

Glad Tidings

NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY

2015-16

GLADING MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1267 E. Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19124
Samantha Sale Hudson, Pastor; Laszlo Ujj, Hungarian Pastor
Glenn Smith, Clerk of Session; Dan Berger, Treasurer;
Lydia Berger, Editor; Warren Norden, Music Director
Telephone: 215-533-2572, Fax: 215-744-9739
www.GladingMemorial.com



Dear Glading Family,

As we approach Thanksgiving, I'm already starting to cook (can you believe it?!) for our big crowd of family that's coming in town. I'm gathering recipes and shopping for goods, to freeze some dishes until the big day. I've also been picking up (not so) subtle messages from advertisements and from my neighbors about the big day: Get Your Turkey Now! (Before They're Gone!). Don't Wait Too Late! There Might Not Be Enough for Everyone. Hurry Up and Get Yours.

Friends, that is NOT the message that our Gospel teaches us. In the beginning of creation, God creates the world and tells the people to "eat freely" of the earth.

Jesus feeds 5,000 people and even though the disciples only started with 5 loaves

and 2 fishes, there was enough for everyone, with some leftover. The Apostle Paul takes up a collection for

the church in Rome and reminds the church that "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8).

Glading Church, we don't have to believe in the lies of scarcity and self-sufficiency. We can choose instead to believe the good news of God's abundance and generosity. We can live into the fullness of the life that God intends for us. Trusting in God's abundant grace, we can respond in joyful thanksgiving. We can give thanks with songs of praise and worship, and with acts of service and giving generously in tithes and our offerings.

I invite you to trust the good news of the Gospel; to live into God's message of full life, and enter into this Thanksgiving and Christmas season with a heart of joy, with hands that are willing, and with a spirit of sharing.

With joy, Pastor Samantha



**Advent and Christmas
Schedule 2015**

Sat Nov 28	10am-12	Hanging of the Greens
Sun Nov 29	11am	1st Sun of Advent
Sun Dec 6	11am	2nd Sun of Advent
	12pm	Communion
		Potluck Lunch, Hymn Sing
Sun Dec 13	11am	3rd Sun of Advent
Sun Dec 20	11am	4th Sun of Advent
	12pm	Reception
Mon Dec 21	7:30pm	Service of the Longest Night
Thurs Dec 24	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Thurs Dec 31	10pm-12	Watch Night Service (Living Waters, UCC)



Warren and Josie Norden

11/18  48th

Glenn and Edie Smith

12/28  58th



FOR MID-NOVEMBER/FEBRUARY

Sandra Lindsey	11/23
Lydia Berger, Sr.	11/24
Marty Bockhorn	11/27
Walter Dean	12/8
Lois Wanushek	12/20
Haley Armstrong	12/21
Brian Smith	12/27

Warren Norden	1/5
Jennifer Kiefer Quinn	1/23
Clara Thompson	2/2
Evelyn Jarrett	2/6
Andrew Hudson	2/8
John Bauerle, Sr.	2/14
Bill Smith	2/24

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the *Glad Tidings* please pass the information on to Lydia Berger.



Rehearsals for choir are on Wednesdays at 2 PM.

New members welcome. Perks- free water, cough drops and/or tissues upon request; laughter and fun are ongoing.

The December/January issue of the *Upper Room* is now available for the amazing price of \$1.00 in the church entryway.



OUR HOMEBOUND

JOHN BAUERLE, SR., JULIUS KOEHLER, CATHERINE COURTNEY,
BETTY PELLER, ROBERT RABEL, VIOLET ICKES

December is just around the corner, so keep a look out for the sign up sheet. Poinsettias are \$15.00 each. Help make our sanctuary look beautiful for the Christmas season.



ANGEL TREE ????????



A lot has happened since the last news letter. Glading has been like the box of chocolates quote from Forrest Gump, "You never know what you're gonna get." So I have two stories for you this time.

ABRAHAM AND THE TOOTH FAIRY

One of our pilgrims was a vivacious young man about to lose his first tooth. He had energy and enthusiasm. The whole world was one big adventure to him. Dan and I met him and his wiggly tooth when the group arrived on Friday. The group had a long day Saturday when they were downtown to see the Pope. We were at the church to let them in that evening. Abraham was so excited that his tooth had come out and that he could leave it for the Tooth Fairy. We were all standing around the gate, the sun had just about gone down- when tragedy befell! Abraham dropped his tooth on the sidewalk. The children were on their hands and knees, adults were straining their eyes, but no one could find the tooth. Abraham was beside himself. The Tooth Fairy would not come if he did not have the tooth. A very sad Abraham went to sleep knowing that the Tooth Fairy would not come to visit him that night. The group of pilgrims got up very early the next morning to go downtown for a second day.

