



**GLENVIEW
NEW CHURCH**

A NEW CHRISTIANITY

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PARK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2017

Pastoral Message

Whenever something goes in the opposite direction that one expects there is always the temptation to try to "get back to zero". For instance when people buy a stock which then goes down, there is a well-established phenomenon in which, as the price approaches the point at which many people bought it, there is an increased wave of sales which push it back down below the entry price. This is because people, thinking irrationally, become desperate to prove that their mistake was "not really a mistake" by coming out of the deal the same place they started. A more rational approach is to recognize the mistake, sell at a loss, and move on.

This can be seen more generally in what is sometimes called the "sunk costs fallacy". Imagine you've already invested a lot of time and effort into some project, but as time goes on, it becomes more and more clear that the project is not succeeding. Now, there are two ways of evaluating your situation: 1) you can reason that you already invested so much into the project, that would be a waste to abandon it, or 2) you could ask yourself, "If I were to start fresh on this project today, with the information I know now, would I start it?" The logical and rational approach is the second one, but we become emotionally invested in our past efforts and so are naturally inclined towards the first. This leads to a dangerous cycle called an "escalation of commitment", in which you throw "good money after bad", and dig yourself in deeper with no hope of escape beyond (the now impossible) success of the project.

This is not just an economic or psychological phenomenon; we can apply our understanding of this to matters of spiritual importance. Consider that we are all being constantly held in perfect spiritual equilibrium: "This spiritual equilibrium or free choice can be illustrated by earthly examples of equilibrium. It is like the equilibrium experienced by a person tied around the waist or arms between two men of equal strength. The person in the middle is pulled by one man to the right and by the other to the left. In that situation the person in the middle is able freely to pull to one side or the other as if not constrained by any force at all." (True Christian Religion 478:1)

Every single moment of your life, there are spiritual forces – both heavenly and hellish – exerting a constant influence on you. When you make a choice, whether for good or evil, both of those forces move with you in that choice. If you take a step toward hell, then the angels will take one step along with you ready to draw you back. This means that, while your

Church Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 1 WED 10:00 Arcana Class
7:00 Pastor's Council
- 3 FRI 5:00 High School Youth Group
- 5 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service
11:00 Women's Sermon Discussion Group
11:00 Traditional Worship Service
- 6 MON 5:30 Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
- 7 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders
7:00 Park Dwellings Meeting
- 8 WED 10:00 Arcana Class
- 9 THUR 7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 10 FRI 5:00 High School Youth Group
- 12 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service
9:30 Holy Supper
11:00 Women's Sermon Discussion Circle
11:00 Traditional Worship Service
- 13 MON 5:30 Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
- 14 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders
- 15 WED 10:00 Arcana Class
Park News Deadline
- 16 THUR 7:00 MANC Board Meeting
- 17 FRI 5:00 High School Youth Group
6:00 Spiritual Studies Club
- 18 SAT 8:30 Men's Breakfast
- 19 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service
11:00 Women's Sermon Discussion Circle
11:00 Traditional Worship Service
12:00 Park Dwellings Annual Meeting
- 20 MON 5:30 Women Unwind (100 Park Drive)
- 21 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders
- 23 THUR 11:00 Thanksgiving Family Festival
- 26 SUN 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service
10:30 Deck the Halls
11:00 Traditional Worship Service
- 27 MON 5:30 Women Unwind
7:00 Christmas Choir Practice
- 28 TUE 4:15 Pathfinders
- 29 WED 10:00 Arcana Class

past is not meaningless, your focus really should always be on your present moment. Each moment is its own brand new starting point — in every moment you are at zero with regard to your next decision.

So don't fall into the trap of thinking that, because you were already gone down a certain path, you're doomed to continue that path. No matter what mistakes you've made in life, you are always at the cusp of a decision that can reverse your direction.

General Announcements

Pastoral Message (cont.)

The amount of force the Lord permits hell to exert on you does not change, nor does the amount of assistance the angels are ready to give you, no matter where you are on your path of life. All that matters is your next choice.

Will your next step be one towards heaven, or one towards hell? Forget about your past steps; just focus on this next one, on this singular moment. The Lord, through His angels and His creation, will do the rest. You never need to "get back to zero" before improving. You are always at zero. So make your next choice. (Mac Frazier)

Holy Supper November 12

The sacrament of the Holy Supper will be offered at the 9:30am service on Sunday, November 12.

