

Foresight

Looking to the Future
Christian Church of Villa Park
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Tuesday, May 9, 2017



We are now a week into our period of discernment on whether the proposed Design of CCVP reflects God's will for how we organize ourselves to do God's work in this place. I hope you have read through the proposed Design at least once. As you read it, you probably noticed that this is a substantially different document from the current Constitution and

By-Laws. That might make you excited; it might make you nervous; it might make you both. All are reasonable responses to a fairly big change to a part of our lives we don't think about very often.

Over the last three years we have intentionally journeyed deeper into God's callings for us. We have reaffirmed some of our core values and blossomed in new ways. We have acknowledged some things we no longer are and that has made space for those things we are becoming. Amid all that, our written structure documents began to feel clunky, like they were tying us to something we no longer were, something God is no longer calling us to be.

So CCVP in 2020 set about trying to describe how God is calling us to be, to describe the relational community of faith we are becoming. As part of that, we saw that God and our faith needed to be at the center of these descriptions because they are the why of all that we do. We also felt that we were being called to a more flexible way of being that acknowledges that God's call and our community are not static, but ever changing. A way that celebrates living into the Spirit's movement as a good and faithful response to the world.

Through conversations with the Board, Elders, and Deacons, through much prayer and reading of scripture, CCVP in 2020 drafted what we're calling the Design of the Christian Church of Villa Park. Now it is in your hands, in your prayers. On May 21, we will gather for conversation as a culmination of this discernment process. We will talk about your joys and sorrows in this document, your questions about what has been written how this will all work. We will discern together whether these words describe how God is calling us together. Together we will shape how we organize ourselves moving forward.

Over the next two weeks I hope you will continue to pray. Pray for trust in God, for indifference to our own desires, for God's wisdom to be heard. Pray for others as they too seek to discern. Pray for our community as we prepare together to discern God's will.

Laura

April Food Pantry Stats
198 Households Served
694 People Served

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Adult Sunday School meets each week in the library at 9am. We are finishing the season – through the end of the month – with a video series called “Ed’s Story.”

Reading Suggestions

“A young adult novel”

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie
Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, is determined to take his future into his own hands. He leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.
- *The Giver*, Lois Lowry
Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the complex secrets behind his fragile community.
- *Monster*, Walter Dean Myers
The story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial is presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination and peppered with journal entries. The book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.
- *An Ember in the Ashes*, Sabaa Tahir
Under the brutal Martial Empire, Laia is forced to make a decision when her brother is arrested for treason. In exchange for help from rebels, she will risk her life to spy for them from within the Empire’s greatest military academy.
- *American Born Chinese*, Gene Luen Yang
This graphic novel is made up of three individual plotlines: the determined efforts of the Monkey King to shed his humble roots and be revered as a god; the struggles of Jin Wang, a lonely Asian American middle school student who would do anything to fit in; and the sitcom plight of Danny, an All-American teen so shamed by his Chinese cousin he is forced to change schools.



April 30, 2017 Financial Summary

	April	Year to date
Income for budget items:	\$7,229.94	\$24,247.50
Budgeted expenses:	\$9,164.84	\$28,313.30

June Foresight

The June 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, June 5.

Fund-raising with Jewel/Osco & Scrip

The next Jewel gift card order is due on Sunday, May 28; cards will be delivered on June 4.

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.

Love Your Neighbor Day 2017 – Mark Your Calendars!

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.



So many helped in so many ways to make last Saturday's Spring Arts & Crafts Fair a success. To get the thank you's going, Marie Conquest thanks all those who helped her with the bake sale:

Allison Brower (her niece, Marge's daughter) baked and decorated all the cupcakes and she always makes all the signs and labels and is the creative one.

Marge Nichols (Marie's sister) lives in Indiana she did some baking and helping with set up and sales.

Dee Nichols (brother-in-law) helped us bring everything in and out and did dishes.

Jon Nichols (her nephew, Marge's son) helped to clean up.

Christina Guenther (Marie's daughter) helped with the set up and sale.

Elizabeth Casas (her niece/daughter) helped me bake at home and helped all day with various things.

Nicci (Marie's sister's neighbor) baked the four little nut breads, she always sends something to our sales each year from Plymouth, IN.

Tina Marie Amadeo helped at the table with sales while we finished setting up.

Betty Prorak baked her chocolate chip cookies and was a backup if needed. (Also supplied the soda.)

Erica Schultz baked the gluten free items.

Alissa Verson baked several cookies and they were also very much appreciated.

