

April 2, 2011

Grace and Peace to you Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I am very excited to write to you about all that has been happening in our church over the last year and a half and what our near future holds. Since the Feast, the two day worship revival in August 2009, we have continued to feel the Spirit moving in our midst. We have been blessed with many people who have chosen to make CCVP their church home, including families and single people in all age ranges and life experiences.

We have continued to try new things in worship, most recently our little Feast worship on Band Sundays, each second Sunday of the month. We continued to worship the first Wednesday of the month in Taize style, and will continue with weekly Wednesday worship through Lent. We observed Ash Wednesday with members of New Hope Community Church, one of our neighboring churches in Villa Park.

In the next few weeks we will celebrate the ordination of Tristan Orozco, a member of our church and recent graduate of the University of Chicago. On May 1st we will celebrate five years of ministry together. Can you believe I have been your pastor for five years? It has been a blessed time.

We will also observe Holy Week with a Maundy Thursday evening service featuring the church choir and worship around tables, in remembrance of Christ's meal with the disciples. We will have a 24 hour Prayer Vigil, and conclude the celebration with Easter Worship. Come hear John Reynolds on the trumpet, the choir, and a good word about how Christ overcomes death, giving all who call upon his name new life. Hallelujah.

The Food Pantry continues to serve the community, serving more than 600 people every month. They have been blessed with several smaller grants, making the purchase of an additional refrigerator possible, along with expanding the quantity of food we offer clients. We are fortunate to have so many regular volunteers from among our church family and the neighborhood.

We are in the middle of a Visioning process, which we pray will help illuminate God's path for our church and give us a three year ministry plan. We have had wonderful attendance at both the first Retreat and follow-up potluck. It is a blessing to see how much you all love your church and how committed you are to finding what is next for us as we serve the Lord and our community.

This summer we will begin a regularly offered series on the book Unbinding the Gospel by Martha Grace Reese. This book and series offer practical, easy ways to share the faith that God has entrusted to us. Beginning June 1st and running for six weeks, and then beginning again on July 27 - August 31st, you may join us for the first or second session and learn how to put words to the faith that is in your heart.

The rest of 2011 looks to be an exciting and blessed time for our congregation. I have no doubt that it will see us worshiping the Lord, serving the hungry, and seeking God's guidance for our church and our personal lives. I give thanks for each one of you, and the ministry we do together for the glory of the Lord. May this year be filled with blessings for you and yours.

God bless, Rev. Kerry Waller