

## March 25, 2009

# A Pilgrim's Progress

With the purpose of the Lenten season to focus on our internal lives and explore areas where we want and need to grow, prayer is one of the areas that is common for exploration. Prayer is communion with God and having a closer relationship with God is a desire that many have. One way to learn about prayer is to read and study the prayers of others. I've done that particularly with the prayers of Jesus. Several years ago I wrote a book about this under the title, Praying Like Jesus. The idea for the book came as I reflected and wrestled with things I heard people say about prayer and how those things did not seem to fit with how the Gospel writers portray Jesus. I decided to explore prayers of Jesus that the writers recorded. I wondered how they had the words to those prayers. Prayer is such a private matter. The most intimate, agonizing prayer we have of Jesus was when he was in Gethsemane and prayed, "God, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want" (Matt. 26:39). The fact Jesus prayed the same thing three times indicates the agony he was experiencing. Although three of the disciples were with him, they slept through the prayer each time.

There are other prayers Jesus prayed that are more acts and activities than words. His baptism and his wilderness wandering are two examples that come to mind. Then, there is the prayer recorded in John 17 that is so long, comprehensive, and moves back and forth from first to third person that apparently someone many years after the fact was putting words in Jesus' mouth.

For me, to pray like Jesus means to gain a sense of who Jesus was, what he was like, how he conveyed the spirit and presence of God in and through his life and then to seek to live my life in a similar way. Surely, if anyone ever prayed his life, Jesus did. I would like for my life to be a prayer. So, I have focused on learning from Jesus what it means to be a human being and what it means to have some understanding of what God is like. Although at first it sounds like a neat thing to want to do, to pray like Jesus, it's troubling to see what happened in Jesus' life as a result of his praying, communing with God. To pray like Jesus suggests that we strive to live like Jesus. If we live like Jesus we will experience struggles like Jesus did and be treated as he was treated. Maybe we don't want to do that after all. Is this one place where we keep our promise and our performance as far apart as possible?

Maybe your thoughts of praying like Jesus are not as difficult or troubling for you as mine are for me. Nevertheless, one way to learn about prayer is to explore the prayers of Jesus recorded in the Bible. It's a discipline we can use during Lent, or any time, that will help us grow in wisdom and knowledge and in favor with God.

Howard

# CANCELLATION

Simple Gifts concert cancellation: The Pilgrim Brass Ensemble concert scheduled for April 5th has been cancelled. Please join us for our next Simple Gifts event on May 2nd - Bella Voce.

## Missing Coat and Keys

Someone mistakenly took the wrong coat after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on March 22. The coat was hang-

ing on the coat rack located outside of the Transept. It is a woman's small black pea coat with car keys in the pocket. A dark navy coat was left in its place.

Please check your closest to make sure you did not take the wrong coat by mistake. If you do have the coat, please call the church office at 847-724-2210.

# SUNDAY SERVICES

#### **MARCH 29, 2009**

8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Instrumental Duet Instrumental Duet

Scripture:

Genesis 3:1-13, Mark 15:1-15, 42-47

Sermon: "I Don't Care" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

#### APRIL 5, 2009

Palm Sunday 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

10:30 a.m.

Chancel Choir

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11

#### Sermon:

"The Self System" Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts



#### **APRIL 9, 2009**

Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m. Pilgrim Wind Ensemble

Rev. Sally Iberg "How Do We Get Through This Night?

### **APRIL 10, 2009**

Good Friday 7:30 p.m. Ch

Chancel Choir

Tennebrae Service Rev. Dr. Howard Roberts

The Sanctuary will be open at noon for individual prayers.



# **God of Promises**

God of promises and new beginnings, We hear you calling us to turn away from our yesterday And towards your tomorrow, To let go of the things that weigh us down, And to embrace the mercy you offer us With a generosity we can scarcely comprehend.

As we continue in this Season of Lent, Receive us as we are, And transform us; change us, Make us new and set a

right heart within us. Amen.

## 1st Sunday Conversations

Some have expressed interest in conversation with the Senior Minister regarding sermons, worship, and other topics. We'll gather in the Founders' Room following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Join us in the Mayflower Room for refreshments and make your way to the Founders' Room for conversation with the Senior Minister.

# **Radical Hospitality**

Be an AMBASSADOR & extend "Radical Hospitality". Glenview Community Church appreciates all those who serve as Ambassadors at each of our worship services. Members and friends enjoy the warm greetings; visitors appreciate the welcome and helpful information about child care, Sunday school, fellowship, events. If you would like to volunteer to serve and help extend "Radical Hospitality", please call Linda Binaei, Director of Member Engagement at (847) 724-2210 x 29 or e-mail linda. binaei@gccucc.org . If you are serving as an Ambassador and want to continue you don't need to do anything. If you are unable to continue serving as an Ambassador, call or e-mail Linda Binaei.