Thank you to Dan & Doris Carter, Raja Philip, Joan Fuller, Diana Robbins, Brandon (a guest in worship), Joshua Reed, and Betty & Steve Prorak for moving everything out of classrooms and Fellowship Hall. Betty, Dan, and Doris were there Friday night to set up tables for crafters. Chuck Bohl, Kim Martin, John Martin, Dan and Doris took turns helping on the set-up shift Saturday morning. Jane Reid, Chuck, John, Kim, and Doris greeted shoppers as they arrived and supervised the raffle. Ed, Aurora, & Chloe Slinkman, Doris, Diana, and Kim got to work moving things back into their usual places while Betty and John were off collecting the signs that had been posted in the neighborhood.

A special HUGE thank you to Doris Carter, Betty Prorak, and Marie Conquest who did everything else since late January to make the 7th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair possible.

Once the bills are paid for newspaper ads and donuts, the Fair will have raised \$1,213 for the ministries of the church.

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 last choir practices of the season are on Mondays May 15 and June 5 at 7:00pm.

Joys and Concerns

Tina Marie Amadeo placed membership with CCVP on Sunday, April 23. She has already made herself a part of our fellowship with worship, Sunday school, and the craft fair. Welcome, Tina Marie!

Norine Nelson returned home from rehab in mid-April. She is happy to be there!

Ruth and John Martin celebrated 35 years of marriage on May 1. Congratulations!

Betty Prorak enjoyed a challenging week at the Stephen Ministries Leadership Training Course in St. Louis April 23 – 29.

Laura Reed had a rewarding, refreshing time with Bethany Fellows last week learning more about being a good pastor.

Carl Kagebein is doing well since his surgery last month. Keep him and Joan in prayer as they adjust to his new diet.

Minni's cousin Ramani is recovering from surgery to remove a cancerous growth.

Word recently reached the church that former member Shirley Rathbone passed away early in April.

Marie Conquest's cousin Cathy Roher passed away last week. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 Jane Reid
29 Joan Fuller
29 Kailash Naidoo

2 Marie & Bob Conquest
4 Laura & Joshua Reed
22 Joan & Carl Kagebein



Deloris Yowell has moved into assisted living at the Springs at Monarch landing. Her room phone number is 630-995-8580 and her address is now:

The Springs at Monarch Landing
2308 N. Route 59, room 242
Naperville, IL 60563

Lisa Gonzalez has completed her move to California. Her new address is:

144 Circle Drive
Concord, CA 94518.

Summer Worship Time

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

Ken Newton shared this article from *The Visitor*, the newsletter of Central Christian Church in Enid, Oklahoma:

“Embracing Grace, Authenticity and Mission”

There is widespread agreement that if a church is to survive this century, then it must do what most churches resist doing. It must change. To avoid joining the thousands of churches that will die by the end of this century, I believe there are three major changes that many churches need to make.

1. Churches must wholeheartedly embrace the grace of Jesus. Jesus prevented religious folks from throwing rocks at sinners, and so should we. Of all of the human organizations on this fragmented planet, the church should be a place where all people are welcomed to join a community of grace, love and forgiveness. Without fear of being judged, bullied, or ridiculed, all people should feel welcomed to come as they are and honestly and openly confess their sinfulness and brokenness, and then receive grace. Then, they should be encouraged to share that same grace with others. I believe all churches should be open and affirming, because a church that follows Jesus has no business being closed and condemning.

2. Churches must wholeheartedly embrace the authenticity of Jesus. Some church people have the reputation of being like the people Jesus criticized the most: hypocrites. Therefore, we must stop claiming to follow Jesus on Sunday morning while ignoring everything Jesus taught the rest of the week. This means that blessing the poor, standing up for the powerless, and fighting for those who hunger and thirst for justice should always be our priority. It means loving our neighbors as ourselves, selflessly and sacrificially, no matter the cost.

3. Churches must wholeheartedly embrace the mission of Jesus. Jesus never confined his ministry to the Temple or a synagogue. Church people must be willing to move out of the sanctuary into a hurting world. Instead of inviting people to come to church on Sunday, we should be asking people to be the Church everyday by doing the things Jesus did such as: eating and drinking with outsiders, feeding the hungry, welcoming the foreigner, becoming a friend to the oppressed, and being a healing presence for all who need wholeness.

Dr. Banks, Pastor



Marie Conquest is employed as a receptionist and switchboard operator currently. Sounds like a fun job. Hope it is.

Ruth Martin, Beth Morgan, Don Craft and Janice Vaughn Craft had a great trip to South Korea visiting Brianna Morgan as well as the country itself.

Carl Kagebein is up and about, seen at the Arts and Crafts show with Joan. Looks good, and that has to be good!

Chloe Slinkman is walking with the help of a brace after spraining her ankle. Sister, Aurora, is seeking summer work now that the summer vacation time is here for her.

Kailash Naidoo says son Khelan will graduate with a Masters in Health Management shortly, and will be looking for work very soon. Congrats, Khelan!

