

Foresight

Looking to the Future
Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: Rev. Laura Jennison Reed



Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Life can feel a little crazy around the holidays. As a remedy to that sensation, I intended to end 2017 by putting my house in order, literally and metaphorically. The remnants from visiting family and Christmas festivities would be put away. Budget and vacation plans would be discussed. But, as I am more of a “don’t do today what you can put off ‘til tomorrow” kind of girl than the reverse, the new plans waited for the new year.

New Year’s morning we tidied and organized. Amelia helped designate toys for keeping and toys for giving away. We even rearranged the furniture in her room to reflect that she’s a “big girl” now. That evening Joshua and I talked about our budget and how it will reflect our values and needs in the coming year. By the end of January 1 all those relatively small tasks and changes left me feeling ready to face the possibilities ahead.

When I go through my things, particularly with an eye to giving some of them away, I often end up very nostalgic. I think of where I got such and such or when I wore that outfit; the ways my little girl is getting so big and the love that was present when we received that gift. But this New Year’s, cleaning wasn’t nostalgic at all. This year, putting the house in order reflected future possibilities. And that was enlivening.

As we went through things, yes, there were a few sentimental moments, but it was a joy to go through things with the openness of what are we growing into, who are we becoming or who do we want to become. What toys have been outgrown or just aren’t who Amelia is? How do we make space for play and reading and creativity in a room once organized for parental convenience when putting to bed and diaper changing? Where do we want to spend our money in the next year? What causes do we care about, what are we saving for, how do we like to have fun and relax?

CCVP talked a lot about possibilities over the Advent season. As we move into Epiphany, a time of recognizing God’s revelation in the world, what is God calling us into and how will we respond? Sometimes those are big things, life changing things. But sometimes, living into God’s call is setting forth small plans in hope and expectation. It can be recognizing the changes that are already happening and making space for them to flourish. How will you open your life to budding possibilities in the new year?

Laura

December Food Pantry Stats

187 Households Served

476 People Served

Betty Prorak on Sabbatical

The Design for the Christian Church of Villa Park provides for church leaders to take a 3-month sabbatical at least every three years. I get to be the first to do this. My sabbatical started on January 1, 2018 and goes through

the end of March. Various individuals are covering the things I usually do at and/or for CCVP. Diana Robbins will be putting together the monthly calendars, the serving schedule, and the Foresight. Anything you have to contribute to those in January, February, and March (plus things for the April calendar) should be emailed to her at ccvp1336@yahoo.com. Amy Slinkman will be handling the emails, etc. for the Arts & Crafts Fair until I'm back on duty in April. John Martin will be financial secretary and send in the Great Lakes Scrip gift card orders.

I'll still see you in worship!

Betty

Choir News



The choir will practice on Mondays January 8 and January 22 at 7:00pm. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please let Eric Hays know so that he will include you in the emails about rehearsals. (phone 630-577-7286, email hayskeys@gmail.com)

December 31, 2017 Financial Summary

	December	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$12,017.00	\$103,837.09
Budgeted expenses	\$ 9,128.17	\$105,116.30

Fund-raising with Gift Cards

The next Great Lakes Scrip gift card order is due this Sunday, January 14. 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 John Martin (jwmartin7@comcast.net) for the church's enrollment code.

The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed at the beginning of February. Please sign up by February 4. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

Save the Date

We will host our annual Arts & Crafts Fair and Bake Sale on Saturday May 5, 2018. If you or a friend would like to apply as a crafter, see the link on CCVP's home page (www.ccvponline.net).

Joys and Concerns



The overhead lights are working in the sanctuary! Thank you to Dan Carter and electrician Angelo for the rewiring of the switches and to Dan, Steve Prorak, and Dave from God Will Provide for replacing light bulbs (especially Dave, as he was the one who climbed the ladder!).

Chuck Bohl celebrated the 6th anniversary of his daughter's successful lung surgery early in December and also celebrated the December 30 marriage of his son, Chris, in Columbia.

Jerry, Carol and Diana Robbins also celebrated the December 30 marriage of their grandson/nephew Travis, to Shelby, in Plano, TX.

Disciples Food Pantry received \$1,036.90 from the CROP Walk.

Alissa Verson and Doris Carter were sick over the holidays. We hope they are both feeling better.

