



THE STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

The central story of Christmas is told by Luke in the second chapter of his Gospel. It begins with these beloved words:

And it came to pass, that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled.

Luke's story focuses on a middle-eastern couple that finds themselves far from home and without shelter when Mary's unborn child decides to enter this world. It's a rustic story set in a barn...a story of angel choirs above and poor shepherds below all worshipping at a manger where, in Martin Luther's words, the little Lord Jesus is "...asleep in the hay." And, since ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** debuted fifty-one years ago, I can't hear this story in any other voice than that of Linus!

Matthew tells quite a different story. Matthew focuses on Joseph who is so kind and so persuaded by the voice of an angel in his dream that he remains devoted to Mary his betrothed, even though she is pregnant with a child in whose conception he did not participate. Matthew doesn't mention shepherds and angels. Instead, he tells us of magi (magicians...kings...wisemen) from the east who travel for two years to kneel at Jesus' feet and offer Him extravagant gifts.

Through the centuries we have merged these divergent accounts, weaving their discrepancies together into the heirloom story

that is the foundation for our Christmas Pageant, and those of countless churches. But these are not the only beloved stories of Christmas.

In ***A Christmas Carol***, Charles Dickens teaches us that Christmas is kindness, compassion and generosity. In ***The Gift of the Magi***, O. Henry teaches us that the wisdom of Christmas is selfless love. In ***The Grinch Who Stole Christmas***, Dr. Seuss teaches us that the great treasure of Christmas isn't found in stockings or under a tree, but in our hearts. And these stories only introduce the long litany of the precious and persuasive stories of Christmas.

Why are there so many? Perhaps it's because the meaning of Christmas is so mysterious and deep...because Christmas plumbs the human spirit and fills us with God's Spirit... because Christmas makes us believe again that God will not give up on us until we become human in the image and inspiration of Jesus.

Many of you know that Jesus and I share the same birthday. As you might expect, my childhood experience was that my birthday was a footnote on my family's Christmas. Church was never a part of our celebration. Instead, Christmas Eve was spent around the tree at my aunt and uncle's home, and Christmas Day gathered that same family at my grandmother's table. It wasn't until adulthood that the church became the beloved center of my Christmas celebration.

This is my 37th Christmas in ministry. So my memories of those Christmas Eves around my aunt and uncle's tree are now dusty and faded. Clergy don't have the luxury of family Christmas Eves. And this year, Christmas falls on a Sunday! That means three services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas morning. After that, it's not easy to find the time or the energy to celebrate!

Even though your Christmas celebrations will likely mean that there will be a few empty pews at GCC on December 25, we will still gather to worship "...the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay" on Christmas Day. As I look forward to the 37th Christmas of my ministry, there is now no place I'd rather be for Christmas...and for my birthday... than in church. So, this Christmas Day, I'll tell you another Christmas story...my Christmas story. I look forward to sharing it with you, and to celebrating with some of you then.

Dear friends, may the stories of Christmas fill your hearts with God's love, and may they lead you to the healing and hope that are born for us in Christ our Lord. See you in church!

Chuck Mize



FORWARD IN FAITH

As we near the completion of our FORWARD IN FAITH Campaign, we are thankful to the faithful list of donors as of December 14, 2016! The total has been revealed and shows the tremendous commitment and generosity by our members and friends. If you have not yet pledged and would like your name added to the list, please call Karen or Tom Aldrich or email them at campaign@gccucc.org. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

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GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE UPDATE NOVEMBER 2016

The Governance Task Force continues to make progress in its efforts to develop a proposed governance structure for GCC. We view GCC'S identity as "A vibrant Christian community that welcomes, loves and serves all God's people". We are guided by GCC'S vision "to seek to serve God by making Christ's message, ministry, and mission of love real for all people". Our goal is not to change what GCC does, but to propose a structure which best supports this vision.

It has been and will continue to be a priority for us to get as much input as possible from the congregation. We started by doing a lot of listening before developing some recommendations about governance. The input and questions gathered in the informational and board meetings have been invaluable in helping us to refine our thinking and in ensuring that our ultimate recommendations will be clear and will incorporate a broad cross section of thinking from a diverse spectrum of people. Thanks to all who shared their thoughts and questions with us.

We have shared our proposed governance structure in general information sessions and in multiple Board meetings. This proposed structure establishes 5 Ministries (Resource, Congregational Life, Outreach, Faith Formation and Worship & Music). The 5 Ministries are made up of multiple teams. In addition to the Ministries, the structure also includes the administrative committees, including Communications, Leadership, Pastoral Relations, and Human Resources.

