

Foresight

Looking to the Future
Christian Church of Villa Park
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Pastor: Rev. Kerry Waller



Tuesday, April 12, 2011



It is hard to believe, in some ways, that it has been five years since I began serving as your pastor. Five years sounds like a long time, and yet it has felt like just a moment. At least until I think back on all of the things we have done together in these five years. We have had 260 Sunday morning worship services, 5 Lenten series of worship or study, 3 years of once-a-month weekday worship, and one two-day Tent Revival. We have had Sunday school series taught by Ken Newton and Lisa Gonzalez and many others. We have developed an Evangelism Leadership Team which is thriving. We had a grief group, A Time to Mourn, which existed to help our members, and when they had moved past their grief, it was closed. We received a grant for \$25,000 in 2008 for the ministries of the church.

The Food Pantry has grown from serving 400 to 1,000 and back down to 700 people each month with the help of many volunteers, some who have joined this last year or so. The Pantry has received four grants for food and a refrigerator. We have had new members join, about 15, mostly in the last year and a half. We have mentored a student into the ministry (yeah, Tristan!) and baptized another (yeah, Aurora!). We have grieved the passing of many, like Florence Brown, Joe Adkins, Joan Smith, Dale Hochstetler, Ken Beck, and Barbara Bass. We have been there for one another through hospital visits.

We have sent Mission Trips every summer to places like Louisiana and Iowa and Indiana. We have attended Regional Assembly and I served as a Camp Director. We have eaten and eaten and eaten - we are church folk, after all. We have been the church. Not just for 5 years, of course, but that is what we will celebrate on May 1.

In preparation for that day, we invite you to share with us your 5 Best Memories of 5 Years of Ministry Together. Cards to write your memories on will be handed out on Sunday mornings and shared on May 1. The celebration that day will include guest preacher Rev. Christal Williams. We will also be sharing the 3 year Ministry Plan from the Visioning Process at the luncheon. Meat on the grill will be provided by the church and a cake will be ordered for dessert. Please bring a side dish to share, if you are able. Let's celebrate the blessings God has given us while we look forward to the future. Praise be to God.

Kerry

Easter Lilies

Would you like to underwrite the cost of an Easter lily to help decorate our sanctuary on Easter morning? Please sign up in the narthex by this Sunday (April 17) so that we know how many to purchase. Lilies will cost \$14.50 each and are yours to take home after Easter morning worship.





- April 17: Palm Sunday
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
- April 21: Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm Worship
9:00 pm Holy Week Prayer Vigil Begins
- April 24: Easter Sunday
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

New CCVP Gift Card Program Orders Due April 17

The initial order for the new Great Lakes Scrip 'Gift Card' program will be made on April 17. Please have your orders and payments made by that date. Orders can be placed either via the form attached to this Foresight or online. Payments via check should be made payable to the church and can be given directly to Betty Prorak or placed in the offering. Betty will submit the order for gift cards to Great Lakes Scrip and will subsequently receive the gift cards to be distributed.

Betty has created a paper order form (attached) that includes the businesses that the congregation previously identified. You may choose the gift cards you desire via this form and return it to Betty with your payment by April 17.

You may also access the Great Lakes Scrip program online at www.shopwithscrip.com. You must first create a family account, choosing a UserName, Password, etc. Please also use the CCVP Enrollment Code: D2929FF928811 that will correctly channel the scrip (e.g., rebate) to our church. When you access this website, you will be able to browse the hundreds of participating businesses. After you have created your family account, you can select the gift cards you desire online, but please note you cannot make payment online. It must still be made to the Christian Church of Villa Park.

This new gift card program is a "painless" way you can help the church while making your everyday purchases, so please consider gift cards from businesses that you utilize.

The next gift card order is tentatively planned for June 19.

Exciting Times!

There should be a word that is stronger than "exciting" that we could use to describe how great the next few weeks will be for our church. Sunday we got to celebrate the coming birth of baby Kovac with a baby shower at Doris Carter's. Wednesday we will have our last midweek worship featuring a solo from Gary Reynolds. Friday Christina Deming and Jeff Gagnon will be married in our church and Saturday we will ordain Tristan Orozco to Ministry.

Next Sunday we will observe Palm Sunday with our annual Palm Parade to begin worship, and then we will hear the whole story of the "Passion", the last three days of Christ's earthly life beginning with the Last Supper. Thursday at 7:30 pm will be the Maundy Thursday service with a beautiful song from the Choir, followed by the Prayer Vigil. And on Sunday April 24 we will celebrate Easter!

Then, on May 1, we will celebrate 5 years of ministry together. Did you fill out your card with your 5 Favorite Memories of 5 Years of Ministry Together yet? And on May 7 will be the Spring Arts and Crafts Fair. Can you help with some of the tasks to make the day a success?

God has blessed us mightily, not just with busy work, but with worship celebrating the life of Christ, the call to ministry and marriage of our members, and the years God has blessed us.

Kerry

Adult Sunday School



The Adult Sunday School class will complete its study of “The Jesus Creed” on Easter morning

In May we are going to finish the Sunday school year with a selection of short films from Flannel, which will include some from the NOOMA series, as well as Frances Chan's film from the BASIC series on the Holy Spirit. These films are visually intriguing and thought provoking, so we hope you can join us!

