

# Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park

1336 S. Villa Avenue

Villa Park, IL 60181

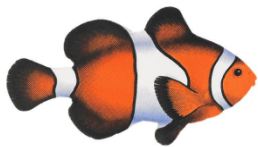
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Pastor: Rev. Kerry Waller



Tuesday, January 10, 2012



Yesterday I went to the fabric store and bought materials for my son's preschool musical costume. He is in the chorus and will be playing a clown fish. When we heard he'd been assigned the part, I figured that a clownfish costume would be a simple matter. I spent about 15 years of my life sewing a majority of my clothing. Sure, it's been a couple of years since I sewed, but still, no sweat.

Except that for about 8 weeks of off-and-on looking, I couldn't find a pattern anywhere. Seriously. A clownfish pattern. There is an entire Pixar movie about this animal, but not one darn pattern? Thankfully one of the boy's classmates' moms had a Batman pattern she used to make her kid's goldfish costume, and she loaned it to me.

So, yesterday, I was standing at the counter getting the fabric cut. The nice clerk asks me what I'm making. "Oh, a clownfish costume for my son's preschool musical." She replied, "That's nice. I had another mom in here a few weeks ago making a clownfish costume. She said she wanted to make hers differently". Differently from what? I don't even know what that means, so I just nodded at her.

And then I said, "I just don't want to embarrass him." And she replied, "You have a preschooler who gets embarrassed?" And then I said, "Well, no, I guess I don't."

That's when I realized something I should have realized a lot earlier. Soren doesn't care about how his costume looks. That's me. I'm the one who is worried about the impression I give to people. I'm the one who worries about whether I seem good enough to the other parents and strangers in the grocery store and people at church. But he thinks I'm good enough (I'm sure he'll think differently when he's 12).

And the most important being in the world thinks I'm good enough, too. God knows I'm trying, and failing, and trying again. And, whether it is a darn clownfish costume, or something much more important, God lifts me up and tells me to try again.

We have made some hard changes to our church budget. It would be easy enough to mourn what we have lost, and the small changes we had to make to the Music Director and Pastor's positions. But it's far more important to ask God to show us the way to do church in 2012, 2013, 2020, 2050, and so on. Because we're not going to be perfect. We'll probably even embarrass God sometimes. But every time, God is with us, urging us on, feeding us the lines and clapping with our successes. Thanks be to God.

Kerry

## Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school class is continuing study 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*.

### **December Food Pantry Stats**

227 Households Served

830 People Served

### **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 is January 22, 2012. Board members will be available after worship to help you set up your account and place your order if you would like assistance.

Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://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*



Dolly Preston passed into glory Saturday, January 7, 2012. Visitation will be on Saturday, January 14 from noon until the time of the service at 2:00 p.m. at Steuerle Funeral Home, 350 S. Ardmore, Villa Park. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Christian Church of Villa Park or your favorite charity. Please keep Tom, their children and the rest of the family in your prayers.

### **Report from the Board**

At the December Board meeting, the Board gave consideration to the input from the congregation at the December congregational meeting and prepared a proposed budget for 2012. The 2012 budget was approved by the congregation at the meeting on January 8, 2012.

We are seeking volunteers to help with cleaning the church the two weeks a month that the cleaning service will not be here and volunteers to "adopt" a room to clean periodically. We already have some volunteers, but the load will be lighter if we have additional volunteers. Let Doris Carter know if you can help.

We have set dates in January, March, May, July, September and November when you can make purchases from our gift card program to help support the church. The next deadline is January 22, 2012. If you have not yet set up an online account for the program and would like some assistance in doing so, a few Board members will be available after worship on January 22 to assist you in setting up your first account and placing your order. Payment will be due that day. Prior to that date, you can go to the website [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to see the hundreds of gift cards that you can purchase to decide what cards you want to purchase. The website will also show you the percentage that comes back to the church. You can purchase cards for your regular expenses, including gas, groceries, pharmacy, department stores, theater tickets, restaurants and much more.

Our next fund raising event is our Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, May 5, 2012. If you would like to help by serving on the planning committee, please contact Doris Carter. Other fund raisers scheduled for 2012 are the ongoing gift card and Jewel card programs, a Garage Sale on July 21 (be saving those treasures), a possible second Arts & Crafts Fair on October 20, and the annual Gala and Auction on November 10. If you have other ideas for fund raising, particularly that will raise monies from outside the church, please pass on your ideas to any Board member.