In recent weeks we have been focusing on answering the questions you have raised and we anticipate having written FAQs (frequently asked questions and answers) to share in the near future. We've been talking about decision making/authority levels and roles and responsibilities, and we are developing charts to clarify what the proposed structure and role definitions will look like.

We are striving to keep to the following time line:

- Update to the congregation – Nov 2016
- Post FAQs and Governance Structure

Graphics on GCC website and Broadcaster- Dec 2016

- Update Congregation on roll-out plans for feedback on proposed Constitution/Bylaws and Transition Plan at Mid-Winter Congregational Meeting – 2/19/17
- Present proposed Constitution/Bylaws and Transition Plan to Spiritual Council and Leadership Committee – Feb/ March 2017 meetings
- Hold Congregational and Board Info/ Feedback Sessions on Constitution/ Bylaws and Transition Plan – March/ April 2017
- Communicate to congregation the updated changes to Constitution/Bylaws and Transition Plan incorporating feedback from Info Sessions – April/ May 2017
- Present updated final proposed Constitution/Bylaws at Spiritual Council and Leadership Committee– April/May 2017 Meetings
- Final recommendation to Congregation for approval vote at Annual Meeting of the proposed new Constitution/ Bylaws and Transition Plan – 5/21/17

Thank you for your patience as we continue to move forward. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to any one of us.

The Governance Task Force: Cathy Ach, Paul Bauerschmidt, Shane Bill, Leanne Drennan, Debby Fosdick, Megan McClung, Bob McGee(Chair), Chuck Mize, Doug Morgan, Nancy Mullarkey, Karen Patterson-O'Brien

GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE (GTF) - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BASED ON CONGREGATIONAL INPUT

How did this project come about? Who gave the GTF the authority to do this?

The need for a governance task force came forward as part of the Leadership Retreat in September 2014, leading the Spiritual Council to recruit and then name the members of the GTF in April 2015. The GTF is doing the research and legwork to put together a

proposed governance structure for congregational review, input and final approval. The Congregation has the ultimate authority to approve any proposed changes to our governance structure.

Where does authority lie in the proposed governance model? The decision making process is not clear from just a structure. Doesn't too much responsibility for decision making rest with too few people?

We are currently working on the written documents that will clearly spell out decision making and authority levels. We received a lot of input that the current size of the Spiritual Council (30 members) is far too big for effective decision making and tends to lead to less in-depth discussion of important issues and vision than would be true for a body half its size (the new model). Our research from books and articles on church governance and from other UCC churches our size who have updated their governance structure all point to smaller leadership bodies being more efficient and robust.

Wouldn't it be helpful to have written descriptions of the roles and responsibilities for each of the positions being proposed in this new model?

Yes, and we are currently working on written documents that will clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities for all of the proposed positions.

Because communication is so critical, will

there be a centralized group overseeing external and internal communication as well as making sure that there is both push and pull communication up and down the structure?

The proposed Communications Committee would be that centralized group, tasked with developing recommended communication policies for Spiritual Council approval and then overseeing the implementation of these policies.

Isn't there too much reliance on volunteers in the proposed governance structure, especially since we're finding it so hard to recruit board members now?

The hope is that the proposed structure having fewer elected positions and less need for business-type meetings will encourage more members to volunteer to follow their passion in serving in any of the many opportunities to do the church's work.

2016 YEAR END GIVING REMINDER

This is a reminder that in order for your year-end pledge gifts or donations to be reported as a 2016 charitable contribution, it must be received in the office by 12/31/2016 if delivered personally. If you are mailing your gift it must be postmarked by 12/31/2016 in order to be recorded as a 2016 gift. Any gifts received on or after 1/1/2017 must be recorded as a 2017 charitable contribution according to IRS tax code.

GIVING GLIMPSE NOVEMBER 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
November	\$ 49,871	\$ 58,947	- \$9,076
YTD	\$798,151	\$838,244	-\$40,093

Worship 10:00 a.m.

DECEMBER

18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE

Scripture:

Isaiah 7:10-16
Luke 1:46b-55
Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon:

I'll Be Home for Christmas
Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize



25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Scripture:

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

Sermon:

It's My Birthday!
Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize



JANUARY

01

FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE NEW YEAR'S DAY

Scripture:

Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon:

The Least of These
Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize



08

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Scripture:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon:

Rise and Shine!
Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize



LET'S GET ACTIVE

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Mahatma Gandhi

JANUARY 6

Bernie's Book Drive

1 - 3:00 p.m. Help sort through books which will be given to lower income children.

FEBRUARY 7

Souper Bowl - more details to come.