We had a guest preacher that Sunday morning and our own Jim Wood assisted with the service. As is our usual custom at the beginning of the service he asked if there were any announcements. As I looked out from the choir loft, I saw my husband get up and proceed to tell the congregation all about our pilgrims. Jim turned me with a look of terror and dismay that I will never forget- it obviously meant, "Will Dan ever stop talking? Will there be time for the sermon?" It was just about at that point that Dan told everyone about the boy who lost his first tooth and then actually lost it! I didn't hear it, but I knew Jim gave a sigh of relief when Dan finally stopped talking and the service continued without further incident.

It turns out that Glading is more unique than we ever realized. We have our very own Tooth Fairy named Lois who attended the service that Sunday. She gave us a note complete with reward to pass on to Abraham which we gave to him when the group returned from their pilgrimage on Sunday evening. As I recall it simply said, "To the boy who lost his tooth. From the Tooth Fairy." Abraham was beside himself with joy. Proudly showing everyone his dollar bill. He tried to get Dan or me to admit that one of us was the Tooth Fairy, which we adamantly denied. We quietly told the adults what had actually happened at church. They were touched by the thoughtfulness of our Tooth Fairy and with many thanks they left the next day for the land of Oregon and we hope they will all live happily ever after. THE END



Abraham (with missing tooth) and his reward from the tooth fairy.

Glad Tidings
Information within these pages is from resources considered reliable. Accuracy however cannot be guaranteed. This newsletter is intended for your reading enjoyment and is not meant to disrespect or harm any group or individuals.



THE BIRDS:The session of Glading met on October 5th. The meeting was uneventful and was just wrapping up when the fire alarm started its ear splitting whine. We quickly gathered our things and evacuated the building. Dan checked the alarm box at the bottom of the stairs which indicated that the problem was in the boiler room. I hope he felt the door to see if it was hot before he bravely opened it. What he saw in the dimness of the boiler room was a few birds fluttering around. By then the fire department had arrived and as their eyes

adjusted to the dim light, they saw more and more birds. The firemen came to the conclusion that the birds, now estimated in the hundreds, had raised so much dust that they had set off the alarm. They determined that there was no fire and left. Meanwhile, I was desperately trying to find the information on my iPhone to contact the alarm company to shut off the alarm system. The noise was so loud that the birds coming out of the boiler room were disoriented and could not fly; they stumbled around on the floor. Sensitive person that I am, I pulled a pair of ear plugs out of my handbag for relief. Dan got the phone number I needed and I had them put the alarm system on hold. Finally we had silence and since there was nothing more we could do at 10pm, we closed the door to the boiler room, locked the church and went home.

The first thing in the morning I called the exterminator company. They wanted to send out someone the following day to access the cost. I explained that having hundreds of birds in a boiler room was an emergency situation and we needed immediate help. Dan and I headed over to the church. As we entered the gate we saw dozens of birds clinging to the window in the boiler room clamoring to get out. Dan closed all the doors in the basement and in the sanctuary level. At about that time, the exterminator showed up. The door to the boiler room was opened and he stood there aghast saying, "There are thousands of them, I've never seen anything like it!" He checked with his office to see if there was a plan for a situation like ours- apparently not, but they were looking into it. The two of them extinguished the light in the boiler room, put the light on at the base of the stairs and opened wide the double doors at the top of the steps. I stayed just outside the doors and watched as a few birds got the idea, flew up the steps and outside to freedom. The birds were coming out very slowly and Dan determined that the birds were still too attracted to the light from the two windows. With the help of some floor mats and boards, he was able to cover the windows. That made a big difference and the birds started coming out faster. Since we couldn't leave the church unattended, I got a folding chair and sat under the breezeway close to the entrance to the gym counting the birds as they came out. In the next four hours I counted over 550 birds. You might think this was not a good use of my time, but I found it to be quite enjoyable. At the time I thought the birds were swallows, sleek black birds with tapered wings. They reminded me of movies that show jets flying off of air craft carriers. The jets fly off of the ship and dip down and then rise into the sky. Our birds would follow the incline of our steps, dip down as they came out the door move into the breezeway and make a graceful turn to my right and out into the sunlight. They were so elegant, there were times when I couldn't help but follow their movements with my arms. Samantha came to relieve us and she set up a table in the breezeway so she could get some work done, but at the same time she managed to count another hundred birds.