Join us in the Mayflower Room for the last Thursday evening in March for a simple soup and bread at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Bible study from 6:30-7:30 pm with Dr. Roberts. A basket will be available for donations to cover the cost of the food (suggestion of \$5.00).

If you haven't signed up for supper but would like to come, simply call the church office and let us know. Thanks to the Women's Association Chapter 8 for providing the soup and bread during this series. Over 35 people have attended these sessions.



# The Labyrinth Walk

Walking a labyrinth is a personal journey or pilgrimage. It is a spiritual tool dating back to ancient times. It offers a pathway of prayer and a walking meditation. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has a single pathway for entering and exiting. No directional decisions are necessary. Your walk, pace and personal experiences are all your own. There is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. A labyrinth guide will be available to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

All are invited to experience the Labyrinth Walk in the Mayflower Room beginning Palm Sunday morning, April 5th 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday April 6th and April 7th 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Wednesday, April 8th 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There is no charge for this unique Lenten experience.



## **Calling All Walkers**

A new walking season is at hand (and foot). Walks are normally scheduled on the first Sunday of the month. With Palm Sunday and Easter on the first two Sundays in April, we plan the first walk of the season on the third Sunday. GCC Walkers meet on April 19 at 12:45 p.m. in the North Parking lot. We let the weather determine where to go a few days before. Newcomers and old-timers are equally welcome!

### Adult Education Sundays 9:30 am in the Chapel

#### MARCH 29, AND APRIL 5

We will welcome Tom Aldrich who will present a program on the Brahms Requiem with connections to the Kerygma Bible study series.

#### MAY 3

#### May is Older Americans Month...

In honor of Older Americans Month, Wendy Thornton will share with you the "Good News-Bad News". A story that illustrates how to create a long-range plan to allow an aging parent or spouse to receive care at home and postpone or prevent the need for care in a nursing home.

Ideas, suggestions for future Adult Education programs? E-mail Chris Calandra at ccalandra4@comcast.net

# March Mondays with Pam

During this Lenten journey, why not take a few minutes to come to Room 5 at church (lower level) and share with Pam and others the challenges and joys of a life of faith and/ or doubt. Lent is a time to take time to think about all aspects of our spiritual journey. There's no agenda and no "counseling." It's a place and space to share what we believe and why. Or to talk about what gets in our way as we're attempting to grow personally and spiritually. So far 8-10 people have stopped by to sit and talk or listen. Join us Mondays in March from noon until 1 p.m. and from 7-8 p.m.

# Save The Date

A President's First 100 Days **THURSDAY APRIL 30 AT 10 AM** A Presentation by JOYCE SCHRAGER. Ms. Schrager is a well known, highly respected and popular current events lecturer.

The presentation will be followed by a buffet luncheon. Tickets are \$15 for the program and luncheon.

> Voices of GCC and Primary Choir hard at work preparing for the "Aren't We There Yet" musical.

Along with learning their lines and practicing their moves, they also help create the props and background for their performance.

Don't miss the great opportunity to see our youth in action on April 19th.





## New Ministry Coming To GCC!!!

We are starting a new ministry in April called GCC Career Network. This will be a "Network group for those seeking employment changes (unemployed, under employed, returning to the workforce, or seeking new employment) as well as those looking to expand their business network; to share knowledge and resources." Watch for more details soon. Contact Rev. Pam Keckler if you have an interest in either attending or receiving more information. We plan to meet twice a month on Mondays at 12:00 p.m. and in the evening at 7:00 p.m.

## Campaign For Better Health Care

Congregations across Illinois are lifting up prayers of concern for the 1.8 million without health care insurance in this state. Please add these folks to your prayers. For more information on how you might become involved please contact Campaign for Better Health Care at www.cbhconline.org or 312 913-9449. If you are facing difficulties with health insurance or getting needed health care, please call CBHC's toll-free HelpLine at anytime, 888 544-8271.

# **Easter Lily Delivery**

Bring a touch of Spring to others by helping deliver Easter Lilies following the 11 AM worship service on April 12. Lilies will be delivered to those members of the congregation who are home bound, in nursing homes or hospitals. Please take a few moments to share an act of kindness that will mean so much to those receiving the Easter Lilies. Contact Mary Buchanan, 847-729-2328, if you would like to help deliver.

# Share Your Gifts

We are planning small groups for the spring. Perhaps there is an idea that you have for a small group. Why don't you offer to facilitate a group? Contact Rev. Sally Iberg to discuss this idea and get it on the calendar. You can reach her at *sally.iberg@gccucc.org* or at 847 724-2210. Call her today!



Glenview Community Church Nursery School is hosting their 4th Annual SPRING BOUTIQUE! Please join us on Wednesday, April 22nd from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and prepare to shop for some great spring and summer items. You'll also be sure to find unique gifts for Mother's Day, graduation, end-of-the-year teachers' gifts, summer fun and barbeques, and much more. Contact Michelle Langenbach at (847) 729-3217 with any questions or visit the web site at www. gccns.com/springboutique.