Spiritual Studies Club

The "Spiritual Studies Club," will meet on Friday, November 17 in the Glenview New Church Youth Center. Come for yummy hors d'oeuvres at 6pm, a delicious free meal at 7pm, followed by stimulating discussion on spiritual topics at 7:45pm.

Men's Breakfast

There is a men's breakfast tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 18th at Colin Cole's. Stay tuned for details via pastoral e-blast and Sunday worship brochures.

Park Dwellings Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Park Dwellings will take place at 12noon on Sunday, November 19 in the Auditorium of the Glenview New Church.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

You are invited to the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted by the Glenview Clergy Association, Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30pm at St. Catherine Laboure, 3535 Thornwood Ave., Glenview. This year's keynote speaker will be Father Maina Waithaka, Pastor of St. Catherine. Participation in the choir may be an option, but it is something we're still working on. Stay tuned for details via pastoral e-blast and Sunday worship brochures.

Thanksgiving Reminder

Our Thanksgiving Family Festival Service will take place on Thursday, November 23 at 11am in the Auditorium. The service will include a fruit offering. People may also bring non-perishable food items for the Northfield Township Food Pantry.

Thanksgiving Chancel Assistants

We are looking for young people 4th grade and up to serve as Chancel Assistants helping the ministers receive the fruit offerings during our Thanksgiving Day Service. If your young person would be willing to help, please contact

Martha Heilman, Volunteer Coordinator,
marthah@glenviewnewchurch.com, 847-302-7619.

Two Services on Sunday, November 26

We will be offering both a contemporary worship service at 9:30am and a traditional worship service at 11am on November 26, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This is a change from past years where we only offered one combined service.

Deck the Halls—Sunday, November 26

We'll have plenty to do from hanging wreaths and greenery, to decorating the Christmas tree, and we'd love your help. We are going to start in the Auditorium and Lake Lounge after the 9:30 service and decorate the Church Sanctuary and Assembly Hall following the 11am service. There will be a sign up sheet on the information table in the Assembly Hall so I can get a sense of how many people are interested in helping. I hope to see you then! (Erika Horigan)

Christmas Choir: Calling All Singers!

Come join us in song for the Christmas season! Please sing with us for the Christmas Eve Festival service at 5pm on Monday, December 24th (directed by Bonny Lundin-Scheer). The choir rehearsals are as follows:

- Mondays, November 27, December 4, 11 and 18 from 7-8:30pm
- Monday, December 24: 3:45 warm-up prior to the performance at the 5pm service

Please let me know if you would like to join us - call or text Bonny Lundin-Scheer (847-452-0670), or email bonnys@glenviewnewchurch.org. Come and join us to celebrate the birth of the Lord!

Sunday Services - Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to help out on Sunday mornings? We have opportunities for ushers, singers, musicians, Sunday School teachers, refreshments including early coffee makers, and coordinator for the 9:30 service. Young people are invited to sign-up to help with any activity.

Please take a look at our Sign-up Genius link and think about where you would enjoy helping. Let me know if you have any questions about how each job works. Thank you. Martha Heilman, Volunteer Coordinator, marthah@glenviewnewchurch.org (847-302-7619) <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a5ae2fa7fc1-930>

Women Unwind

Women meet weekly for conversation and fellowship on Mondays at 5:30pm at Karen Stoeller's home. (100 Park Drive)

Sunday Morning Sermon Discussion Circle

Join us for our informal weekly drop-in gathering in the Auditorium after the 9:30 service to spiritually connect and further discuss the sermon topic.

Reminder from the Contributions Committee

Have you sent in your contribution/pledge form for this 2017-18? We are asking every member to consider increasing their pledge or contribution amount by 5%. Your contribution ensures that we will be able to continue with our education programs for adults and children, that our buildings and grounds are well-maintained, and that we can turn on our lights and heat. We sincerely appreciate all donations to support our church's goals.

Donations can be sent directly to our Treasurer, Keith Parker, at 74 Park Drive, Glenview, IL 60025, or they can be dropped in the box inside the entry way to the front office. If you prefer to make donations by credit card, you can do this on our donation/pledge forms that are available in the Swedenborg Center.

