

# Glad Tidings

GLADING MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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Dear Glading Family,

We are in once again in the season of Lent where we prepare for Easter. It's a tradition to give up foods or habits during Lent as a way of fasting. Perhaps you might give up sweets, or caffeine, or even watching TV. Fasting is a spiritual discipline in which we learn to rely on

God. In Isaiah, the people are also fasting and they complain that God has not heard their prayers while they fasted. In chapter 58 verse 6, God calls them, and us, to a different kind of fasting: "This is the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, let the prisoners go free, to undo the thong of the yoke and to break every chain." *Don't just give up food, God says, give up your need for vengeance, let the prisoners go free even if they don't deserve it, loosen your grip of control, undo your fear.*

In *Just Mercy*, author and lawyer Bryan Stevenson tells a story about a conversation he had with one of his death row clients, Herbert, minutes before he was to be executed by the state of Alabama. Herbert was pondering: "It's been a strange day, very strange. People have been asking me all day, 'What can I do to help you? What do you want for breakfast? Can we get you some lunch? Do you want stamps for your last letters? Can we get you the phone? How can we help?' It's been so strange. More people have asked me what they can do to help me in the last fourteen hours of my life than ever asked me in the years when I was coming up."

That stuck with Bryan and he thought: He's right...where were these people when we really needed them? Where were all these helpful people when Herbert was three and his mother died? Where were they when he was seven and trying to recover from physical abuse? Where were they when he was a teen struggling with drugs and alcohol? Where were they when he returned from Vietnam traumatized and disabled?

Probably they were like us: they were holding onto due punishments, constraining him in the system of justice, turning away with tough love. God says to fast from injustice and break every chain. When we learn to fast God's way, we can start to participate in divine mercy, and intervene sooner on the path towards death and destruction. God calls us to a fasting that is forgiveness on a large scale.

Friends, let us hear the invitation to learn about our justice system and consider ways that we can be advocates for God's just mercy. I invite you to our Lent dinners where we will be talking about mass incarceration.

Hungry for Mercy (and chocolate!),

Pastor Samantha

SPRING 2017

## Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday	11am Sunday, April 9th
Maundy Thursday	7pm Thursday April 13th
Good Friday	12noon Friday April 14th
Easter Sunday	11am Sunday April 16th



## Lenten Dinners

Glading Church

6pm on Wednesdays

March 8, 15, 22, 29

Come eat a meal together

Come learn about Mass Incarceration

Come pray with and for this community



From the Mission Committee:

Interfaith Hospitality Network was so grateful to us for hosting the families in December. We even got a shout out in their newsletter. See it below. We are hosting them again in May so look for the signup sheets to bring another meal

**Welcome to Our Newest Northeast Host Congregation**



## Glading Memorial Presbyterian Church

1267 E Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19124! The warmth and spirit of your community has created a welcoming home for our families. You know that a community is really special when they take in families, even when their minister is out on maternity leave. Congratulations to Pastor Samantha on the birth of her baby daughter!

SPRING 2017

Our Pop Up Choir continues to sing with the able assistance of Al Peterson on piano. We hope to present some Easter favorites for you. We are all volunteers and welcome anyone from the congregation to spontaneously join us when we sing the anthem. The music is on the front pew (on the side with the piano) if you want to look it over before the service starts. I try to pick hymns that are familiar to most of us. If you have some hymns you would like us to sing just let me (Lydia) or Rev. Samantha know and we will try to accommodate you. Also, we are still looking for a permanent organist so please let us know of anyone who might be interested.



Clean Up Day Saturday, April 1st.  
This is NO JOKE! Come to church at 10am to spruce up our facility. Lunch will be served for our happy helpers.

