

Foresight

Looking to the Future
Christian Church of Villa Park
1336 S. Villa Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

Phone: (630) 833-7262

E-mail: mail@ccvpONLINE.net

Pastor: Rev. Kerry Waller



Tuesday, December 13, 2011



Recently my daughter learned how to properly say the letter "I". I hadn't fully appreciated how complicated saying the letter was until she mastered it. Both my kids are in a stage where they learn things SO fast because they have so much to learn. And they're fearless about learning things. They'll try anything, including learning about gravity after falling off a stool in the kitchen. Thankfully that didn't teach them about head injuries. They love to learn and ask all kinds of questions.

But, perhaps we adults are not like that. Study after study has shown how hard it is for adults to learn something new. Not because we're not capable, but because we get nervous about trying something that is out of our comfort zone. I probably won't even read articles about advanced science because I assume I won't be able to understand it and don't want to try. I think of myself as a religious and card-making person, so skiing is not something I'm going to want to try, perhaps. But we need to keep learning if we want to keep growing in faith.

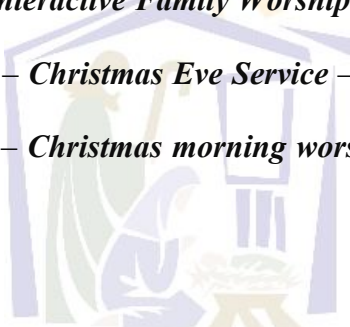
So, here's your chance to let me know what one new thing you'd like to learn about in the coming year. Perhaps it is a new spiritual practice, or something about the Bible or Christian History, or a question that's been on your mind and heart for a while. Write it down, and give it to me, either by email or in person at church. I'm going to try to incorporate as many of your responses as I can into our learning plan for the upcoming year.

There are so many things to study and learn about the Bible and God and ourselves that it will take a lot of time to learn all we need to know. Let's start now, learning together.

Kerry

Christmas Services

- ❖ Sunday, December 18 - 7:30 pm – **Blue Christmas Service** – This is a special service for those who are struggling this season and wish for a quieter, more reflective service. If you need a break from all the chirpy Christmas carols because you are separated from a loved one by distance, death or circumstance, or if you are struggling this year for any reason, please come for this service.
- ❖ Saturday, December 24 - 5 pm – **Interactive Family Worship** – This service is especially geared for people with kids under the age of 8.
- ❖ Saturday, December 24 - 7:30 pm – **Christmas Eve Service** – Our traditional family service with scripture, carols, and a closing circle of light.
- ❖ Sunday, December 25 - 10:30 am – **Christmas morning worship** – A service with stories and songs in the Taize style.



Service News

You all know and support the food pantry in a number of ways, and also bring clothes for the Clothes Closet. Do not forget that anything you do not want to wear any longer that is clean and in good condition is welcome, especially outfits that are appropriate to wear for job hunting or on the job.

Toys for Tots has contributed items to be distributed by our members this Wednesday and next Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. We have been on the Marines' list for several years now. We are happy to extend this service in addition to food and clothes.

How Can the ELT Help You Invite People to Church?

A positive outgrowth of some of our recent discussions about the state of the church has been that members have been talking about how much this church has to offer people looking for a church home or seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ and that we need to be more deliberate about inviting people we know to come to share this with us. The Evangelism Leadership Team (ELT) would like to hear from you to know what you think would be helpful to you as you consider extending an invitation to come to church to people who do not have a church home:

- Would it be helpful to have some written information available that you can give to them?
- Would it be helpful to have a specific Sunday morning event or special service to which you can invite them?
- Should we schedule another session of the evangelism classes that were conducted in the summer (those who attended enjoyed them and found them to be beneficial)?

Let us know your thoughts or other ideas about how the ELT can help you. ELT members include Lisa Gonzalez, Carol Robbins, Raja Philip, Betty Prorak, Doris Carter and Rev. Kerry Waller.

November Food Pantry Stats

256 Households Served

972 People Served

Adult Sunday School Schedule

The adult Sunday school class study of prayer will take a two-week break. It will not meet on December 25 or January 1.