Please also remember to fulfill your intended weekly offertory donation. To meet our overall total goal of \$145,000 we'll need everyone's help. Thank you! The Contributions Committee: Erika Horigan (chair), Jill Brickman, Colin Cole, Aixa Chen, Ellen Pendleton, Keith Parker (Treasurer).

Pajamas for Christmas

I'm excited to let you know that once again, we are going to help approximately 45 children who reside at Rice Child + Family Center in Evanston have a brighter Christmas morning by providing each child with a new pair of pajamas! Some of you will recall that we have done this for a couple of years in a row and so successfully that their director reached out to us hoping we would do it again. I said an enthusiastic "yes" knowing that I could count on all of you! Thanks in advance for your support! Here's how you can help:

Let me know that you are willing to be part of this by calling 847-724-0057x11 or emailing philp@glenviewnewchurch.org. Indicate whether you'd like to give money (*cash/checks payable to GNCS by Friday, 12/9*) or if you'd like to purchase individual pajamas. If you choose to purchase pajamas, you will be given information about that specific child including their sex, size, and color preferences. *In an effort to streamline the process, we are requesting that all pajamas be purchased at Target or Kohl's, include a gift receipt, and be dropped off at the school office by Friday, December 9th!*

The GNCS students will wrap and label each child's pajamas and then the packages will be delivered to the center. Once again, I'm excited that we have this opportunity and thank you in advance for your support. (Any additional money collected will supplement each gift.) (Phil Parker, GNCS Principal)

Scrip Card Program

I want to give a very big thank you to Joanne Geils and several others for leading the Scrip program for many years. It has been a useful fundraising program! Beginning November 1, Kendra Paraskevopoulos will be taking over the Scrip program and will be making use of some of the easy online ordering that the scrip program utilizes. If you buy Starbucks cards for Christmas gifts, if you buy groceries at Walmart or Jewel, consider buying gift cards for these purchases. Stay tuned for more information about how to help with fundraising for Glenview New Church School through Scrip!

Trivia Night 2018: Save the Date!

It's NOT too early to start forming your eight-person team for our annual Trivia Night Fundraiser! The fun-filled event will take place on Saturday, March 3, 2018 in the Auditorium. More details to follow!

From the Glenview New Church School

Thank you so much to all those who helped out with the Enchanted Kingdom hosted by GNCS on October 28. I hope you all got a chance to walk through the transformed Pendleton Hall and enjoy the little ones playing.

Village of Glenview Crossing Guards

There is a need for additional Crossing Guards to support the children in Glenview. For more information, please contact Donna Raitano at 224-254-0513 or email at andyfrain.donnaraitano@gmail.com

GNCS Bike-a-thon Results

34 students circled Park Drive a total of 402.5 times on Sunday, September 17 in the annual GNCS Bike-a-thon. Thanks to all the riders and everyone who supported this event. A total of \$1115 was raised for Lutheran Church Charities' K-9 Comfort Dog Fund.

Thank You!

Mark was diagnosed with fourth-stage cancer in December of 2015 and came close to passing away multiple times before finally making the transition to the other world on July 31st of this year. If Mark had been a schmuck, it wouldn't have been nearly as heart-wrenching, but dang, he was a fun-loving "spread-the-joy" kind of guy who was faithful to his wife, family, friends and community, humble before God, applying his gifted brains to make the world a better place, a common-ground finder, outspoken about inequality in an inimitable soft-spoken style, someone safe to talk to and be with, trustworthy, helpful, a rock and pillar, and funny. Oh so funny. People loved him for different reasons, but the fact remains that everyone seemed to appreciate and/or love him. (Rebuttals welcome but will be dismissed.) How do you measure the worth of love and support given by a community to a family trying to hold it together while one of them battles disease, and eventually loses that battle? I think it can't be overestimated. Mark's wife, Roxanne, and his grown children, along with their spouses/significant others - Vera (and Ryan), Josh (and Meaghan), Simon (and Abigail), and Grace (and Spencer) - wish to convey deepest gratitude for the countless ways you have supported us. Like meals. So many delicious meals brought in. (We felt the love through every bite.) Like paying for medical bills. Like gift cards for food and massages and more. (All spent.) Like shopping at the farmers' market for us. (It kept us healthy.) Like cleaning our house. (Who DOES this for love?!) Like running errands. Sometimes ALL the errands. Like visiting - whether that entailed buying a plane ticket, driving a distance, or walking across the Park. Like getting Mark out for a walk every single day. Like being on the schedule to call Roxanne and see if she was OK or needed anything. Like shopping for us. Like sending books or information about kicking cancer. Like all the things to keep our fun meters on high - water balloon fights, Nerf-gun fights, games, joke books, remote-controlled helicopters, wind-up toys, and fart buttons. Like writing a card, or holding us up in prayer. If we could only see into the spiritual world and see the umbrella of love that covered Mark and all of our family, we would be witness to the truth of love. That it can buoy us up and help us carry on. Because of you, we, his family, will be better able to carry forward Mark's spirit, and to become our own beacons. We will pay it forward. But first, we want to say thank you. Thank you. (The Mark and Roxanne Jungé family)

