

Foresight

Looking to the Future
Christian Church of Villa Park
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Tuesday, June 6, 2017

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem...



and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8, NRSV

When the Spirit of God came to the disciples on Pentecost it wasn't the Spirit of Peace as we traditionally think about peace, peace in the sense of calm and quiet. The Spirit we read about on Sunday, the Spirit that came upon those Christ followers in Jerusalem, was full of agitation. She created chaos and made people uncomfortable with what they were seeing. But she was still the Spirit of Peace, peace in the sense of strength in the face of fear and standing for justice before oppression.

The disciples were gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Pentecost (Shavuot), a celebration of receiving the Law, the Sinai covenant. Although we, as Christians often ignore the Law, we should not forget that the Sinai covenant was a gift that was part of the Israelites liberation from their slavery in Egypt. It was a promise that God would be with them, care for them, and protect them. It adjured them to treat even

their slaves with dignity and respect because they had once been slaves, to not oppress outsiders because they too had once been strangers. Pentecost is a continuation of the liberation story begun 50 days earlier at the Passover.

It is impossible to ignore the call, the challenge, to spread God's word and live into Jesus' life that comes to us on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit came as God came at Sinai, in wind and fire, extending that covenant of relationship and justice. Thus, the disciples and others are agitated not to talk about personal salvation, but about salvation of the world, of all of us and all our structures.

The Spirit called the disciples out into the world, out into God's work for justice and for God's peace. The Spirit called them out to spread the good news of God's love and care for the least of these, those oppressed by the structures and systems around them, those kept from the dignity all God's children possess.

We too are called by the Spirit. We have been seeking to listen for the Spirit's movement and wisdom over the last several weeks to tell us how we are called to organize ourselves. But we sought to listen not just for our own sakes, so that we could get right with God by having some perfect church structure. No, the purpose of our listening was so that we could best organize ourselves to serve God and those around us, to be led by the Spirit of Peace.

There is much need in our world, there are too many who are denied their full human dignity. Every time we turn around we seem to hear new stories of greed, oppression, and hate. We have been listening to the Spirit's call so that we are better able to respond as the Spirit calls us in new ways, into new paths that continue the story of God's liberation. Our faith calls us to speak up for and care for those who are in any form of need. It warns us against acting in ways of greed, oppression, and hate ourselves. We listen for the Spirit so that we won't be fooled by our own prejudices. We seek God's wisdom because we know our wisdom is not enough.

The ways the Spirit will direct us are many. We are familiar with the call to direct service, but our calls may not be just to direct service. Just taking care of the aftermath of injustice may not be enough. It may mean attending rallies to show support; it may mean calling politicians to advocate for or against legislation; it may mean engaging in conversations to better understand the lives and needs of people radically different from ourselves. Our faith does not align with a particular political party. Our faith does call for us to speak and act toward a world embodying God's love of all and God's call to undo systems of injustice. The Spirit enabled the disciples to move beyond telling stories to live as Jesus lived. The Spirit does the same for us when we let her move.

Laura

Spiritual Gifts Class

Have you ever asked yourself any of these questions?

- Who am I? Why am I here?
- What's my place in the world?
- How can I make a difference?
- What am I being called to do for God?

The course *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts* will address these questions and more. Along the way, course participants will discover their gifts and consider how to use those gifts.

Here are some examples of the course content:

- You Are No Ghost
- The Jesus Connection
- Love: The Heart of Spiritual Gifts
- Spiritual Gifts and Burnout
- Bloom Where You Are Planted

Beginning on Sunday, June 25, the class will meet for an hour every Sunday after worship in the church library for 8 weeks. The course will be repeated starting on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00am.

As we move forward with our new structure, the Design of the Christian Church of Villa Park, this is a perfect time for each of us to discover our gifts and the ministry to which we are called. If you have not already signed up for the class and are interested, please let Laura Reed or Betty Prorak know.

