

May 1, 2017

Gloria Dei Family –

Hello from Gloria Dei Church, its Pastors, Church Council, Staff, and Lay Leaders. We are writing this after an amazing Holy Week and Easter celebration as a community of faith and we are now heading into the Spring and Summer with a lot of exciting activities in store for you at GDC.

Our final 60th Anniversary weekend is May 19-21. On Friday, May 19, we will host a Sock Hop with Jerry Blavat in the Christian Fellowship Hall. Tickets are on sale on the church website or on Sundays in the Library Lounge. On Sunday, May 21, Claudio Carvalhaes was going to be with us, but unfortunately got scheduled to travel for his seminary to China, so now he cannot be with us. Instead, Pastors Jim and Karyn will finalize the year of 60th Anniversary celebrations with a creative presentation you won't want to miss. Please note - we will have one service at 10am that Sunday.

We are excited about the renovation projects going on in and around the church building. We completed the new deck this past month with the final benches and planters going in soon. We really appreciate the crew that spent a Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday doing this work. The kitchen project has been slightly delayed due to the need for a more complex plumbing update that would prevent people from using the kitchen for 2 or 3 weeks. We have so many activities scheduled in that room that we needed to push construction to the summer to avoid inconveniencing groups. The projected end date for the project is now the middle of July. This is an exciting project, and the fact that we have so much going on at the church to do the construction sooner is a good problem to have.

This quarter we celebrate the work of our Welcoming, Usher, and Tech Booth Teams. We could not make worship happen without them. They arrive early, greet our members and guests, and help with our worship services. This important ministry of the church is entirely led by disciples who give of their passion, time and talents to help us be the church for those who enter our doors. We also celebrate the disciples who work at the front desk throughout the week greeting visitors, answering the phone, and helping the office staff. We are grateful for the service of all members of our community.

We wanted you all to know that we are slightly behind financially at this point in the year (see the enclosed financial update for Q1 of this year) despite having a milder winter than normal. This good fortune saved us money on heating and snow plowing. However, our giving has been a bit down so we need to do some catching up. If you are behind on your pledge or can help us catch up, that would be very much appreciated.

Our mid-year Congregational Meeting will be held Wednesday evening, May 17th at 6pm in the Christian Fellowship Hall. We will begin with a potluck dinner and then start the meeting with quite a good number of important topics to be discussed. We will receive updates on the financial status of the church, youth ministry team plans,

stewardship, and the work we are doing with our consultant. We will also discuss the options for our summer worship schedule. Additionally, we will begin the discussion of any potential bylaw changes needed for a number of transitions that are taking place at Gloria Dei. We invite you to join us for this important meeting.

Enclosed in this mailing is a Covenant Card for our stewardship campaign, *Step Up in Faith*. The life of a disciple is one of generosity, study, mission, and worship. We give with our hearts, our hands, our minds, and our wallets. Our *Step Up In Faith* campaign is asking you to think of giving in this multi-faceted way. Right now we are asking you to let us know your intentions for your financial gifts to the church. Later this year we will also be asking for a time and talents covenant. Discipleship is about being the church in this community and out in the world in all the ways we can. We are asking you to “step up” with your discipleship.

This stewardship season, we are inviting you to fill out and return the enclosed Covenant form to the church to let us know how you will support us in carrying out our mission and ministry as a community of faith. This process is intended to help us be good stewards and to know what to expect for our planning and budgeting processes. We hope to get a filled in Covenant form this year from as many people as we will have in our new 2017 church directory! You can return the form any Sunday on or before May 21st at the church, fill it out online (get the link from the Church web site), or mail it to the church office. We need your support to help us achieve our goals as a community to live out the call of mission and ministry around the corner and around the globe. If you need additional copies of the form, they will be available at the back of the church and downloadable from the church web site.

One more thing we want to do this year is to educate people about how safe, secure, easy and convenient giving on-line has become. It helps the church’s cash flow and it’s one less thing for you to have to remember. Please prayerfully consider if this option would work well for you. More information is available on the church web site. Reach out to the office staff if you have questions or need help.

We hope that these quarterly letters allow you to monitor your giving, while also providing you with the opportunity to learn about and celebrate what is happening at Gloria Dei Church. We know that not everyone receives emails and this is the best way to assure that everyone is kept informed.

We want to sincerely thank you for your support of Gloria Dei Church in the past, in the present, and into the future. All the ways you participate in the life of the church are important. We invite you to be part of the wonderful things that are happening at Gloria Dei Church and to *Step Up In Faith* with us as we move into the future.

Grace and Peace –

Pastor Jim and Pastor Karyn,
Church Council, and the Generosity Team