Park Patter

As promised, TWO big birthdays this month! First, Vera Kitzelman will be 103 on November 24, then Jean Melzer will be 101 on November 30. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LADIES! So now we have a trifecta—101,102,and 103: a real winning combination.

And another happy birthday: this time to Joe Seckelmann who turned 94 on October 6. Joe was kind enough to return to his old stomping grounds in the Park to celebrate with his local family and friends. There's whole passel of October Baby(ha!) birthdayers that used to gather for fun and games with Joe and Bette (hers was in October, too). P.S. Ken Cole celebrated his natal day on October 6, too.

Speaking of natalities, yet another October event was rev-elried (you get the drift). Cindy Parker reached a half century with lots of SUPPORT from her friends and relatives. Her in-laws, Richard and Gillian Parker even descended from Ontario to mark the occasion and to see other family member, grandkids and friends.

The peripatetic Smiths-that would be Bob and Naomi- aviated, peregrinated and navigated over to Europe, stopped in Denmark to see Naomi's sister, Laura, and thence to Antwerp where they boarded a river cruiser and navigated up and down various rivers, peregrinating around WWII scenes of importance in several countries.

A less traveled (Europe-wise) pair of Smiths—a.k.a. Jon and Kim—spent 18 days seeing the sights and attending the wedding of Gilbert and Lesley Smith's son as part of their adventures.

Meanwhile, back in the USA, Dan and Joan Woodard fired up the house on wheels and took off for Maryland for a family wedding—a nephew, son of Sara (Fuller) and Matt Smith (does this begin to sound familiar?) after which they explored around, through and about Virginia and environs.

Hegira to the Holy City (Charter Day) attendees so far are Kent and Jerry Fuller (Kent's 60th reunion), and Justin Synnvestvedt (Erik's father) 60th, Cam Synnvestvedt, Michael Holmes, Sharon Junge (who went to Florida to visit family first)—their 40th, and Jon and Kim Smith (her 40th), Colin and Sue Cole (his 30th) and Brannon and Kara Smith who are just going to see their kids. There will be more and probably corrections in a future issue.

'Twas nice to see Peter and Teresa Buss over the second weekend in October here in their old homeland.

Also, 'twas nice that Robin (Scalpom) Ovid spent a week with her sisters, Jennifer Overeem and Connie Donnelly, and friend, Pam Olson going about to see and visit places and people before returning to flaming California.

And 'twas nice that Marilyn (Miller) Whitney wended her way up from Indiana to see family and friends in the area, just for the fun of it.



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11-1-17

Park Patter (cont.)

A medical message of interest: Mac Frazier did something bad to his right shoulder while playing ice hockey and had surgery which he is recovering from well. He decided to return to the sport since his wife, Gillian, seemed able to play without injurious results. Wrong!

Late news category— the September golf fundraiser produced around \$3,000. Next month we will be able to tell you how it will be spent.

Victoria Berto ran in the Chicago Marathon! Her results were 4:25:45, and she finished 17,639. Well run, Vicki!

Here is your first reminder or possible your last reminder: FALL BACK ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017!

Wait, wait-hold the presses! Another late news item: born on September 30, a daughter, Odetta James, to Marisa (Heilman) and Joe Hernandez, their first child. Needless to say Grandma Martha Heilman and Great Aunt Jane Enis are proud and pleased. So is Grandpa Patrick Heilman.