## Happy Anniversary

Dan and Lydia Berger 4/4/1968



### FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY

Bob Dott	3/1	Edie Smith	4/24
Audrey Hopkins	3/2	Shalom Brown	5/3
Alicia Kiefer	3/3	Zoltan Szabo	5/26
Ceil Beer	3/15	John Bauerle, Jr.	6/5
Debra Reichart	4/16	Ryan Mann	6/8

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

The following members joined the Church Triumphant in 2016:

Josie Norden	2/16/16
Virginia H. Murphy	7/7/16
John A. Bauerle, Sr.	7/22/16
Janos Kiss	10/29/16



### AID FOR FRIENDS

We are continuing to help Aid for Friends as much as we can. The congregation donates various articles throughout the year that are necessary and useful to those being serviced by this organization, such as throws, teas and toiletries. These are used for gifts especially for birthday and Christmas.

Submitted by: Hattie and Jack Bauerle

**At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Glading Memorial Presbyterian Church on February 7, 2016 the following members were elected to serve our church:**

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

SESSION

2020  
Mr. L. Daniel Berger II  
Mrs. Lydia Berger

2019  
Mr. Glenn Smith  
Mr. James Wood

2018  
Ms. Audrey Hopkins  
Mrs. Clara Thompson

DEACONS

2020  
Ms. Carli Hightower  
Mrs. Kathleen Peterson

2019  
Mrs. Susan Byers  
Mrs. Linda Pangalos

2018  
Mrs. Katherine Kohler  
Mrs. Lois Wanushek

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ms. Ryan Mann  
Mrs. Edith Smith

Mr. Charles Messerschmidt  
Mr. John W. Bauerle

Mr. Stephen Pilacik

TRUSTEES

(of the Corporation)

Lydia Berger, President  
Glenn S. Smith, Secretary  
L. Daniel Berger II, Treasurer  
Ann Wood, Assistant Treasurer  
James Wood, Auditor



The Hallelujah Singers will be presenting a free Easter program of music in the sanctuary at Glading on March 26 at 7pm. Refreshments will be served after the program. Everyone is welcome

The Easter Flowers sign up sheet is on the table at the back of the pews in the sanctuary. The cost is \$15.00 per plant (Lily and/or hyacinth). Please make sure your order is in by Sunday, April 9. Let's have the church smell and look beautiful for Easter!



WELCOME TO THE NEWEST EDITIONS TO THE GLADING FAMILY

Eszter and Laszlo welcomed Rose Sofia Gyongyosi into the world on 12-14-16  
Rose is delighted to have big brother, Daniel, and her sister Olivia to help  
look out for her and make her laugh.



For the first time ever, a pastor at Glading Memorial Presbyterian Church has given birth!



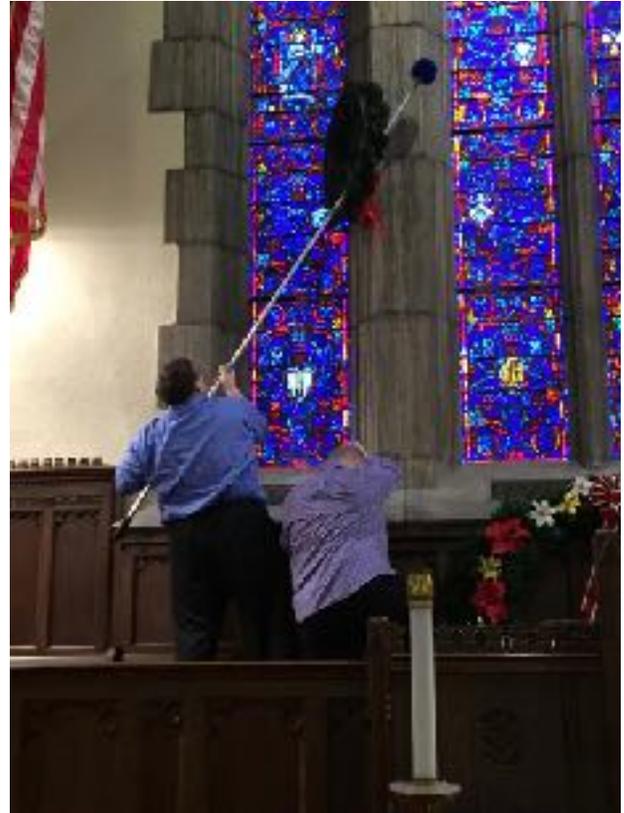
We welcome Grace Evelyn Hudson, born on December 19, 2016 to our family.  
It is a joy to watch the interaction between Grace and her doting father, Andrew.