At 9:15 a.m. on January 8, the class will start the second half of *The Four Acts of Prayer* by Walter Wangerin. This author and speaker uses stories to explore four vital elements that form a complete circle of praying: we speak, God listens, God speaks, we listen. He shows us that these four simple acts, practiced and developed with diligence, bring us into a close communion with God that supports us in our daily living. Walter Wangerin is the award-winning author of thirty-four books, including the best-selling *The Book of God*; the National Book Award-winning *The Book of the Dun Cow*; and, most recently, *Saint Julian*.

Christmas Giving Tree



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Humanitarian Service Project Christmas Giving Tree this year. Due to the generosity of those who participated, five children from families in need will have several Christmas gifts under the tree on Christmas morning.

Report from the Board

The Board of Directors appreciated the input from the congregation at the congregational meeting on December 4. After considering the input from the congregation and discussion at the Board meeting, the Board has prepared a proposed budget that will be sent to the congregation. The budget will be voted on by the members at a congregational meeting on January 8 following worship. While the cuts that are being proposed are difficult, we trust that the Lord will continue to guide and lead us through the financial challenges we are currently facing.

The Board scheduled six dates in 2012 for gift card orders. The next order deadline will be January 22, 2012. Prior to the deadline, we will provide hands-on instruction in setting up an account (just takes a few minutes) and online ordering.

The date for the Craft Fair fundraiser has been set for May 5, 2011. The Board is looking for volunteers to serve on the Craft Fair committee and participate in planning for the 2nd annual Spring Craft Fair. Please talk to Doris Carter if you are willing to serve on this committee.

The Garage Sale has been set for July 21, 2012 and the Gala and Auction has been set for November 10, 2012. The Board is considering having a second craft fair in October. Some other suggestions for fundraising have been made which the Board will be considering.

Doris Carter, Board Chair

Evangelism Leadership Team Looking for New “Cookie Callers”

The Evangelism Leadership Team is looking for individuals willing to serve as a “Cookie Caller.” Cookie callers drop off cookies and some information about our church to people who have come to our worship service for the first time. The intent of the call is to let our visitors know that we are happy that they joined us for worship and that we hope to see them again soon. If you would like to serve in this way or if you would like more information about what is involved, contact Betty Prorak or Doris Carter.

Thank You!

Thank you to those who underwrote the cost of a poinsettia plant for the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season: Dee Adkins, Doris & Dan Carter, Judi & Greg Goebel, Ken Newton, Betty & Steve Prorak, Carol & Jerry Robbins, Michelle & Joe Thompson, Kathleen & Chuck Young and Deloris & Dick Yowell.

Fundraising with Jewel/Osco

We continue our monthly order of gift cards from Jewel, which lets not-for-profit groups such as our church order gift cards at a discounted price. Then the church sells them to you 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.

The ministries of CCVP received \$750 from Jewel gift card orders placed in 2011.

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, January 1. The gift cards will be available to you on Sunday, January 8.



Great Lakes Scrip Gift Cards

The ministries of CCVP received a total of \$588.70 from the Great Lakes Scrip gift cards ordered in 2011. The next order and payment deadline for Scrip gift cards will be January 22, 2012.

Go to www.shopwithscrip.com to place your order online. If you have not registered at the site, you will need the church's enrollment code of D2929FF928811 to complete your registration. Bring cash or a check made out to the church on Sunday, January 22, 2012 to pay for your order. Please give your payment to me or let me know that you have put it in the offering.

Betty Prorak



Chuck Bohl accepted the suggestion to visit Austin Boulevard Christian Church this Sunday to invite them to visit our congregation when they close their doors for the final time at the end of this month. This must be a particularly difficult Christmas Season for them, and we can offer prayers of comfort for them.

Alissa Carter is working at Bath and Body Works while searching for the type of work she is educated and trained for.

The Goebels are coming to the end of the football season, with a final trip to Florida to watch their son play for Ohio in the Gator bowl. Judi was wined and dined by Elmhurst Hospital at an appreciation luncheon they host for the staff each year this past Sunday.

Prayers are appreciated for Ken Newton who was hospitalized this past week with a heart problem. Tests showed plaque in the arteries, etc. and he is home on medication.

