

GRACE UPON GRACE

Friends, we are at a crossroads in the Message, Ministries and Mission of **Glenview Community Church. That crossroads is stewardship.** God is doing amazing things in and through GCC, and we are doing great things for God! In 2015 we ordained the Rev. Elizabeth Hartung-Ciccolini to Christian ministry and installed her as our Associate Pastor for Youth and Children to strengthen this crucial and growing facet of our ministry. In 2015 the spiritual strength of our Music Ministry was blessed by the arrival of our new Director of Adult Choirs, Guillermo Muňoz Küster. And, after leaving the pastoral staff of GCC in 1979, God guided the Rev. Bobbie **McKay** back home to GCC in 2015. Now Bobbie has developed and is leading five Spiritual Life Teams that will spawn more teams to help us all talk with God in prayer, talk about God with one another, and recognize God's presence in our lives. And the list goes on and on! God's grace is alive in GCC!

However, our financial support for GCC's Message, Ministries and Mission is not keeping pace with the spiritual needs of our vital and faithful congregation. The temporal expression of our spiritual health is **stewardship**. **Stewardship** is simply our confidence that everything we have is a gift from God, and our commitment to use God's gifts to do the work of God's grace for God's children in the world. For the dayto-day life and ministry of GCC to move from strength to strength, we must grow our stewardship. This need is separate from our potential capital campaign. It is for the ongoing vitality and faithfulness of Glenview Community Church!

Churches like GCC have often **whispered** their stewardship messages, **apologized** for

asking for the resources the church needs to thrive, and *minimized* the request because we think it's not spiritual...or because we're embarrassed to ask for something for ourselves. Everything about that perspective is wrong! **Spirituality without stewardship is hollow, if not dead!** *Nothing* we use locally to support the Message, Ministries and Mission of GCC is for ourselves! *Everything* we do is for the work of God's grace for God's people. And those people live in Glenview in a poverty of spirit (if not of physical necessities) just as they live halfway around the world in a poverty of necessities (if not of spirit).

For 2008, GCC's pledged dollars peaked at \$1,039,000. From that high, pledged dollars decreased to a modern-day low of \$810,000 for 2013. For 2014, GCC pledged \$865,000 and, for 2015, GCC pledged \$970,000. With *Gifts Most Rare* (our second mile campaign last January) the 2015 total swelled to \$1,013,000: an increase of over \$200,000 in two years!

Even though this amazing trend is heartening, our pledged dollars are still insufficient for the needs of GCC's Message, Ministries and Mission to do God's work today and tomorrow. For the last two years, we have used some of our unrestricted reserves to support our annual budget to strengthen GCC's Message, Ministries and Mission, with the hope that our stewardship will also be strengthened. In each of these years our unrestricted reserves have supported our budget Message, Ministries and Mission with approximately \$100,000. *This is a short-term strategy, not a long-term plan.*

Glenview Community Church is a large congregation of the United Church of Christ,. And, in large congregations, it's easy for us

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WORSHIP SERVICES

JANUARY 17, 2016

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.

Scripture: John 2:1-11

Sermon:

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

Cana Cabernet

JANUARY 24, 2016 THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

10:00 a.m.

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

Sermon:

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

A Christian Anatomy Lesson

JANUARY 31, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

10:00 a.m.

Scripture: I Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon:

Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize

The Greatest of These

continued from the front page

to think that *my* gift and *my* commitment don't make a difference. But they do! Our church's middle name is *Community*. That means that it takes this whole community... it takes all of us...for GCC to faithfully do God's work in our day.

So, together, we have a challenge that we can and must meet, this year.

First, we must receive pledges from our households that pledged for 2015 but have not yet pledged for 2016. If you have not renewed your pledge, please do so today!

Second, we must receive pledges from our households that have not pledged recently, or ever. If you haven't made a pledge in a while, or if you've never made a pledge, please make a pledge for 2016 today.

And third, we must respond to a NEXT STEP Campaign that our Stewardship Board will lead. Though last year's second mile campaign, Gifts Most Rare, enabled us to cross the one million dollar threshold for the first time since 2008, it did not raise our pledge base line. That's why we need a NEXT STEP Campaign; a campaign that will raise our pledge base. The necessary goal for this campaign is \$150,000.