Norine Nelson was hospitalized briefly last week. She is home, but still not feeling well.

Cari Warner has been at Manor Care in Westmont since surgery in early December for a bad pressure sore. She posted in Facebook on Monday that the stitches are out and rehab begins for sitting in her wheelchair.

Hopefully she will be home in a week.

John Martin's father passed away early New Year's Day.

Please keep James Schultz and Christy Bristow, Erica Schultz's mother, in prayer as they are both dealing with heart issues

Birthday & Anniversaries



8 Ruth Martin
16 Jayne Hochstetler
27 Norine Nelson



The church received Christmas cards from Bob Foster, Joan Fuller, Marion & Clyde Kregger, Moore's Lawn Maintenance, Ken Newton, Dora Pech, Betty & Steve Prorak, Sean & Misty Prorak, Carol & Jerry Robbins, and Ann Marie Schuster

Amy Stipanowich, daughter of former members Jim and Anne, is engaged to be married in early August. The Stipanowichs' Christmas letter is posted on the bulletin board at church.

A Christmas card and note from Judy (Smith) Peace and a note from Rose and Bill Bailey are also posted on the bulletin board.

Doug Reid is making Texas his home base. His address is: 2760 Wildwood Lane, Celina, TX 75009

December Lunch with Milt Potee



On Saturday, December 22, 2017 Ken Newton organized a lunch at Anyways restaurant in Villa Park to see Milt Potee, who had come up to Illinois for the holidays. 23 members and former members of the church were on hand to eat and visit and tell some tall tales! Those in attendance besides Ken and Milt were: Debbie (Potee) Scully, Christy (Potee) and Jim Jackson, John & Michael Newton, Kim Drwal, Clara Craft, Bob Foster,

Clyde & Marion Kregger, John & Ruth Martin, Beth Morgan, Jennifer (Preston) Bell, Teri (Preston) Darr, Jane Reid, Carol & Jerry Robbins, Diana Robbins, and Elaine Smith

CCVP Supports Mission Trip to Costa Rica

The mission work of CCVP is going to extend to Costa Rica. Dan and Doris Carter will be going on a mission trip to Nosara, Costa Rica in February, joining Doris' law partner Christine and her husband Cal. The trip is being sponsored by a UCC church in Vermont to which Christine has a connection. The group of about 20 people will be building two 400 square foot homes for two impoverished families who will be chosen by Mercy Homes Ministry, a local agency. The group needs to raise \$12,000 to cover the cost of the materials for the homes. CCVP has contributed \$766 from the existing mission trip funds to be applied toward the cost of the building materials for these homes. Dan and Doris will cover their own costs of housing and airfare to Costa Rica. Dan and Doris will be sure to provide photos of the trip so that you can see what CCVP has helped to accomplish.

Ministries

December was a busy month of ministry. I greatly enjoyed putting together our Advent services and worshiping with you as we readied for the birth of the Christ child. I took an online class on worship design in the fall and was excited to put a few of the things I learned into practice during the last month of worship. I was also grateful for the chance to worship and fellowship with God Will Provide. In the coming year, I hope to enlist a few of you to be part of a worship team that will help with the planning of more creative worship services.

Many of you know I dealt with my inner ear being out of whack for a little over a month. I am thankful for all your prayers and for your understanding when I had to adjust the ways I was leading or work from home instead of driving to the office. Even in the midst of the sometimes-hectic holiday season I was able to make time for extra rest. Included in that rest time was a few days off at the end of the month. I am now feeling rested and well and give thanks for that as well.

Ruth Martin and I celebrated a slightly early Christmas with the residents of Terra Vista during our monthly service there. They enjoyed hearing the Christmas story again and singing some favorite carols. CCVP will continue to worship and provide communion for the community monthly in the coming year.

Laura

Worship time change



After worship on Sunday, January 7, we gathered as a community to discuss adjusting our worship time to allow God Will Provide, with whom we share space, to better minister to their congregation by moving their worship time earlier. Thank you for all who came and shared their joys and concerns, their thoughts and prayers, on how we create community and share space together. After discerning conversation, we came to a consensus that we will begin worship at 10:00 am year-round, allowing GWP to begin worship at 11:30 am in the sanctuary. We will begin our new worship time on Sunday, February 4.