Be on the lookout for the **Mission Tree** in December and cookies for the **Night Ministry** in February. **Food on the First** will be collected again this year for Northfield Pantry and San Lucas.

LOOKING FOR NEW USHERS

Do you like to greet people as they arrive for worship? Could you help a new family find the nursery? Do you like to work behind the scenes and make sure details are covered? Then you may be the ushers we are seeking! We need single ushers and family ushers to enlarge our usher teams. You would help every 7 weeks and can trade with others as needed. To sign up or get your questions answered, contact Rev. Pam Keckler at 847-724-2210, Ext. 224 or pam.keckler@gccucc.org

HOLIDAY OFFICE AND BUILDING HOURS

The building and office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27. No events will be scheduled on these two days/evenings. We will reopen on Wednesday, December 28. Also, we will be closed on Monday, January 2 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3.

LIFE EVERLASTING

We trust the promise of the resurrection for our longtime member Richard Daley, who passed away after a brief illness, even as we hold his daughters, Robin O'Connor and Eileen Daley, and his whole family in our prayers. We will trust Mr. Daley's life to our God at a memorial service at GCC on Saturday afternoon, December 17, at 2 p.m.

PYF DECEMBER

4:00 - 6:00 YOUTH ROOM

DECEMBER 18

Christmas Party & Gift Grab Bag

Please bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$15.

POW-PYF on Wednesdays 7/8 Club

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

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will meet on December 18 at 8:45 a.m. There will be no classes on December 25 and January 1. We will resume our opening and class on January 8.

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:

January 17, February 21, March 21 and April 18.

St. David's Episcopal Church,

2410 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL
(corner of Glenview Road and Shermer Road)

COME ONE, COME ALL

Come one, come all singers to the Intergenerational choir during the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. There will be one rehearsal on Sunday, December 18 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in room 201 with Voices of GCC. Then we will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. on December 24 for another practice before the service.

COME WHEN YOU CAN AND SING WITH US!

Questions, contact Debby Shellard at dshellard@gmail.com.

Alive Together With Christ

community

FAIR TRADE

Fair Trade products will be available on Sunday, December 18 during Fellowship. This is a perfect time for your holiday shopping! Like Fair Trade Certified on Facebook to learn about how your purchases help others. Kajoina Jenifer was recently highlighted. Read her story!

"Kajoina Jenifer and her family have been farming tea since 1999. She has 7 children and all of them are in school except for the youngest who will attend when old enough. She hopes that the additional income from selling tea on Fair Trade terms will enable all of her children to attend university. She also hopes to improve the community women's farming project in order to create better food security and provide additional sustainable income."

Learn more about Fair Trade Certified and how to purchase Fair Trade Certified products at FairTradeCertified.org.

60 PLUS

Have a Holly Jolly Christmas with 60+ Hear those sleigh bells jingling? It's time to celebrate the season at the 60+ luncheon on December 20 from noon – 1:30 pm. Enjoy a warm, comforting meal of ham and cheesy potatoes, and then enjoy the seasonal music provided by our very own Santa, Al TeRonde, at the piano. Merry Christmas to all! *The Pastoral Care Board*

KNITTERS UNITE!

JANUARY 11, 2017

Join us, there are two sessions – 4:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Come if you want to learn to knit. Come if you are already a knitter who wants to knit with others. The GCC Community Dinner is at 5:30 pm. Come early for knitting and stay for dinner, or come for dinner at 5:30 and stay for knitting

We will have another knitting table in January 2017 so you can see what we're up to. In the meantime, keep knitting/crocheting!



Please visit the MISSION TREE in the Narthex for the whole month of December and drop off your donations of new, adult-sized cold weather items—gloves, hats, headbands, socks, long underwear, etc. Size large and dark colors preferred. These items will be distributed through The Night Ministry, a long-time GCC partner agency. Also, please use the **MISSION TREE** as a drop point for **FOOD ON THE FIRST** donations in December. We will be collecting food until December 18 in an effort to stock the shelves of the pantry at San Lucas UCC during this time of great need.