*Doris Carter, Board Chair*

## Interested in Going on a Mission Trip this Summer?

We are in the process of scheduling a mission trip for June. Most likely the trip will be either to Joplin, Missouri or Birmingham, Alabama to help with rebuilding. Both areas were hit by tornados last year. If you are interested in participating this year or have questions before you decide, contact Doris Carter.

(If you didn't attend the mission trip dinner last August, be sure to see the reports included later in this Foresight. They were written by participants of last summer's trip.)

## Music Program

With the new 2012 budget, we unfortunately had to cut back the salary of our music director, John Reynolds. John has graciously agreed to continue to act as music director, but of course, we are cutting back on his responsibilities based on the decrease in compensation. The band will continue to play on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, and beginning in February, the choir will only sing on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. If you are willing to provide special music from time to time on the other Sundays, please let John know.

## Sharing the Good News

### Invite Someone



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.

## 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.



February 8	Ruth Martin
11	Tom Preston, Jr.
16	Jayne Hochstetler
17	Susan Reynolds
27	Norine Nelson



News from out-of-state friends:

Donna Beck and her brother have been busy shoveling themselves out of the snow in Colorado.

Louise Lynch is busy with the Brandon Belles line dancing for the numerous nursing homes entertaining the residents. Also, busy volunteering at the local hospital. Prayers would be appreciated for a young grandson who has leukemia and is suffering the effects of the treatment.

The Potee clan enjoyed two weddings this year, a granddaughter and niece. Milt was honored to participate in a memorial service for a Korean vet who was added to the honor wall at Iowa State University. Bill Chance is now living in Arkansas, also looking for work.

Marilyn Gardner reports that her husband has suffered several heart problems this year, last hospitalization this past December. Several grandchildren and now a great grandchild give much fun for them.

The Welches in Reno have had a busy year climbing, hiking, visiting friends all over the country.

While talking to Jane Reid, Bob Foster mentioned that several men from his church go out to lunch once a month to very nice places. They call themselves the Romeos: Retired Old Men Eating Out. He and his wife are fine, still active in church. Jeannie's daughter is married. Rob is in Green Bay

Local news:

The Proraks had fun with their very first grandchild who brought his parents (Sean and Misty) in from San Diego for the holidays.

Brent and his wife, Amanda both are working at charter schools in Chicago. Amanda is almost finished with a Masters.

Randy Reid has a new job working in the wine tasting bar at Coopers Hawk restaurant in Burr Ridge. I (Jane) can say that they have great food. We took Doug there for his 59th birthday.

Toys for Tots was successful this year with a lot of people helping out. Diana Robbins ordered the toys from the Marines and helped the first week they were given out. Randy Reid picked the toys up and delivered them to the church. Joan Kagebein, Kailash Naidoo, Jane Reid, and Gezina Coetzer were there both Wednesdays to help the parents select items for their children.

Betty Bohl continues in fair health, having breathing problems. She still teaches piano and has three pupils presently.

Artemis (Consentino) Malos has moved back from Florida and is renting a house in Elmhurst. Her address is 311 E. Butterfield, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Heather Smith plans to move in with her soon.

Adam and Sarah Kovac were in Indiana with family for the holidays.

Ruth Martin is recovering from neck surgery. Had two discs removed and replaced with titanium "things".

Ken Newton is still having health difficulties. He had heart surgery a few weeks ago, and sometimes feels discomfort since.

Dolly Preston and many from her large family worshiped with us Christmas Eve. She and Tom were able to be out for an early dinner New Year's Eve with Delorise Adkins, Dick and Deloris Yowell, a friend of the Yowells, Carol and Jerry Robbins, and Jane Reid.

Betty Prorak and Sue Severino played hand bells in three local concerts this Christmas season, although Sue suffered a back injury and is wearing a brace.

Rev. Kerry spent a week visiting with her in-laws and her parents between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The Yowells were happy to have daughter Cheryl in for the holidays.

Lisa Gonzalez spent the Christmas holidays in northern California with her mother; saw plays and did fun things together.

## 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.

## 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 fourth installment features reports by John Martin and Jennifer Burney.

### Report from John Martin

This was my first Mission Trip since my back surgery. I was a little leery about my ability to remain healthy, but I didn't need to worry. In fact, I didn't know I had so many "moms". Every time I reached for something or tried to lift something that weighed more than 20 pounds, one of my "moms" gently reminded me of my restrictions. With their help, I came through without injury.