By the following day the majority of the birds were gone. We had identified that the birds had come in through the chimney and apropos to that, Samantha identified the birds as chimney swifts. Now we had a smaller problem. As I came into the office, I didn't close the door quickly enough and a swift flew in with me. The bird would not fly low enough to get him to fly through a window, so courageous Samantha stood on a chair with a metal mesh trash can in one hand and a piece of cardboard in the other. While I thought this was a great photo op, she started yelling, "Can you hold the chair steady!" I quickly came to my senses and held the chair while she captured the bird without further ado. For the next few days we continued to find a straggler here and there. With the help of Laszlo Gyongyosi the rest of the birds in the boiler room were captured and released. Out of nearly 700 birds only about a dozen didn't make it out alive.

The church chimney was professionally cleaned and capped and caps were put on the other two buildings as well.

Our Eszter Gyongyosi finished the process by thoroughly cleaning the boiler room—a seven hour job!

On October 19th, the coldest day of the season so far, I stayed in the office while the chimney people were working on the caps. It was 59 degrees in the office and the heat wouldn't go on.

The furnace people were called. The birds had knocked out all 12 pilot lights and they were only able to get 5 relit. They discovered more work that needs to be done and we expect to have everything in good working order before it gets really cold. Well that brings us up to date—until what's next—reindeer on the roof and an angry Santa Claus because he can't get down the chimney? You'll have to wait until the next newsletter!



BIRDS IN THE BOILER ROOM



CHIMNEY SWIFT



LSZLOW PREPARING TO CAPTURE THE BIRDS



BELOW: SAMANTHA CAPTURES THE BIRD IN THE OFFICE





From Your Treasurer... Why not start off with something on the silly side of life. We just had a clean-up day event to handle this situation. We all have heard that corporate America is downsizing their product sizes and yet charging full price for the same product. What does all this have to do with Glading and clean-up day? Take a close look at your toilet paper, yes toilet paper. Old TP was 4.5 inches in width. The new stuff you now buy is 4 inches wide. No one notices since 99.9 percent of us simply replace the empty cardboard with a new roll on the roller. What happens when you don't have a roller? I give you three guesses which bathrooms did not have rollers. Most of our holders clamped the TP in place. A half inch narrower roll meant our TP no longer would stay in the holder. Sue Byer wanted a project. I got her started with a power drill, a screw driver and a bag of new TP holders we purchased. Between the church and the gym she came back with a bag of old cast iron holders to be recycled. Thank you Sue!

The 2016 offering envelopes are in the building. If you never had your very own offering box of envelopes and would like to have your very own, please let me know. For 2016 we have a new look and a new church name. I can feel the anticipation already. New name, what's going on at Glading?

Will the congregation notice? Suspense!

The third quarter (Jun-Aug) was a good three months for us. We ended the quarter with a four thousand dollar surplus in our operation fund. For this time period our gas bill was a total of \$170. Compare this to the first quarter of \$13,250 and the second quarter of \$6,400. Our heating season is right around the corner. This is why I pray for global warming. Our gas bill for October was only \$40. October was almost another great month, except. Other people have written about "the birds". Those birds caused us to be in the red for October. All three buildings now have custom made chimney caps. If "the birds" would have gone down the school building chimney I really don't know how we would have handled the problem. They damaged our boilers where 5 of the 12 could be re-lit, and 700 birds in one room created a situation where the walls had to be sanitized along with the floor. Take into account that we maintain 50-60 year old heating systems in two of our buildings we are coming into our final months for 2015 with a \$30,000 deficit. You know what I'm going to ask. Please can you help close this gap? Anything extra will help.

We are always saving money by doing things for ourselves. This is one reason for clean-up day. No one likes to change light bulbs especially when a ladder is needed. A halogen light was replaced in the choir area and Reid Hall had six (or eight) eight foot fluorescent bulbs replaced. Always a pain. You need a ladder to unscrew two bolts in one four foot section glass cover, move the ladder to the other four foot section and unscrew two bolts, replace the bulb, close the glass panel, screw it tight, move the ladder, close the panel, screw it tight and repeat six (or eight) times. Now all we need to do is buy more eight foot bulbs because more lights need replacing.

A few times this year we did a "phone blast". This is where a 45 second message from Glading is sent to your telephone. If you have **not** received any messages it means we do not have your telephone number. Most of our calls are about upcoming events here at Glading. However, for the past two years we have put out a "phone blast" advising that church service have been cancelled due to inclement weather. Please make sure we have your telephone number. Also, if you move give us your new address and phone number. If you didn't receive this *Glad Tidings* it means we don't have your address.

