

December 7, 2017

Dear Members & Friends of Garfield Memorial Church,

Eric Sevareid was a famous American author and journalist. He saw life and death up close as he was on the frontlines covering WWII. He was the first to report that Paris had fallen to Germany, and in one instance his aircraft was shot down and he was rescued from behind enemy lines. To say that he had great "worldly wisdom" would be a vast understatement. He once made the following comment about Christmas, ***"Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves."***

In 2011, Mike Slaughter wrote a book entitled "Christmas is NOT Your Birthday." Several of our small groups studied it during Christmas that year. In it, he reminded us to remember that Christmas was a sacrificial act by a God who "so loved the world that he gave his one and only" (John 3:16). He writes, "At Christmas, we celebrate a messiah, a deliverer, who was born to die. So, we too are called to give ourselves sacrificially with Christ for the world that God loves. More of him and less of us."

This Christmas, we invite you to "give sacrificially" so that the world may know the true meaning of Christmas. Join us in blanketing the city in love this year, and help stitch people back together in a divided world. On Sunday morning, Christmas Eve Day, join us in being part of a free donut giveaway as we deliver donuts as a random act of kindness for people throughout our communities forced to work on that day (Either come to one of our campuses at 9:45 AM for a time of prayer and pick up your donuts and assignments, or grab your donuts after our "Lessons & Carols" Heritage Service at 9:00 AM. There will be NO morning Mosaic services at either location that day).

Also, please pray about a second-mile financial gift to our Christmas Offering. Our Christmas Offering will be crucial again this year as we prepare for a very challenging 2018! As you pray over your gift to the newborn King consider the following:

- Every \$850 sponsors a spot for a child in our Children's Ministry for the year (we are currently averaging 3 new families per week!)
- Every \$1,000 sponsors a spot for a teen in our youth ministry for the year.
- Every \$500 sponsors a youth in our Kidz Club and / or Kidz Stand urban outreach at our South Euclid Campus for the year
- Every \$750 sponsors a spot for a worshipper at one of our locations for the year (we are currently averaging 16 first time guests per Sunday!)
- Every \$200 sponsors a participant at one of our major outreach events, such as Back to School Blast or Night to Shine.
- Probably most exciting is that we have calculated that we spend roughly \$2,000 through outreach, evangelism, worship & discipleship to reach and nurture one new person for baptism. That means for every \$2,000 you give, you are investing in someone's eternal life! Imagine saying and offering a second mile gift to Christ this Christmas saying, "I want to invest in one, two, ten new people to meet You this year!"

You can give via check, online, by text or at one of our giving kiosks on site. If you want to designate your gift in one or more of the increments above, please let us know in the memo line of your check or email us at information@garfieldchurch.org saying "I made a Christmas gift to support two new baptisms this year," etc. We will send you an update during 2018 to let you know the fruit that your gift made possible. If you would rather keep that between you and God, that is obviously fine as well. Thank you in advance for helping us Widen the Circle with the true message of Christmas!

Please return your gift in the enclosed envelope to our church office, or bring it with you on Christmas Eve!

Chip Freed, Lead Pastor

Terry McHugh, Executive Pastor

Bill Lacey, Finance Chair

We hope that you will come and join us at one of our Christmas Eve services this year! www.ChristmasInCLE.com

Mosaic Community Christmas Celebration, 5:30 PM at Notre Dame College
Pepper Pike Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 8:30 & 11:00 PM (Sanctuary)

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