The name of our NEXT STEP Campaign is *Grace Upon Grace*. These are the three words that the gospel of John uses to describe the meaning of Jesus' birth. When God's Word became flesh...when love was born an infant human being in Bethlehem...the grace of God that we had experienced up to that point seemed paltry and small by comparison. In Jesus, we have all received *grace upon grace*. And the abundance of this grace is as incomprehensible as it is inexpressible. We can't comprehend it. We can't express it. But we can respond to it by heaping *grace upon grace* for God.

After nearly three years as your Senior Pastor, I know that you are a congregation of generous, responsive and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. So I am convinced that we can do this...that we are able to heap *Grace Upon Grace!* I believe that God will inspire us to meet this steward-

ship challenge. I promise you that I will do everything I can to help us reach our goal... to help us heap **Grace Upon Grace!**

Friends, this is a great church, both because it is doing amazing things for God and God's people, and because it has the possibility and the ability to do far more. I pray that you will help move GCC forward in this crucial way. How we respond will either enliven or encumber everything else that we do as God's people who follow and serve Jesus Christ. As God has heaped *Grace Upon Grace* for us, let us heap *Grace Upon Grace* for God. With God's amazing grace, we will do it! See you in church!

CHRISTMAS EVE

For Christmas Eve, 2015, we tried an experiment. Because of declining attendance (a 100 person decrease from 2013 to 2014 alone!) at the late service, we moved that service two hours earlier, from 11 p.m. to 9 p.m. The response to that change was an attendance increase at the late service of 70 people! The two earlier services remained stable and strong in their attendances as well. Because of the attendance increase, we will continue the 9 p.m. time for Christmas Eve this year.

Chuck Mize



PROPOSED MASTER BUILDING PLAN

ARCHITECTS & CONSTRUCTION MANAGER TO PRESENT MASTER BUILDING PLAN

The Kubala Washatko Architects Inc. has spent the last eight months listening to the congregation's suggestions, concerns and dreams for a church building that would better support GCC's Message, Ministries and Mission and our vision to bring our building into the 21st century. They have designed and redesigned a Master Plan that addresses the current infrastructure, functionality, accessibility and aesthetic problems we identified. *On Sunday, January 17, at 11:15 in the Sanctuary, TKWA will present the Master Plan, with computer generated models, to the congregation*

Our Construction Manager, Pepper Construction, has done a comprehensive cost analysis of the Plan and will be at the meeting to present figures on the cost of the Master Plan. The Construction Manager

and TKWA have worked diligently together to provide a Master Plan that solves the problems we identified and is also cost effective.

On January 31, 2016 at 11:15 in the Sanctuary, the congregation will vote at a specially called meeting to decide whether to embark on a proposed capital campaign to fund this exciting and vital plan for the future of Glenview Community Church. The vote will not be on a specific plan of construction, but only to authorize a fund raising campaign.

On January 24, 2016 at 11:15 in the Founders' Room, the Awareness and Education Committee will be hosting an open forum to answer any remaining questions before the Congregational vote on January 31, 2016.

COMMON GROUND JIM KENNEY

SUNNIS AND SHI'ITES THE TWO FACES OF ISLAM

What are the origins of the Sunnis-Shi'ites divide within Islam? Are recent clashes (especially those involving the Islamic State) rooted in different interpretations of the religion or do their sources lie elsewhere? In this presentation, Jim will explore these and other issues that are critical for an understanding of the Islamic world. Along the way he will draw comparison and contrast between western (and particularly American) views of religion, the state, and pluralism, and those which characterize Muslim culture. Finally, Jim will reflect briefly and positively on the changing face of the global Muslim community.

60 PLUS

Join other seniors for a lunch and program on Tuesday, January 19 from noon-1:30 p.m. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, Congregational Care, at 847-724-2210, Ext. 230.

WINTER YOGA



Monday evening, January 18 7-8 p.m. in Room 201

Thursday mornings, January 14, 21, 9-10 a.m. in the Narthex

Dress in comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat. To register, contact Kelly Golding 847-657-1314 or kellygolding@comcast.net.

LENTENOPPORTUNITIES

Even though we just finished the season of Christmastide, Lent is just around the corner! Ash Wednesday begins it February 10 and Easter comes on March 27 this year. There will be various worship services offered, a Lenten devotional from the UCC Still Speaking writers, and other activities.

SAVETHESE DATES

St. Patrick's Day Potluck (back by popular demand), March 6, and Chili Cook-off and Hometown Auction (second annual), April 10. More information as we get closer to the events! *The Fellowship Board*

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT

MARCH 11-13, 2016

Held at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel in Northbrook. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Bobbie McKay, Ph.D. The theme is **A Spiritual Road Map from Birth to Old Age**, with Dr. Bobbie McKay as your Guide. Contact Rev. Pam Keckler or Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds for further details. Sign up and bring a friend!