Lisa Gonzalez

Mission Team 2011

The following people will be participating in Mission Trip 2011 and will be heading to Nashville, Tennessee to help with continued work on flood recovery from the floods that occurred there in May 2010:

Doris Carter	Dan Carter	John Martin	Betty Prorak
Steve Prorak	Kerry Waller	Jeff Waller.	

We will be joined by 3 members of the Austin Boulevard Christian Church, Oak Park, Illinois and expect to also be joined by several members of the First Christian Church of Paris, Paris, Illinois.

Now that our team has been formed, we will be preparing a budget for the trip and will then be seeking investors to purchase “shares” in Mission Trip 2011 to financially support this mission work. Shares will be \$25 each.

April 21 Worship and Prayer Vigil

On Maundy Thursday April 21, we will have a special Lenten worship service beginning at 7:30 pm followed by a prayer vigil. The sign-up sheet for the vigil is in the narthex. You may participate by coming to pray in the sanctuary of the church during your designated time or you may pray from home or anywhere else. If you would like to participate and cannot get to the church to sign up, please contact Betty Prorak by email or phone: BLProrak@yahoo.com, 847-956-6418. She will see that you get on the schedule.



March Food Pantry Stats
208 Households Served
725 People Served

Music Education Class this Summer

This summer we will attempt to organize a music education class. All of you who enjoy music and know nothing about it will have an opportunity to learn about the different aspects of written music. The program will be geared toward choral music in an attempt to not only teach but also to add to the ranks of our current choir. There will also be a chance for those who have a more advanced knowledge of music to take their skills to the next level. More information will be given this Sunday.

John Reynolds

On-Line Giving Options

For several months, the Board has been investigating the possibility of offering members and friends of the congregation the ability to make contributions to the church on-line. This will only be offered as an additional method for giving and will not be required. Everyone who prefers to make contributions by check or cash on Sunday mornings can continue to do so. There are 2 options for on-line giving that can be offered and it would be up to the contributing individual or family to decide what would work best for them. One option would be for the contributing member or friend to fill out an automatic funds transfer form that would direct the church's bank to withdraw a specified amount (such as the amount of their pledge) from a designated account each month. You may already have monthly payments made this way. The other option would be for the contributor to initiate a transfer from his or her account whenever they wanted to make a contribution to the church. Let us know what you think and if this would be helpful to you.

Doris Carter

Fundraising with Jewel/Osco



Jewel lets not-for-profit groups such as our church order Jewel gift cards at a discounted price. Then the church sells them for full value and keeps the 5% discount we got when purchasing the cards. The cards can be used at any Jewel/Osco store any day of the week.

If you shop at Jewel and are willing to pre-pay for your groceries, please sign up for one or more gift cards of your desired denomination by Sunday, April 24 (Easter). The gift cards will be available to you on Sunday, May 1.

Betty Prorak

Volunteers Needed for Spring Arts & Crafts Fair

The Spring Arts & Crafts Fairs fundraiser is set for Saturday, May 7 from 10 am to 4 pm. We need volunteers to help out throughout the day of the fair. To help, you can sign up for shifts of 2 to 3 hours for the following jobs:

Greeter - welcome attendees and let them know where crafters are set up and about bake sale, lunch and raffle.

Raffle Table - offer \$1 raffle tickets to people as they come in – winner will be pulled once per hour and winner can pick a prize.

Bake Sale –sell baked goods at the bake sale table

Lunch Sale – help in preparing and selling a simple lunch and drinks to people attending the fair

Take down tables – at 4 pm at the end of the fair so that the church will be cleared for worship the next morning.

Joan Kagebein and Dee Adkins will be asking people to bake something for our bake sale.

A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex. Let's all work together to make this a successful fundraiser to support the ministries of our church.

Maundy Thursday

The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “commandment.” In the gospel of John, Jesus makes this statement during the Last Supper: “I am with you only a little longer. ... I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:33-35, NRSV).

Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion. That is what the Lord asked of his disciples and asks of us.

Highlights from the March Board Meeting

The visioning process is still progressing. The Visioning Team will soon be completing a draft of a 3-year ministry plan for the church, incorporating the suggestions made by the congregation during the visioning process and setting up a timeline for implementing new programs that were suggested. The next step is for the Visioning Team to present the draft 3-year ministry plan to the Board for their review and input.

Plans continue on the May 7 Arts & Crafts Fair. We have had a very good response from exhibitors and have determined that we can accept 30 exhibitors if we set up tables in a couple of additional rooms. We now need to focus on advertising the sale and getting members of the congregation to volunteer their help on the day of the Fair to make this fundraiser a success.

The first order deadline for our new gift card fundraising program will be April 17. Chuck Bohl is handling getting information to the congregation about how to place orders (paper order forms and on-line ordering are available).

The Church will be hosting the dinner that will follow Tristan Orozco’s ordination on Saturday, April 16. Raja Philip is coordinating plans for the dinner.