Raja Philip is home from China. Takes 14 hours flight to make the trip. Wow!

It was so good to see Tom and Dolly Preston in Church Sunday. Dolly indicated that she wanted a bulletin which indicates good strides I would say.

Betty Prorak and Sue Severino played with the Lombard Community Ringers (hand bell choir) at the Lombard Library Sunday afternoon.

John Reynolds has planned for our bell choir to play this Sunday. Stephanie Reynolds, Betty Prorak, Sue Reynolds, Jane Reid, Sue Severino, Doris Carter, Alissa Carter and Kerry Waller hope to inspire you this Christmas Season!

Sean, Misty, and Amós Prorak will be in for the holidays soon.

Randy Reid has found new work as the person who helps you with wine tasting at Cooper-Hawk restaurant in Burr Ridge This is the place he really wanted to work, and this could lead eventually to bartending which is what he recently trained for. Very happy about this. The restaurant Corp makes their own wines.

Deloris Yowell's health continues to improve, we are happy to say. She gives her thanks to all who have prayed for her, visited, and/or sent cards.

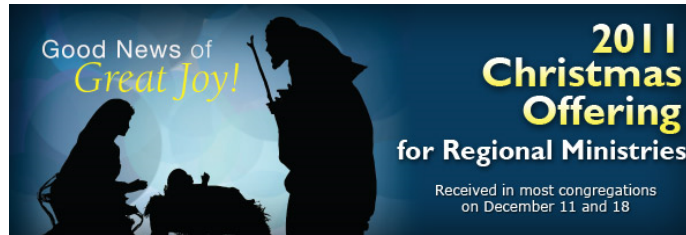
Several members attending the Kerry-Dueholm open house Sunday evening, with little Emma hostessing everyone! Soren entertained us with his Snowman music toy.

Good seeing Lois Reynolds over the Thanksgiving holidays. She looks good as ever and continues to lead an active life, with a visit to China on her list of travels.

A memorial service for Midge Wind, who passed away November 8, will be held on December 17 in Florida. She was a member of the support group and loved to entertain us with games and prizes. A lovely lady.

November 30, 2011 Financial Summary

	November	Year-to-Date
Income for budget items:	\$9,898.21	\$92,793.77
Budgeted expenses:	\$8,976.30	\$95,773.31



The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, or CCIW, exists to support local congregations. We are committed to high quality ministry, ministry that provides services not available elsewhere - helping congregations in times of crisis, providing camps for our children and youth, helping congregations call their next pastor, partnering to do global ministry together. **The Christmas Offering** provides an opportunity to partner with this vital ministry by supporting it financially.

Helping congregations in times of crisis

When facing important – and often difficult – decisions, congregational leaders need help. Regional ministers can help them work through the issues, ask good questions, offer insight, and talk about how other churches have successfully dealt with similar situations. The knowledge and guidance from someone outside the congregation can make all the difference.

Camps for our children and youth

Both campers and counselors give witness to the holy, powerful experience of their week at camp. At camp they find opportunities to be close to God, to grow in faith, and to learn how to be leaders. The love and acceptance experienced at camp give our young Disciples a hopeful approach to life.

Helping congregations call their next pastor

Search committee chairs can testify to faithful service of Regional staff members. As a partner in the process, the staff member offers the names of qualified ministerial candidates and walks with the search committee throughout the entire procedure. When there are challenging issues, the staff person can offer experience and guidance to help the search committee make good decisions. A word of encouragement and a broader perspective can be of great value when there is much at stake for the life of a congregation.

Partnering to do Global ministry together

In 2011, we started a new partnership with Rev. Dr. Vitalino Similox and Nora Coloma of the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala. Through visits in Guatemala and our Region, we've learned more about unity and what it means for us. Unity is not just an option to consider, it is required for our survival as Christians. In Guatemala, it really is a matter of life and death. Church leaders and church members support one another in face of tremendous challenges. Expanding our relationships with Global Ministries in Indianapolis, specifically with Felix Ortiz and Bob Shebeck, we broadened our connections to the wider church.

Make your 2011 Christmas offering today. Your generous gift will sing God's praise. And the many ways it strengthens our regional ministries will lift *Good News of Great Joy* throughout the coming year.