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Glenview Community Church is a Christian community of acceptance and welcome for all God's people. Because we strive to make our campus (buildings and grounds) a place of sanctuary and safety for each person who comes here, our campus is:

Tobacco and tobacco product free Alcohol, recreational drug and substance free

Weapon (guns, rifles, knives, explosive devices and look-alikes) free

Thank you for helping us to make the campus of Glenview Community Church a place of sanctuary and safety for all God's people.

GLENVIEW COMMU-NITY CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL 2016-2017 REG-ISTRATION

Preschool registration is open to all and GCC member and Director Marcia Kiraly invites you and your children ages 2-5 to visit GCCNS and see a class in action. We are NAEYC accredited and offer a variety of Enrichment classes in Exploration, Music, Spanish, Art, Yoga, and Parent's Day Out programs. Registration dates are: January 13, 9:00 a.m., In-House Lottery - January 20, 11:30-1:00p.m., Open House - January 27, 9:00 a.m., Open Lottery. For complete information please visit us at gccns.com or contact Marcia Kiraly, marciak@gccucc.org or 847-729-1440.

CONFIRMATION 7TH GRADE CONFIRMANDS SAY THANK YOU!

Mr. Karth's 7th grade confirmation class would like to thank all who so eagerly purchased the baked goods at their two winter bake sales. The all-boys class baked the items, sold \$800 worth of goods (!), went to the toy store and purchased many toys for the Toys for Tots drive. Thanks to all for your support!

PYF ON SUNDAYS

Each Sunday PYF meets in the Youth Room from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. to gather, learn, and grow together. This year's theme is *Nar-rate*. We will look at different ways stories are narrated each week in addition to the below activities.

JANUARY 17

Final exam stress break - prayer vigil and junk food potluck.

JANUARY 31

Extreme Relays

PYF ON WEDNESDAYS (POW)

POW meets each Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 to work on service projects and learn about the movers and shakers of the Bible. Dinner is provided.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Our present Memorial Garden is filling up! There are now a limited number of places that are available for reservation or interment, especially for those families desiring multiple adjacent sites. In response, the Memorial Garden Committee has been developing a potential plan for an expansion site on the in the northeast corner of the GCC campus. This site is in the triangle bordered by the offices, the north drive and the circle drive. The Committee is working with a landscape architect to prepare a proposal. We look forward to sharing more of this plan with you!

MEMORIAL GARDEN CHRISTMAS TREE

There are several ornaments that were left on the Christmas tree in the Memorial Garden. They have been removed and are now on the bench in the Memorial Garden. Please pick them up in the next two weeks. Thank you.

GCC Memorial Garden Committee

LET'S MEET UP

First Thursdays: calling all adults 21 to 91+! Come out to Grandpa's on the first Thursday of each month to socialize and meet new people from GCC! Starts at 8:00 p.m. - look for our new sign! Whether you're 21, 41, 61 or 91+, you're sure to find someone to connect with! We hope to see all of you on **February 4, 2016.** Sponsored by the Fellowship Board.

NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

We will receive new members into the church on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016. There will be an informational session offered prior to that to learn more about GCC, who we are as a congregation as well as our parent denomination, the United Church of Christ. If you would like more information, please contact Rev. Pam Keckler at 847-724-2210, Ext 224.



As you clean out the clutter after the holidays or are out shopping for some post-holiday deals, please consider supporting the GCC Women's Association Chapter 10 Lego and children's games drive going on the whole month of January 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. The school-aged program specifically offers after school programs to children ages 5 through 12 to foster independence and to further enhance their academic potential. They are looking for new or gently used Lego sets and other age-appropriate games such as Monopoly, Headbanz, Connect 4, etc. Look for collection boxes in the narthex and by the church office, which will be out this whole month. Please contact Tara Call at tarablinn@yahoo.com or Karen Monckton at with any questions.



STEWARDSHIP 2016: "GRACE UPON GRACE"

As of year-end 2015, the Stewardship campaign had received financial commitments from 350 households totaling \$842,103. THANK YOU! We are still missing 74 commitments from households who pledged last year, which total \$117,000. If you pledged last year, but haven't pledged for 2016, PLEASE MAKE YOUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO SUSTAIN AND GROW GCC'S MESSAGE, MINISTRIES AND MISSION! WE NEED YOU!