Plans are underway for a celebration on May 1 of our 5 years of ministry with Pastor Kerry. Associate Regional Minister Christal Williams will be here to preach and there will be a luncheon after worship. The Pastoral Relations Committee will be asked to assist in making plans for this celebration.

The Board approved the Mission Team’s sale of shares for Mission Trip 2011.

The Board appointed Raja Philip and Betty Prorak as the 2 members at large for the nominating committee. Other members of the nominating committee are the Board Chairperson, Chair of the Elders, Chair of the Diaconate, and the pastor. The committee must have a slate of proposed officers for the 2011 – 2012 by May.

The congregational meeting will be pushed back to June 19, since the Board Chairperson and Pastor will both be out of town on June 5. An All Church Work day has been scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, June 26. The Board will begin compiling a list of jobs that need to be done around the church for maintenance and upkeep.

Doris Carter, Board Chairperson

March 2011 Financial Summary

	March	Year-to-Date
Income for budget items:	\$8,325.93	\$24,488.30
Budgeted expenses:	\$10,136.27	\$29,504.48

40 Days... Ways...

2011 EASTER OFFERING
Supporting the General Ministries

The Easter Offering is your opportunity to support the General and Racial/Ethnic Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. The gifts that you share support vital mission and ministry from the doorsteps of your congregation to the ends of the earth.

Through Lent this year, the Disciples Mission Fund is providing daily Lenten devotionals written by the staff of the general ministries supported by the Easter Offering. Here is one of those devotionals:

In Times of Disaster

1 Peter 4:8-11

It is easy to see brokenness after a natural disaster. Snapped tree limbs puncture rooftops and down power lines in an ice storm. Charred remains of homes and businesses smolder for days following a wildfire. Furniture, clothes, and cherished possessions lie dumped on the curb after a flood. Homes ripped open by a tornado or hurricane stand exposed to the elements. But when the first response is over and the clean-up is complete, brokenness is harder to see. Homes cleaned outside hide rooms stripped to the studs and void of decent furnishings. Blue tarps on rooftops conceal the pain of those wondering where they will find the means to recover. Moments of laughter among extended family sharing a crowded house mask the anguish of those desperate to rebuild their own home or restart somewhere new. Disciples Volunteering, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions, extends the call to Get Dirty for Jesus in many contexts, including domestic disaster response. When by our action we make our faith and compassion visible, we offer hope and wholeness to brokenness that is visible and hidden. When we serve with the gifts we have been given, scripture says, we are stewards of the grace of God.

-Josh Baird, Director of Disciples Volunteering for Disciples Home Missions.

The most recent devotionals are posted at the Disciples Mission Fund website:

www.disciplesmissionfund.org

The Easter Special Offering will be received on April 17 and April 24.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Eileen Bunker
13 Betty Bohl
15 Carol Robbins
15 Aurora Slinkman
16 Joan Kagebein
21 Chloe Slinkman
25 Thomas Reynolds
28 Taylor Severino
31 Dick Yowell



1 Ruth & John Martin
1 Kailash & Mannie Naidoo
7 Linda & Tom Preston
30 Amanda & Brent Prorak



Tristan Orozco is thrilled with the acceptance of ministry with a UCC congregation in Des Moines, Iowa beginning June 1. He will be ordained in our sanctuary this Saturday at 5:00 pm. Please come and share in his joy. Congratulations, Tristan!

Looking ahead...There will be a garage sale at CCVP on Saturday, August 6. Find a place to set aside those treasures you are ready to part with so you can find them at the end of July!

Betty Bohl is doing very well. The therapy she had earlier this year has made it much easier to get around than previously. Stop in for lunch or supper with her, letting her know when to expect you Lunch is \$7 and dinner is \$8.

Alissa Carter has had trouble getting here for Easter, just as she did getting here for Christmas! Hope she will be here when you read this.

Doris Carter hosted a lovely shower for Adam and Sarah Kovac's soon-to-be-born little one.

Ken Newton has been seeing a group of doctors. He has a back problem which causes numbness in one leg.

Minni Philip has returned from a great trip to India where she visited with family and purchased a number of items she hopes to be able to sell at our arts and craft show this May. Raja has now left for his turn in India with family after the passing of his aunt.

Dolly Preston is now at Marianjoy Rehab in Wheaton. Tom says each day he sees a little improvement. You are welcome to visit her even when she is undergoing rehab treatment

Betty and Steve Prorak had fun in the Smokies this spring break.

Tom Reynolds is finishing up Yeoman training and will probably be attached to the Nimitz aircraft carrier which will go to the Orient soon.

Welcome back to the Yowells from Arizona where they had time to relax and to visit with the Harold Craigs, former members.

Heather Smith is home bound, but would welcome calls, cards and a trip out for a while. She needs knee surgery and is searching for a doctor.

Kerry (with Soren, and Emma) enjoyed a recent visit with her parents as she attended an anniversary celebration at her home church. She and Ben also recently took care of two other foster children for ten days while their full-time foster parents were on a vacation. Kerry reports that life at the Dueholm household is very calm now with just two children.

Joan Fuller has purchased a new freezer for the food pantry with money from a grant. Randy Reid and Dianna Robbins helped to bring it to the church.