**From the Editor**

↑What goes up must come down↓

Thanks to everyone who helped with the hanging of the greens for making our church look beautiful during Advent and Christmas. Taking down those wreaths in the choir loft is even trickier. Our experts Al Peterson, Steve Pilacik, and Dan Berger did a masterful job of release and catch! No persons were injured or needed medical attention during this activity.



Kudos to Lydia Evelyn Berger for getting a second place medal for bowling in the Special Olympics Tournament. They bowl at Thunderbird Lanes on Castor Ave.





**From your treasurer...**Another year has past and I want to briefly recap 2016. Forty-one percent of our operating budget comes for the offering plate. This includes our special gifts that we receive at years end. (I want to thank one more time.) Thirty-one percent comes from our tenants. Where do we get the remaining 28 percent that closes the gap? Many of my articles mentioned about establishing your legacy to Glading. The Presbyterian Church has professional financial planners that will help you in establishing your legacy. Reverend John Sweet monitored a session meeting while Samantha was on leave and he said it best. We are continuing our ministry with the help of our ancestors.

It is time to make a tough decision. The 2017 offering envelopes are prepared from the same information used for the mailing list of the *Glad Tidings*. I have a dozen offering boxes that were not picked up. This may be your last issue of this wonderful newsletter. YOU have to let us know that you are still interested in Glading and that you want us to continue sending the *Glad Tidings*.

There is another cost reduction in the works. March is the time to order our 2018 offering boxes. I am cutting back on our order. This means a hand full of members will have a new envelope box number. Nearly everyone who picks up their offering box uses the initial offering envelope that covers the costs. Cutting back will reduce our costs which lowers our operating expenses.

Clean up day is Saturday, April 1, no joke. Need a few strong backs. The chair lift going to Reid Hall has a problem. It is working but I want to try an experiment. We have timpani drums that need relocating and we need work at the gym. Ah yes, work at the gym, here we go again another unforeseen expense.

Officer Bryan Younger from PAL came to us and said the heat keeps cutting off. We called our boiler guy and he found a problem. The gym is heated by steam and under the stage there are steam pipes that lead to the office side of building. Guess where a pipe sprung a leak. Steam would leave the system causing the water pressure to drop which would shut off the boiler. The system would cool and water would fill the chamber causing the heat to go on but the leak would drop the pressure and the cycle would repeat.

What you may not know is under the stage we store folding tables, chairs, lumber and ladders. The leak created a sauna under the stage. I had to use a hammer to open the doors in front on the stage because of the wood swelling. The hard wood floor of the stage itself had some swelling but it looks like after drying out it is pretty much normal. Everything had to be pulled from under the stage for the on your back repair. The repair guys put everything back. We want to pull everything out and check all the chairs and tables. Last year it was scaffolding, this year creepers for under the stage.

Nearly twenty years ago I received a call at home from one of our members asking if it would be all right if she could send her contribution to me at home. She was aware of the part time status at church and didn't want an envelope lying around. This didn't bother me and the envelopes started to arrive. It wasn't soon after that I started receiving phone calls to make sure I received her contribution. For the next twenty years we would talk about Glading and her remembrance of past members and ministers. She told me about losing family members and her in and out of hospital visits. Before her last hospital visit she wrote me a letter about who to contact, just in case. Well, I knew she went in but I haven't heard anything for a few months. I pulled the letter and called her nephew. My friend was still in the hospital. Just before Christmas I went to Hahnemann for a visit. Now in these twenty years I have never seen my friend. It was just phone calls. This time I did all the talking. There were too many tubes attached to her for any conversation. Last month I found out my friend was moved to a hospital only ten minutes away. Lydia and I made a visit late Saturday morning February 18. My dear friend Irene Gravuer passed away that afternoon.

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.