In addition, there are over 200 member families who have not made a financial commitment to the church for two or more years. WE NEED YOU, TOO! Representatives from the Stewardship Board will be reaching out to you to discuss how you can participate in the important work of your church—God's work within the church, the community and the world.

In the coming days you will be hearing from Chuck Mize and the Stewardship Board about our next steps, a GRACE UPON GRACE campaign to raise our base stewardship commitment to the next level—which will enable the church to successfully carry out its Godinspired Message, Ministries and Mission to be A House for all God's People.

The Church is faithful to God's promise to us only when we all participate. God's abiding grace is free. We can't buy it. BUT IT DOES REQUIRE A RESPONSE FROM EACH OF US!

Happy New Year from Your Stewardship Board





PEACE AND UNITY RALLY

Members of GCC kicked off the New Year by attending a January 1 "Peace and Unity Rally" hosted by the Islamic Foundation of Villa Park. Representing GCC were: Debby Fosdick, Nancy Mullarkey, Barbara Pollak, Meredith Morgan, Ellen Scholly, Mickey Safstrom, Nan and Dick Conser, Jane Sanderson and Brian, Gretchen and Dana Grad. This demonstration of solidarity followed the "RESOLUTION OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS" adopted by the Spiritual Council on December 14, 2015.

There were approximately 200 people in attendance representing a variety of congregations and faiths, as well as several local politicians. All expressed concern over the rising wave of Islamophobia and their desire to engage more deeply with our Muslim neighbors.

HANDS OF PEACE

HANDS OF PEACE IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT TOM ALDRICH HAS JOINED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS VICE CHAIR. He joins fellow GCC members Gretchen Grad and Lisa Leger, along with 11 other board members from Chicago and San Diego. Tom and Karen were host parents last summer to Palestinian participant Mujahed, and also took part in the HOP/GCC trip to Israel-Palestine in 2014. We are thrilled to welcome Tom!

HOP also has a 16-member Advisory Board, which includes GCC members Rev. Chuck Mize, Debby Fosdick and, until his recent death, Per Hanson. Hands of Peace is grateful for the many years of support and advice Per offered and his encouragement in our early days.

For more information on volunteering, donations, or being a teen participant or host family contact Gretchen Grad, ggrad@handsofpeace.org or 847-707-7033.





HANDS OF PEACE IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT APPLICATIONS FOR OUR SUMMER 2016 PROGRAM ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE.

Applications are due by February 7, 2016. Our summer program dates are July 13 - August 1, 2016.

To learn more about being a HOP participant, an XL, or being a HOP host family, please visit the Hands of Peace website at www.handsofpeace.org.

Please share this information with all your friends and family - everyone that is interested is encouraged to apply! HOP staff is already hard at work to make sure that another amazing summer program shapes the lives of our participants in miraculous ways. We look forward to seeing you all this summer!

STEPS ALONG THE SACRED JOURNEY ON RACE

The Faith In Action Team (FIAT) invites the congregation to join their **Sacred Journey On Race**. Join us on **JANUARY 18, 2016, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.** for the Martin Luther King Day Faith in Action Assembly.



First Congregational Baptist Church, 1613 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

AT THE FAITH IN ACTION ASSEMBLY, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE OF FAITH WILL COME TOGETHER TO CALL ON PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO:

- reduce violence through restorative justice,
- end absolute, lifetime bans on employment for people with criminal records,
- seek justice in education funding and adequate state revenue,
- fight for good jobs and housing through the Westside Community Benefits Campaign,
- end police brutality, sweeps, and the criminalization of people of color.

Carpools will leave from GCC. For more information, contact Nancy Mullarkey at Mullarkeyn@hotmail.com.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

-Martin Luther King Jr.

RESOLUTION OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS

In response to the ongoing violence against Muslims in our nation and around the world, the Spiritual Council unanimously approved the following resolution of solidarity with the Islamic community, both locally and globally, at its Monday, December 14 meeting:

WHEREAS, we steadfastly believe in a God of peace, who created and loves all people and in the right of all people to peacefully practice their faith, not only in the United States of America, but throughout the world,

WHEREAS, Glenview Community Church is a founding sponsor of Hands of Peace, an organization that promotes peace and mutual respect and understanding among youth of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Spiritual Council of Glenview Community Church expresses their sincere friendship and support for Muslims in our community and around the world, and vows to pray for their safety, freedom, and joy in God's amazing gifts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expression be promptly communicated in writing by Senior Pastor Charles Mize to the following organizations:

- 1. Ismaili Jamatkhana, 100 Shermer Road, Glenview
- 2. Islamic Cultural Center, 1800 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook
- 3. Islamic Foundation North, 1751 S. O'Plaine Road, Waukegan IL
- 4. Muslim Community Center, 8601 Menard Ave., Morton Grove

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fellowship Board and Faith in Action Team are requested to work together to arrange an event that will include members of the above mentioned congregations and the GCC congregation with the goal of fostering social and spiritual understanding and growth. Ideally this event will take place in the first quarter of 2016.



