worship sheets and service project reports.

PYFF

**PILGRIM YOUTH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
Sunday, December 12 from 4-6**

Advent Vespers "Watch and Wait"

Communion, Potluck & Fellowship Time

Join us for this annual event where youth families have time to worship and eat together and then enjoy time with peers. Youth will have open gym, youth room and games. Parents will have time to discuss topics centered around raising youth with Dr. Pam Keckler. Join us for this great tradition.

Freshmen bring a main dish

Sophomores & Juniors bring a side dish

Seniors bring a dessert

RSVP: elizabeth.ciccolini@gccucc.org

GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Phone: (847) 724-2210

Fax: (847) 724-2213

E-mail: gccucc@gccucc.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

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

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts, *Senior Minister*

Rev. Dr. Pamela Keckler, *Minister for Spiritual Formation*

DIRECTORS:

Marilyn Belleau, *RN, Health Ministry*

Kathy Lifton, *Children's Ministry*

Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini, *Youth Ministry*

Debby Shellard, *Children's Choirs*

Gary Wendt, *Organist, Instrumental Music*

Andrew Lewis, *Adult Choir*

AFFILIATES:

Marcia Kiraly, *Director, GCC Nursery School*

Barbara Thewis, *Manager, Resale Shop*

Nonprofit Organization

US Postage
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Glenview, IL
Permit NO. 41

Return Service Requested

At A Glance

THRS	12/9	9:00 am	Resale Shop open until 5:00 pm, Plymouth Rm	MON	12/13	7:00 pm	Finance Board Mtg., Founders Rm
		9:30 am	Lectio Divina, Rm 5			7:00 pm	BSA Committee Mtg., Parlor
		11:00 am	Healing Touch, Library			7:00 pm	Service and Sacraments Mtg, Off site
		6:00 pm	Healing Touch, Library	TUE	12/14	12:00 pm	Sixty Plus, Mayflower Rm
		7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary			4:30 pm	Hebrew School, Various Rms
FRI	12/10	9:00 am	Resale Shop open until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm			7:00 pm	Stewardship Board Mtg., Rm 7
		9:30 am	Resale Shop Mtg, Parlor			7:00 pm	Mission Outreach Board Mtg., Parlor
		7:00 pm	CSA 156 Arrow of Light, Mayflower Rm			7:00 pm	Pastoral Care Board Mtg, Rm 210, Chapel
		8:00 pm	AA Mtg., Parlor			7:00 pm	Adult Education Board Mtg., Founders Rm
		8:00 pm	AI-Anon Mtg., Rm 201			7:00 pm	Confirmation Youth Board Mtg., Youth Rm
SAT	12/11	8:00 am	Scout Master's Mtg, Founders Rm	WED	12/15	9:15 am	WA Chapter 11, Parlor
		9:00 am	Resale Shop open until 1:00 pm, Plymouth Rm			9:30 am	WA Chapter 20, Chapel
		9:00 am	Men's Open Gym, Gym			7:00 pm	BSA 156 Troop Mtg., Gym, Mayflower Rm
		3:00 pm	Memorial Service, Harvey Clements , Sanctuary			7:00 pm	Pilgrim Wind Ensemble, Sanctuary
SUN	12/12	8:45 am	Primary Choir Rehearsal, Rm 201			8:00 pm	Venture Crew, 210 & Gym
		9:30 am	Worship Service, Sanctuary				
		9:30 am	Confirmation 7th Grade, Founders Rm				
		9:30 am	Confirmation 8th Grade, Parlor, Library, Rm 5				
		9:30 am	Sunday School, Various Rms - start in rm 201				
		10:20 am	Confirmation Closing Prayers, Youth Rm				
		10:30 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm				
		10:45 am	Adult Education, Chapel				
		10:45 am	Membership Board Mtg., Parlor				
		10:45 am	Bell Rehearsal, Bell Rm				
		4:00 pm	PYFF, Plymouth Rm, Gym				
		4:00 pm	Voices of GCC, Rm 201				

Pastoral Care

A Memorial Service will be held for Harvey Clements on Saturday, December 11 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. Please continue to hold the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Broadcaster Deadlines:

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