

Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

Glenn DeLange

For Chancel Choir Director Dr. Glenn DeLange, music is an expression of the awareness of God's creation. The beauty of the art evokes creation's marvel while the words illuminate biblical concepts and texts. The connection between the music and the message in our worship service is so important to Glenn that he spends countless hours selecting music that blends with and illuminates the liturgical season, scripture readings, and sermon themes.



Glenn grew up in a conservative, evangelical tradition and attended a Christian School in Redlands through 9th grade. There he learned the great hymns of the Church and gained familiarity with and knowledge of the Bible. However, Glenn's personal belief system has evolved to include a much more expansive view of Christian love and joy. At the center of his belief is Christ's teaching to love one another. As Jesus says "Truly, I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Glenn sees the world as the instrument of God. Moreover, God has blessed each of us with the intelligence to create beyond what is inherent in the creation. This inspiration, coupled with the sense of a servant life modeled by Glenn's parents, led Glenn to a lifetime as a servant educator.

Glenn has a passion for teaching music. This is his 17th year as Chancel Choir Director. He taught choral music at Glendale High School for 8 years and at Glendale Community College for 19. After obtaining his doctorate in 2003, he commuted to Mira Costa College as the academic Dean for Liberal Arts. Glenn met and married Loretta, SMCC's soprano section leader, in college and they have been married for 41 years. They have two sons: Andrew (26) and Daniel (24).

While acknowledging that there is no one way to worship God, participating as a choir member provides a profound depth to the worship experience. Choir practice is akin to time spent studying biblical texts through the rich, powerful medium of music. Art transforms one's thinking and allows them to experience emotions and thoughts, rich in nuances, in response to God's presence in our lives. Glenn invites everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

After 40 years as an educator, Glenn recently retired from his weekday job. Glenn pours his passion into beautiful choral music for SMCC's two Sunday worship services and many seasonal services. In addition to preparing music for the Christmas Cantata, Easter week services, and Choir Appreciation Sunday, Glenn also selects, composes and arranges hymns for "The Gathering".