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Thursday,	21 January	2016
8:30 AM to	10:30 AM	Yoga Clas

 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM
 Yoga Classes

 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Resale Shop Open

 6:15 PM to 7:20 PM
 Joyful Ringers Rehearsal

 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
 BSA 156 Meetings

 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 22 January 2016

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Resale Shop Open



Narthex

Plymouth Room

SanctuaryB

Mayflower

Sanctuary

FREE

WOODEN ROUND AND 8' TABLES

Glenview Community Church has purchased new tables and all of the old ones are free for the taking. We have 24 60" round tables and 20 8' tables. All tables need a little TLC and repair. Tables will be available January 18, 2016 on a first come-first served basis. If you are interested in any of our old tables please contact Jeff Thompson jeff.thompson@gccucc.org. Please do not remove any table without contacting Jeff Thompson.

THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE BROADCASTER IS JANUARY 20, 2016 AT 9:00 AM

	Event Time	е	Event Name	Primary Location		
	1:00 PM to	3:00 PM	Pickleball	Gym		
	7:00 PM to	8:30 PM	GCC Adult Volleyball	Gym		
	8:00 PM to	9:00 PM	AA MEETING	Parlor		
	8:00 PM to	9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library		
Saturday, 23 January 2016						
	9:00 AM to	1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room		
	9:30 AM to	1:00 PM	Pit Crew Workshop	Gym		
	Sunday, 24 January 2016					
	8:30 AM to	10:00 AM	Confirmation Classes	Plymouth Room		
	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		
	11:15 AM to	12:15 PM	Q & A Capital Plan	Founders		
	11:30 AM to	1:00 PM	Family Fun Pizza!	Mayflower		
	4:00 PM to	5:00 PM	Voices of GCC	Room 201		
Monday, 25 January 2016						
	9:30 AM to	11:00 AM	Spirit Group	Library		
	6:00 PM to	9:00 PM	BSA - Leadership Training	Founders		
Tuesday, 26 January 2016						
	11:30 AM to	1:30 PM	WA Chapter 8 Meeting	Founders		
	6:45 PM to	9:00 PM	Sing To Live Rehearsal	Sanctuary		
	7:00 PM to	9:30 PM	Spirtual Council Meeting	Mayflower		
Wednesday, 27 January 2016						
	9:00 AM to	1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room		
	3:00 PM to	4:30 PM	Bible Study	Parlor		
	4:00 PM to	5:15 PM	FISH	Mayflower		
	5:30 PM to	8:00 PM	POW / 87 Club	Mayflower		

HAVE YOU HEARD

ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS MINISTRY?

What is it? A confidential process where members of the congregation can ask for help to resolve issues with one another.

Do we have a problem at GCC with conflict? If not, why do we need this ministry? Thankfully, this ministry was not created in response to a specific problem – GCC is a great place to be and we want to keep it that way! Think of this ministry as a tool to help maintain and strengthen the health of our community, like an inoculation you receive to prevent getting sick.

How does it work? Anyone can take advantage of this completely confidential process by contacting a member of the Constructive Conversations Ministry team (Cathy Ach, Leanne Drennan, Debby Fosdick, Kelly Golding, Gretchen Grad, Mary Ellen Johnson, Reverend Chuck Mize, Brad Smith, or C.J. Sultz) to get the tools to try to resolve the issue on their own or take advantage of a trained church facilitator for assistance.

What if I have questions? The Constructive Conversations Ministry team is available to address any questions, concerns, comments, etc., so please do not hesitate to reach out to any of them.

GLENVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

1000 Elm Street Glenview, IL 60025-2897 Phone: (847) 724-2210 Fax: (847) 724-2213

Web: www.gccucc.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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...

Enthusiasm means "one with the energy of God." It's a kind of faith that has been set on fire.

----Writer George Matthew Adams