When you make a donation, take a hand-made card or ornament (provided by Tom and Rosalie Amos) from the tree to display on your own tree as a reminder of your support.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR 2016

As the year comes to a close, we have much to be thankful for. One way GCC members show their thanks is through giving. The Christmas Offering is a special collection that we allocate to organizations that do God's work in our community. This year, with the state budget cuts, there are many organizations in need. The Offering will be split between the following organizations:

- San Lucas UCC - Hot meals, food pantry, produce mobile, thrift store and utility bill support in Humbolt Park neighborhood.
- Northfield Township Food Pantry - Local food pantry for approx 730 eligible families, which relies 100% on charitable donations.
- The Night Ministry - Provides shelter and health outreach to over 7,000 homeless adults and teens across metro Chicago.
- Feed My Starving Children - Non-profit Christian Organization committed to feeding God's children.
- Connections for the Homeless - provides immediate housing and healthcare to those at highest risk of dying on the streets within the year as well as preventive healthcare and medication monitoring.
- Cornerstone Community Outreach - Shelters in temporary and permanent low income housing and services, including meals, for about 1100 individuals, day-care for 183 children and adults.

Thank you for your generous support of these organizations through your Christmas Offering.



Bring your family to the 23rd Annual Toy-ful Celebration concert at the Glenview Community Church on Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Join the Chancel Choir, directed by Guillermo Muñoz Küster, and the Glenview Concert Band, under the direction of Greg Wojcik, for a festive evening of holiday music and fun. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; Christmas carol sing along 6:45. This concert benefits the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program. The concert is free, but please bring an unwrapped new toy (or toys) to donate to the Marines to help make some child's Christmas morning a little brighter. Visit www.gccmusic.org or call the church office at 847-724-2210 for further details.

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location
Thursday, 15 December 2016		
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Yoga Class	Narthex
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringer Rehearsal	Bell Room
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, 16 December 2016		
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, 17 December 2016		
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Mens Open Gym	Gym
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Resale Shop Open	Plymouth Room
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Richard Daley Memorial	Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Toys For Tots - A Toy-ful Celebration	Sanctuary
Sunday, 18 December 2016		
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	Leadership Committee Meeting	Founders
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	PYF	Youth Room
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Voices of GCC Rehearsal	Room 201
Monday, 19 December 2016		
3:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Confirmation Make Ups	Room 32
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Yoga Class	Room 201
Tuesday, 20 December 2016		
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM	60 Plus Luncheon	Mayflower
3:30 PM to 6:00 PM	Confirmation Make Ups	Room 32
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Spiritual Council Meeting	Mayflower
Wednesday, 21 December 2016		
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	Common Ground Meeting	Chapel
Thursday, 22 December 2016		
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	Gym Closed	Gym
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, 23 December 2016		
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	Gym Closed	Gym
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AA Meeting	Parlor
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	AL-ANON	Library
Saturday, 24 December 2016		
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	Gym Closed	Gym
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Glenview Community Church Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Glenview Community Church Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
9:00 PM to 10:00 PM	Glenview Community Church Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
Sunday, 25 December 2016		
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Church School Children Meet in Sanctuary	SanctuaryM
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Christmas Worship Service	Sanctuary
Monday, 26 December 2016		
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	GCC Closed	Sanctuary

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT WINTER 2017

If you are looking for something for your younger child/children to do while the older child/children are in preschool, then Music and Movement classes are for you. This is also a class where both your younger children can attend together no matter what their ages. Our very own GCCNS music teacher, Debbie Berg, will be offering Music and Movement classes beginning the week of Jan. 9 for children ages 9 months – 4 years. Classes will be offered on Tuesdays 9:15-10, 10:15-11 and Wednesdays 9:15-10, 10:15-11, and 11-11:45. Classes will be of mixed age and parents or caregivers are required to stay with the child/children. The winter session will last for 9 weeks and end the week of March 22. Registration forms can be found on the GCCNS. Non-GCC families are welcome as well, so share the information with your friends from play groups, library story time, or neighbors. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Berg at debbieberg23@gmail.com

A NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM IN JANUARY!

This is a special invitation to anyone 70 or older. Dr. Bobbie McKay will be starting a new Spiritual Life Team called, "Spiritual Gifts and Life Challenges after Seventy". This will be a mixed women and men team with a focus on our older years and the special gifts and challenges they contain. Spiritual Life teams meet for one hour, once a month only, in the Chapel. Contact Bobbie for more information at bobbiekm@mc.net.



3:00 PM

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

5:30 PM

A Reflective Christmas Eve Worship
Carols, Communion and Candlelight. Instrumentalists

9:00 PM

Candlelight Joyful Christmas Eve Worship
Carols and Candlelight
Music by The Chancel Choir and Joyful Ringers



10:00 AM

Christmas Day Worship and Carol Sing

The next Deadline for the Broadcaster is January 11, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Alive Together With Christ

happenings

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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...

Let us go in faith
to ponder in our hearts
the mystery of this moment.
And may life be born within you,
Christ Jesus be seen among you
and joy surround you like the angels' song.

Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Aotearoa New Zealand