## **Chaperones needed**

This year our youth will travel to Northern Minnesota to work on the Cass Lake reservation, repairing houses and working with young children.

We are looking for two chaperones. Youthworks is the organization we are working with this year. www.youthworks.com. The dates are June 14– June 19. Please e-mail Elizabeth Ciccolini for information on the process to become a PYF chaperone. *Elizabeth.ciccolini@gccucc.org* 

## Ministerial Institute at CTS

Each year in April the Chicago Theological Seminary presents a Ministerial Institute. Religious leaders and other persons of faith gather to examine pressing issues of our time regarding the life of faith and ministry in the world. April 21-22 are the dates for this year's institute. Interested? Talk with Dr. Roberts, pick up a brochure in the church office, or call Rob Leveridge at 319-592-9548. The institute will be a life enriching, faith deepening experience.

## **Pastoral Care**

Jocelyn Bowser, a member of GCC, died on March 14. A funeral service was held Friday, March 20. Joycelyn's daughter, Stacey Bernard and her husband Tim and son Zachery are part of GCC. Please keep them in your prayers.

# Sunday School

Classes WILL be in session at 10:30 a.m. only on March 29 and April 5.

#### Webster states that prayer is:

An address or petition to God or a god in word or though a set order of words used in praying an earnest request or wish.

Four year old through fourth grade Sunday school students conclude that prayer is : praising and thanking God great before you eat asking for needs closing your eyes sharing worries made up of special words meditating giving a message to God private talking to God

What is prayer to you ?

## Confirmation

The 8th grade confirmation class and some of the parents had class last Sunday at a local funeral home. They toured the building and learned about the work of a funeral director and their ministry to individuals and families in the community.

**NO CONFIRMATION CLASS** March 29, April 5, and April 12. Last class for 8th grade is April 19. PYF leaders will stop by class to invite the 8th graders to join them. Don't forget to pick up your robe as well as turn in your retreat forms.

#### Journey with God, Know that wherever you go, Wherever you are taken, Whatever befalls you, Whenever you find yourself lost, Simply turn, And know that God –

Walk in peace,

Creator, Friend, Companion – Stands arms outstretched To welcome you home. Amen.

### Glenview COMMUNITY CHURCH

1000 Elm Street Glenview, IL 60025-2897

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 Rev. Sally Iberg, Minister for Mission and Ministry

#### **Directors:**

Marilyn Belleau, *RN, Health Ministry* Kathy Lifton, *Children's Ministry* Elizabeth Ciccolini, *Youth Ministry* Linda Binaei, *Member Engagement* 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

## At A Glance

Thurs	9:00 am	Resale Shop, Plymouth Rm until 5:00 pm
3-26	12:00 pm	Chapel Meditation, Chapel
	6:00 pm	Soup @ 6, Lenten Bible Study, Mayflower Rm
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal, Bell Rm
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Rm, Sanctuary
Fri	9:00 am	Resale Shop, Plymouth Rm until 1:00 pm
3-27	12:00 pm	Chapel Meditation, Chapel
	8:00 pm	Al-Anon Mtg., Rm 201
	8:00 pm	AA Mtg., Parlor
Sat	9:00 am	Resale Shop, Plymouth Rm until 1:00 pm
3-28	9:00 am	Men's Open Gym, Gym
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C	0	Sunday School, Room 105
Sun	8:30 am	Sunday School, Room 105
Sun 3-29	8:30 am 9:15 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm
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	9:15 am 9:30 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Fellowship Board, Rm 213
	9:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Fellowship Board, Rm 213 Adult Education, Chapel
	9:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:45 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Fellowship Board, Rm 213 Adult Education, Chapel Primary Choir Rehearsal, Rm 201
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3-29	9:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:45 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Fellowship Board, Rm 213 Adult Education, Chapel Primary Choir Rehearsal, Rm 201 Sunday School Gathering, Rm 201 Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm
3-29 Mon	9:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:45 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Fellowship Board, Rm 213 Adult Education, Chapel Primary Choir Rehearsal, Rm 201 Sunday School Gathering, Rm 201 Fellowship Hour, Mayflower Rm Finding My Spirit, Library

Tues	12:00 pm	Knitting Class, Rm 5
3-31	12:00 pm	Chapel Meditation, Chapel
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Wed	9:00 am	Resale Shop, Plymouth Rm until 1:00 pm
4-1	12:00 pm	Chapel Meditation, Chapel
	6:30 pm	BSA Troop 156, Mayflower Rm
	7:00 pm	Venturing Crew, Rm 210

## **Broadcaster Deadline**

Please submit all articles by 9:00 am, Wednesday, one week in advance to publishing via e-mail at tania.mccarthy@gccucc.org