We worked on a "mild" remediation of a mold damaged bathroom. Each day early in the week, we set our objectives; then we modified them based on the additional damage we uncovered. Later, when we were reconstructing the bathroom, we were able to set a schedule and stick to it. Other teams had more shocking experiences.

I found this trip as rewarding as previous ones. However, I think I gained a new insight into the needs to serve others and our need to serve. Paraphrasing several people: "We can't do it alone, but if we don't do it, it won't get done."

### Report from Jennifer Burney (Austin Blvd. CC)

Once again it was a wonderful Mission Trip, although it did start off a little rough. I was doubly blessed this year! First I was blessed to have the time and talent to go on the mission trip. My second blessing was to share in my niece Mikaila's first mission trip.

Day One: Our team consisted of Doris, Dan, Shelby, Mikaila, and myself. On the first day we walked into Mr. Frank Allen's master bedroom, where we would spend the week. As we walked past the floorless bathroom Dan told us to not step on the insulation because we would fall thru. Not 5 minutes later Dan lifted a piece of plywood in the closet and fell into the scuttle hole that was below it. Not 5 minutes after that Dan walked into the bathroom stepped on some insulation and fell all the way thru the floor. Not a very auspicious beginning to our mission trip. First Mikaila and I put the remaining insulation in the floor. Then we spent the rest of the day cutting a piece of floorboard to fit over the toilet drain and a vent. After several hours we finally got it to fit in place, only to realize it was a different thickness from the piece of floorboard that was under the tub. So it became our pattern for the second day. When we got back to the church we were hearing similar stories of problems on each job site.

We stayed in classrooms at the Methodist Church. Kerry, Mikaila, and I stayed in the J.O.Y. room, which stands for Jesus, Others, Yourself. It seemed apropos to what we were there to do. I used it in my meditation on Tuesday morning to remind us all why we were there. It served to remind us when we had all had problems on the job sites on Monday.

Day Two: Things went smoother and we actually had a sense of accomplishment. Mikaila and I got more of the subfloor put in. It is really a blessing to help Mikaila learn how to use the power tools. Then came the thrill and pride of watching her use them with comfort. We decided to go for "Trailer Trash" ice cream at the Pied Piper Creamery that night. When Doris checked their website at 6 pm to see what time they closed it said 7 pm. You have never seen 14 people move so fast!! But we made it and the ice cream was delicious!

Days Three thru Five: Mikaila and I continued working on the bathroom from putting up drywall, greenboard, to finishing the floor. The only thing of note was when Mikaila accidentally hit Doris in the back with a piece of drywall. Then later that same day Mikaila hit her in the head with a 2x4 when we were finished putting up a piece of ceiling drywall in the bathroom. All in all it was a good productive mission trip and I look forward to next year's adventures!!

Thank you to Doris for all she does in making these trips a success! Thank you to Dana and Katrisha for preparing out snacks and meals, doing laundry, and cleaning the church. Thank you to Betty for compiling all the pictures and creating a DVD.

Peace and Love in Christ, Jenny Burney

## 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 29. The gift cards will be available to you on Sunday, February 5.

### December 31, 2011 Financial Summary

	December	2011
Income for budget items:	\$7,954.00	\$100,747.77
Budgeted expenses:	\$5,935.73	\$101,709.04



O God of infinite creativity . . .

At the beginning of this New Year – winter for so many – the rich brown earth is even now preparing to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Though the human eye cannot see it, you continue to bless the earth with new beginnings.

We praise you!

Bless us with new beginnings, we pray.

Where we have lost sight of your Reign breaking in – even now at hand –

Renew our vision.

Where we have faltered in reaching out to our neighbor in love, missing the moment to extend a hand of wholeness,

Renew our courage.

Where we have allowed cynicism to dry our bones and sinews,

Renew our hope.

At this beginning of a New Year, dear God, our arms are still warm from cradling the Babe of Bethlehem.

Help us to keep that memory strong.

Strengthen our arms to welcome your many children into communities of love.

Prepare our hearts to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Stir us to be and share your love with the same vulnerability, the same humble expectation that brought you into the world in person.

Help us, your church, your disciples, to be harbingers of your reign of justice and of peace fully emerged.

O God of infinite creativity, at the beginning of this New Year, we know that you are about to do a new thing.

Help us to perceive it. And to join in.

In the name of Jesus, your greatest new beginning, we pray.

Amen.