January Birthdays & Anniversary

- 2 Deloris Yowell
- 31 Michelle Thompson

- 9 Doris & Dan Carter

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Based on the collective inputs from our congregation during the Visioning meetings that we've had at our Church, a Constitution and By-Laws Committee has been formed to review and rewrite our Constitution and By-Laws. The existing document has been last updated more than twelve years ago. The Committee that consists of Jane Reid, Joan Fuller, Kailash Naidoo, Dan Carter and Raja Philip had their first meeting on November 20. Doris Carter and our Pastor Rev. Kerry Waller are also serving on the Committee in advisory roles. The task of this Committee is to examine in detail all aspects of governance and ministry at our Church as well as the effectiveness of our existing Constitution and By-Laws. To help us in the process we are using an excellent reference book by Dan Hotchkiss called Governance and Ministry – Rethinking Board Leadership.

The aim of this Committee is to prepare a document that accurately reflects our current structure and actions and that provides guidelines on how we can effectively govern ourselves in the present time, as well as in the coming years. From the initial discussions that we have had, we expect that this task will take about 10 months to complete. We will have a better understanding of the complete scope of the work and timelines, as we start meeting regularly in 2012. We intend to keep the congregation continuously informed of our progress and are looking at ways in which we can gather inputs from the congregation as well. If you have any questions about the work that the Committee is engaged in, please feel free to ask me or any of the Committee members. As we are aware, this is a significant task that we are undertaking and we ask for your prayers for the work that we are setting out to do.

Raja Philip

2011 Mission Trip Reports

As room allows in issues of the Foresight, a report or two from this past summer's mission team will be included. Those of you who didn't get to attend the August mission trip dinner will get the chance to read of what the team did in Nashville, Tennessee. This third installment features reports by Betty Prorak:

Over the course of 10 mission trips, I have certainly learned to be flexible, never really knowing what each day of mission work might bring. However, I was pushed to accept new extremes of the unexpected in a home's bathroom in Nashville this summer.

On Monday, July 18, John, Kerry, Sarah and I were assigned to house #1 on Snell Blvd., where we were to retille the bath walls and replace the vinyl flooring with ceramic tiling. If we finished that, there was some carpeting to deal with and possibly a garage door.

As we pulled off the old wall tiles in the bathroom, it was quickly evident that they had been mounted on regular drywall, not greenboard or sheetrock, as tiles are today. So, we were told to clear the tub area walls down to the studs, and sheetrock was delivered to the house to be installed. Along the way, we dealt with a unique 8-10" high wire-reinforced cement board that bordered the tub. Sarah enjoyed destroying that.

To remove the toilet, we had to get the water to the house turned off because the toilet's shut off valve didn't work and needed to be replaced. Once the toilet was finally out of the way (and there's more to that story!), we pulled up the vinyl floor to find a large black stain of mold on the floorboards where the toilet had been. Time to pull up the subfloor!

Three moldy subfloors later, we treated the floor joists with bleach and reinforced 2 joists with boards because parts of them had rotted. We also added insulation where it was missing between some joists before we put down a new subfloor.

So, to cut this before it becomes a novel, everything we did seemed to lead to something else that would need to be done before we could do what we were originally supposed to do. At 6:00 Friday afternoon (evening?), we had to say, "That's it. Whoever comes next will have to pick it up from here."

We had succeeded in installing a new subfloor (a nice level one), a new toilet, the sheetrock around the tub, and most of the greenboard that was needed to complete the walls. But the work assignment for the next team would read the same as ours had back on Monday morning!

For me, it was definitely a week of learning to let go and let God. I am sure God had us there just where and when He wanted.

Thank you to all of the Mission Trip supporters. We couldn't have done it without you!

Merry
Christmas

The text "Merry Christmas" is rendered in a dark red, serif font. The word "Merry" is on the top line, and "Christmas" is on the bottom line. The letters are decorated with green holly leaves and clusters of red berries. The 'M' has a leaf on its left side, the 'y' has a leaf on its right side, the 'C' has a leaf on its bottom side, and the 's' has a leaf on its bottom side. There are also small clusters of berries interspersed between the letters.