Reading Suggestions

“A spiritual memoir”



- *Confessions*, Augustine
In this remarkably honest work Augustine recounts how, slowly and painfully, he came to turn away from his youthful ideas and licentious lifestyle, to become a staunch advocate of Christianity and one of its most influential thinkers.
- *Pastrix*, Nadia Bolz-Weber
Wildly entertaining and deeply resonant, this is the book for people who hunger for a bit of hope that doesn't come from vapid consumerism or navel-gazing. This book is for every thinking misfit suspicious of institutionalized religion, but who is still seeking transcendence and mystery.
- *The Jew in the Lotus*, Rodger Kamenetz
Accompanying eight Jewish delegates to Dharamsala, India, for a dialogue with the Dalai Lama, Kamenetz's amazing journey through Tibetan Buddhism and Judaism leads him to a renewed appreciation of his living Jewish roots
- *Dreams of Trespass*, Fatima Mernissi
Mernissi weaves her own memories with the dreams and memories of the women who surrounded her in the courtyard of her youth—women who, deprived of access to the world outside, recreated it from sheer imagination.
- *The Cloister Walk*, Kathleen Norris
Part record of her time among the Benedictines, part meditation on various aspects of monastic life, this book demonstrates how immersion in the cloistered world can impart meaning to everyday events and deepen our secular lives.

July Foresight

As was the case this month, the July Foresight will be mailed and posted online a week earlier than usual, putting it on the first Tuesday of the month instead of the second. The news deadline will be the first Monday of the month, July 3.

Summer Worship Time

A reminder that worship begins at 10:00 a.m. in June, July, and August.

Love Your Neighbor Day 2017 – Mark Your Calendars! Volunteer!



Plans are in the works for the 3rd annual Love Your Neighbor Day that will take place on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Two other local churches – Calvary United Methodist in Villa Park and St. John’s Lutheran in Lombard – have made commitments to participate with us in the 2017 Love Your Neighbor Day.

We will be seeking homeowners in the Villa Park and Lombard area who are having difficulty keeping up with home repairs because of financial or physical limitations, and who could use some help from their neighbors. If you personally know someone who could use our help on LYND, please encourage them to submit an application.

To get work done for our homeowner applicants, we will need plenty of volunteers, so please save this date and plan to volunteer for LYND and invite family and friends to join you. We expect that there would be a wide range of work to be done so all volunteers will not need to have construction skills. We are in need of site supervisors who will be the liaison between the LYND planning committee and the homeowner, will help plan for the work to be done, and will manage a crew on LYND. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Doris Carter.

Homeowner applications and volunteer sign-up sheets are available on the church website. The deadline for homeowner applications is August 12, 2017 and the deadline for volunteer sign-up is September 2, 2017 but the earlier that we receive them, the better. Contact Doris Carter if you have questions.

We are looking forward to once again being able to share God’s love with our neighbors through this event.

May Food Pantry Stats
210 Households Served
835 People Served

Fund-raising with Great Lakes Scrip

The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order is due on Sunday, July 2. There are many different gift cards available, each giving the church a portion of your purchase price. If this will be your first order from www.shopwithscrip.com, please contact Betty Prorak (BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church’s enrollment code.

May 31, 2017 Financial Summary

| | May | Year to date |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Income for budget items: | \$8,224.22 | \$43,622.17 |
| Budgeted expenses: | \$9,164.84 | \$44,957.33 |
| Income includes \$1,213.28 from the May 6 Arts & Crafts Fair and Bake Sale | | |

CCVP in 2020; Congregational Meeting on June 25

On May 21, we gathered together after worship to discuss what we individually discerned about the proposed Design for CCVP. We were blessed to have so many members join prayerfully in that conversation. We give thanks for each of your voices and for the time you spent readying yourself for our time together.

In that discerning conversation, we made some changes to the originally proposed Design. Those changes enhanced and clarified that way we hope to live in relationship together. Copies of the revised Design were mailed to members and are available to others. The final step to move into this new structure is a vote at a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, June 25. Participating members who are unable to attend may contact the office (mail@ccvponline.net or 630.833.7262) to receive an absentee ballot.

We look forward to living into new ways of ministry and new focuses on relationships and the movement of the Spirit. We ask that you continue to be in prayer with and for our congregation as we follow God's leadings.