Our apportionment to the Presbytery for 2015 is \$1,200. So far we have received \$480.00

Our wonderful pipe organ fund can always use a shot in the arm.

Our Deacons through the Communion Offering envelopes welcome your contributions. Our stain glass windows will need some tender loving care. I can think of other needs, kitchen stove, doors, outside lighting.

THE PILGRIMS WERE HERE Just before the Papal visit we were asked by the Catholic World Family group if Glading could host visitors from around the country. We advised all concerned that our facilities were limited but we were assured any guest we host would be well aware of the Spartan surroundings. We were given a contact for the group and were all set to greet them on Saturday, September 25. Our members were eager to help when they found out we agreed to house pilgrims. Donations of water, fresh fruit and snacks overflowed a large table in Reid Hall.

Friday morning around 11:30 AM I got a call from Raul that they were outside the church. I told Raul that we weren't expecting them until tomorrow but Lydia and I would be right over. Apparently something got lost in translation because when we got to church there were no people in sight. A light bulb went off in my head and I went to St. Martin's parking lot. There they were, men, women and children gathered around a priest. I introduced myself and said I think this group belongs to me. The relief on the face of the priest was priceless. St. Martin was already hosting 125 pilgrims and they were at the bursting point.

We settled 26 people from Portland, Oregon in Reid Hall. When the group was told the food and snacks were for them, the children rushed over and eagerly picked items to eat. I took Raul, Francisco and Francisco on a drive to show them how to walk to Bridge and Pratt or more appropriately the Frankford Transportation Center. They had no plans for the rest of the day but to unpack their gear and rest for an early start Saturday for their adventure downtown. How early? They wanted to leave by 6:30 AM.

I dragged myself out of bed and met what was left of their group at 6:30. Raul said most had already gone. I locked the church and the small group started their walk. There were four adults and four children. Another light bulb went off. I called the group back and said we could all fit in my car. We got to within a block of the station but SEPTA had the rest of the street barricaded. We unloaded like a circus clown car and SEPTA personnel directed our pilgrims the rest of the way.

At 9:30 PM we got a call from Raul that everyone was getting into cabs and they were heading back to Glading. Five minutes later everyone was back in Reid Hall. The smaller kids went right to their sleeping bags. We sat with the adults and talked for about half an hour about their day. They were on a spiritual high and had nothing but praise for the city.

Sunday was another long day. A tooth was lost but it had a happy ending and again we had a nice talk about their day and again all praises.

Monday morning Rev. Samantha saw them off.



Hungarian Worship Community at Glading Memorial Church

November 29, Magyar nyelvű Isten tisztelet, 2 órákor, Szent Jegyekkel Advent-re. Útánna Erzsébet napot s születésnapokat ünnepelünk. A Tortenelmi Vitezi Rend 2015. evi vitezavatasat November 29-en tartando a Philadelphiai Reformatus Templomban az Isten Tisztelettel egybe kapcsolodva. Az avatást lovag vitez Kiss Janos a Tortenelmi Vitezi Rend hadnagya vegezi el. Szeretettel varunk mindenkit. Utanna Erzsébet Napi Uzsonna, sütemény adományt megköszönünk!

November 29, We are having our Fall Birthday celebrations, coupled with Communion for 1st Sunday of Advent.

December 13, Magyar sütemény adományt hozunk angol testvereknek (tentative, alternative nap, December 6)

December 13, Hungarian pastries for Christmas season (tentative, alternative date December 6)

December 27, Magyar nyelvű Karacsonyi Isten tisztelet, 2 órakor, Szent Jegyekkel. Útánna Karacsonyi ünnep (tentativ)

December 27, Christmas Party (tentative)

Betegeink:

Kiss János-ra emlékezünk.

Nemeth Edit-re emlékezünk

Gyógyulást kívánunk, imáinkkal!

Prayers for out ill:

Mr. Janos Kiss

Ms. Edit Nemeth

Tuesday, November 24th, 2015

Time: 5:00 - 8:00PM



Free

Child Care Provided
They will be using a
separate lane with
bumpers.

**Strengthening
Families
Bowling Night
Event**

Come join us at:
Thunderbird Lanes
5830 Castor Ave,
Phila, PA 19149

For more information
Sheileemarie Carrion
267-615-3603
Charlene Lewis
215-840-6105



**TURNING
POINTS
for
CHILDREN**
a PHMC affiliate

A BIBLE STORY: A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out.

**'What have you got there, dear?'
With astonishment
in the young boy's
voice,**

**he answered, 'I think
it's Adam's underwear!'**