Pentecost Special Offering



Planting churches can help change the world

“Planting a church can make a huge and lasting impression in the community it serves,” says Terrell L. McTyer, minister of New Church Strategies and church planter. “By empowering the oppressed, praying for the disenfranchised, caring for the poor and promoting hope in a fragmented world, the church can literally help change the world,” he adds.

Churches Change the World... Start More! is the theme for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 2017 Pentecost Offering, which will be celebrated Sundays, June 4 and June 11. To date, the Christian Church has started 980 new churches in the United States and Canada, sharing the gospel with more than 61,500 individuals since initiating the 2020 Vision in 2000. According to McTyer our original goal was to start 1,000 new congregations by 2020, but we can’t stop there. “We must continue our journey by setting our heights higher, planting even more churches and equipping more courageous leaders,” he says.

Each year, half of the Pentecost Offering is designated to the local Christian Disciples Region/Area in an effort to start and sustain new churches. The other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy.

Disciples are on course to starting 1,000 new churches by 2020. For additional information visit www.hopepmt.org.

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Stephen Ministries

As mentioned earlier in this Foresight, Betty Prorak attended a Leadership Training Course in April to become a Stephen Leader for our congregation. Prior to her attending, the congregation enrolled with Stephen Ministries. What does all that mean? See the next two pages to introduce yourself to the Stephen Series and Stephen Ministry.

Q&A Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions about the Stephen Series®

■ Why the name *Stephen*?

In Acts 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community.

■ What's the difference between the Stephen Series and Stephen Ministry?

The **Stephen Series** is the overall ministry system—including training, resources, structure, and ongoing support—used by congregations to equip and empower a team of laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people.

Stephen Ministry is the ministry that happens when a congregation implements the Stephen Series system.

■ What are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are laypeople trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

■ In what types of situations do Stephen Ministers provide care?

Stephen Ministers provide care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles.

■ What are Stephen Leaders?

Stephen Leaders are the pastors, other church staff members, and lay leaders who are

equipped to direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation. Stephen Leaders have gifts and skills in areas such as leadership, teaching, and organizing people, along with a heart for caring ministry.

■ What is a Leader's Training Course?

A Leader's Training Course (LTC) is a one-week event where pastors, other church staff, and lay leaders are equipped to serve as Stephen Leaders. They learn the Stephen Series system so they can establish and lead Stephen Ministry in their congregations.

■ Does the LTC train people to become Stephen Ministers?

It doesn't—the LTC trains people to be Stephen Leaders, the ones who direct Stephen Ministry in the congregation. Stephen Leaders then train members of their congregation to serve as Stephen Ministers and provide care.

■ How does Stephen Ministry benefit pastors?

Stephen Ministry supports pastors by deepening, expanding, and extending the caregiving capacity of their congregations. A team of Stephen Ministers, together with a pastor, can provide ongoing care for more people than the pastor could provide alone. This also frees pastors to invest more time in other important ministry areas.

■ Do Stephen Ministers care for people outside their congregation?

Yes. Stephen Ministers often provide care for people in the broader community, enhancing and expanding a congregation's outreach in a powerful way.

Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions about the Stephen Series

■ Will people commit to training and serving as Stephen Ministers?

Yes—and more than 600,000 have done so since 1975. Laypeople are eager to use their God-given gifts in meaningful ministry to others.

■ How many congregations have Stephen Ministry?

More than 12,000 congregations have Stephen Ministry—representing over 170 denominations, all 50 states, all 10 Canadian provinces, and 29 other countries. Many of these congregations have had Stephen Ministry going for more than 30 years.

■ What is enrollment?

Enrollment begins a relationship between Stephen Ministries and a congregation. The congregation pays a one-time enrollment fee, with no annual dues or fees to remain enrolled, and receives many benefits, including:

- A step-by-step system for an effective lay caring ministry
- Access to high-quality training and resources
- Free ongoing consultation and support

■ What does the Stephen Ministry logo mean?

The Stephen Ministry logo represents a care receiver's journey from brokenness toward wholeness through the cross of Jesus. In this way, it illustrates "Christ caring for people through people," which is the Stephen Ministry motto.

■ Will Stephen Ministry work in my situation?

Stephen Ministry works well in congregations of all sizes, demographics, and styles, including—

- Congregations with fewer than 100 members and more than 10,000.
- Congregations in urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- Congregations that are mainline, evangelical, traditional, contemporary, missional, and non-denominational.
- Congregations founded in the 1700s and in the current decade.

Stephen Ministry works in so many different situations because two factors are constant for every congregation:

1. There are always many more people in need of care, both in the congregation and in the community, than a pastor alone can care for.
2. There are always gifted laypeople capable of providing high-quality Christian care—if they're trained and organized to do so.

■ What is the Stephen Ministries organization?

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975. Our staff of 40 carry out our mission to "equip God's people for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12). Helping congregations get involved in the Stephen Series is a major way we accomplish this mission.