From the Board of Directors

The Board met on May 13. We approved the estimate for repair of plumbing in the men's restroom and the utility sink in the boiler room. The work was done the week of May 22 and cost \$1,874. It is hoped that this will take care of the last of the leaking water in the building.

We approved Joshua Reed as the congregation's voting representative to the Disciples General Assembly, July 8-12.

Laura was told to move forward on hiring a new nursery attendant. Chloe Slinkman started in that position on May 14.

The office PC computer started having problems late in April, and completely quit working late in May, despite great revival efforts from Raja and Melancthon Philip. A new one was purchased on June 1. It is up and running. A big thank you to Diana Robbins for backing up all of the documents before the final crash.

The Board will meet again on June 24 at 9:30am.

Betty Prorak

DOC General Board Votes to Forward Hord Owens to General Assembly

The General Board of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) voted to forward the name of Rev. Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens to the 2017 General Assembly as the nominee for General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens is currently dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL.

Search Committee Chair Jackie Bunch reviewed the process for the General Board before the members of the board had the opportunity to meet Hord Owens in small groups and in the plenary. Of more than 40 people recommended last summer, nine were screened in accordance with the executive search process. Four were then interviewed in person in October by the search committee. Just prior to the General Board meeting, three candidates were interviewed by the Administrative Committee to determine which candidate to recommend to the board.

Rev. Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. Her ministry and intellectual interests include a theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and the mentoring of youth and young adults. She is married to Walter Owens, Jr., with whom she will soon celebrate 30 years of marriage. They are the proud parents of an adult son, W. Mitchell Owens III.

Read more about Rev. Terri Hord Owens at:

<http://disciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017CovenantJournal-GA-GMPintro.pdf>

Joys and Concerns

We give thanks for the fruitful discernment discussion after worship on May 21.

Manoliy and Anna Globak (pastor of Fountain of Life Evangelical Church and his wife) welcomed their second child, Michael, to this world on May 7.

Erik Novak, John Martin's co-worker, died of pancreatic cancer mid-May after time in hospice

Jane Reid's friend Diane Wilson died recently from complications following surgery. Diane visited with us at CCVP a few times and shared some of her books with us.

Jaelyn Foy is looking for a job. She has also been dealing with kidney stones.

Ruth Martin's friend Kim Baker has stage 4 stomach cancer. She has children ages 10 and 14.

The family of Dustin Zeigler (husband of Becky "Martin") is mourning the loss of his grandmother Elaine Zeigler.

Former member Dave Cain is having neck surgery today (Tuesday, June 6).

The Martins, Philips, and Carters ask for prayers for safe travels as they visit Ireland and Scotland.

Tina Marie Amodeo was at Good Samaritan Hospital as on Monday afternoon, awaiting transfer to Providence Healthcare & Rehab Center. She will receive therapy there in hopes of getting strong enough to be admitted to Marianjoy for more therapy. She and her doctor are also working to find a new medication to help her with her multiple sclerosis symptoms.

Special Music/Choir News



Do you have a gift for music? Do you want to share your gift by praising God? Sign up to provide special music in worship! You can email Pastor Laura, ccvppastor@yahoo.com, to set a date. We would love to have you share your musical gifts with us! If you will need accompaniment, please talk to Eric. If you'd like to use a CD player, we have one available.

The choir will sing during worship on June 25.

Birthdays & Anniversary



5 Alissa Carter
12 Louise Lynch
16 Judi Goebel
25 Cari Warner
28 Marie Conquest
29 Ray Severino

4 Erica & James Schultz



Chuck and Diane Bohl have enjoyed their annual visit to beautiful Hawaii

Bob and Naomi Foster worshipped with us last Sunday on their way to Green Bay, Wisconsin to visit with Rob and his family. Good to see them!

John Martin and Ruth spent time with John's family over Memorial Day weekend.

Minni Philip is looking forward to a trip with Melanchthon to Australia later this summer.

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- . . . *after* the phone call you hoped you’d never get.
- . . . *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
- . . . *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- . . . *after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
- . . . *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- . . . *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- . . . *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- . . . *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- . . . *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- . . . *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org