

Foresight

Looking to the Future

Christian Church of Villa Park
1336 S. Villa Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

Phone: (630) 833-7262

E-mail: ccvp1336@yahoo.com

Pastor: Dave Holston



Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Pastor's Letter

Wow! It's 2025! Seems like just yesterday it was 1999, about to become 2000, and many were forecasting catastrophes, the end of the world and the second coming of Jesus. Now, it's a quarter of a century later. It sure does seem like just yesterday, doesn't it? The only real difference is that I am 25 years older and have eighteen grandchildren instead of just three!

Oh, to be sure lots of events have occurred. I have retired, gone back to school, and now have the privilege of being the pastor of a wonderful mission church. We are feeding people through our food pantry each week, praying and ministering to them. Each Sunday, we worship together and have had a steady stream of visitors all year, several of whom have joined our church. Our Love Your Neighbor Day (LYND) was a great success in September, as was our CROP walk. Christi and I, along with Dan and Doris Carter, participated with Lombard UCC in a mission trip to Costa Rica during the summer, where we built two houses. Some of you financially supported us in that mission and we are grateful.

It was a good year, but....

I have always been a doer and not a very patient person. I want things to get done now. I like to make a plan and then execute that plan. When I came here eighteen months ago, CCVP was mourning the loss of a pastor who had made a career change, adjusting to new quarters in a building that had been sold to our former renters, and trying to figure out who we were in today's world.

We still don't quite know completely, do we? But....

We serve a God that does know. Those of you who have been here since the earliest days of Christian Church of Villa Park, have seen the church family grow, raising children who, although may have left CCVP, have in many cases stayed faithful in their worship in new churches in the areas where they now live and have participated in various mission projects either locally, back home in our area, or even out of the country. The President of Villa Park participated in our LYND project back in September and gave thanks for the contribution our church has made over the years. You have made a difference. We are still making a difference and are demonstrating the love of God to a lost world! Your faith is evident in your work over the years.

But...

We are still waiting. In my daily devotion, I often cry out, "When Lord? What God? What do you want us to do?" I don't like waiting. But God says, "Wait."

I'm reading "*When Church Stops Working: A Future for Your Congregation Beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*" by Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand and I want to share this quote with you.

"This is faith: that what God has promised, God will do.

This is hope: that the God who began a good work will see it to completion."



I believe God is saying to us, "Have faith, wait. I am about to do something through you. "My hope and belief is that the God who created you and me is not done with us yet.

(Continued on page 2)

We need to be revived. But...

Revival begins with a seed and then grows when watered by the Holy Spirit. We read about the revival of Pentecost last year in Acts. The same book I am reading tells us, "*Throughout Christian history, almost every revival we know of starts with a renewed reading of the Bible.*" So, this year, in addition to the Sunday school Bible class we have before church at 9:00, I will be starting a Bible study on Wednesday nights, most likely either on Zoom or on Facebook. I hope some of you can join us. More on that soon.

Pastor Dave

Sunday Morning Schedule

Bible study meets at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, September through May.
All ages are invited to gather together for an opening activity and to hear the Bible story before we break into groups for conversation, crafts, and games.

Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. in person and on Facebook Live

Foresight News Deadline

The next quarterly issue of this newsletter will come out on April 8, 2025 with a news deadline of 11am on April 7. Send anything you would like included to Betty Prorak at BLProrak@yahoo.com or mail it to the church.

Looking Ahead...

- Pastor Dave is on vacation until Friday, January 17. (Please contact Betty Prorak with pastoral needs.)
- Wednesday, January 29, 7:00pm: Stewardship Council meeting
- Sundays, February 16 and 23: Week of Compassion Special Offering
- Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am: Distribution of ashes during Pantry hours
- Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm: Ash Wednesday worship service
- Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday worship service
- Friday, April 18, Good Friday, 6:30am-7:30pm: Prayer Vigil

Disciples Food Pantry

The Pantry is open every Wednesday 9:30-11:30am.
Clients enter from Villa Avenue and receive food by the parking lot door.

December 31, 2024 Financial Summary

	October	November	December	Year-to-date
Income for budget items:	\$6,290.98	\$15,789.33	\$7,261.65	\$89,247.83
Budgeted expenses:	\$7,473.16	\$8,185.62	\$7,955.49	\$93,544.59

The November income includes \$10,000 from our investment account.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

We Find Joy and Give Thanks...



- Dave and Christi Holston are enjoying time in Florida with two of Dave's grandchildren (and those grandchildren's parents).
- It was a joy to have Pastor Ruth Sutter join us as guest preacher on January 12.
- Pantry volunteer Robert was saved recently from choking by Chuck Pucci.
- A former Pantry client, Kathryn, is on her way to start school in Virginia. This is a major step forward for her and she gives thanks to the Pantry and the church for the support given to her.
- Doris Carter and Betty Prorak completed an evaluation form for the Regional Office on Dave's work as our pastor (necessary for his meeting with them next month). Doris and Betty only had good things to say!
- Tina Amodeo's family has a friend who is going to see that the roof of their garage is repaired.
- Abby Kumar placed membership with CCVP on November 24, 2024.
- Chuck Pucci's hand is recovering nicely from surgery in late October.
- Betty Prorak's sister-in-law Sue is making great progress in her recovery from her fall with her horse. Therapy for her shoulder continues.
- Ken Newton celebrated his 98th birthday on November 11.
- The Carters and Versons enjoyed their time in Arizona in October.
- Pastor Dave got through the extractions of six teeth mid-October. Now his tongue is adjusting to their replacements.
- We give thanks for Dave being our pastor!

Please Pray for...



- Dave as our Pastor (It takes a lot of work!)
- Joan Fuller who will have knee surgery this Friday, January 17.
- Pastor Dave's sister Jeannie who has cancer and is in hospice.
- Peter, a long-time friend of the Carters, passed away on Monday, January 13, after complications from a liver transplant. Please hold his widow Barb and the rest of the family in prayer.
- Melancthon Philip's family as they mourn his passing.
- Lucy Carter, Dan and Doris Carter's sister-in-law
- John, Betty and Steve Prorak's brother-in-law, as he adjusts to medications and routines needed for his mental and emotional well-being.
- Sharon Philip as she seeks a new job.
- Abby Kumar as she seeks a new job to stay in the country and pay off her student loans.
- Deepthi, Abby's dear friend in India who needs a kidney transplant.
- Tina Amodeo's friends Arpith and Sweety in India and Stacie in Africa.
- The healing/well-being of:
 - Amy Crouch
 - John Martin
 - Ruth Martin
 - Michele Grayson
 - Jayne Hochstetler
 - Tina Amodeo
 - Tina's mother (also named Tina)
 - Tina's father Sam
 - Minni Philip (who is sick as of 1/12/25)
 - John Martin's sister Teresa Shoff
 - Kathy Quint and her daughter Diane (friends of Joan Fuller)
 - Ken Newton (current address: Vines Senior Homes, 971 Bode Road, Elgin, IL 60120)
 - Jerry Robbins
 - Carol Robbins
 - Diana Robbins
 - Carl Kagebein
 - Pantry clients, especially Judy ("the bread lady")
 - Joan Fuller's sister Gloria
 - Heidi (anxiety)

Fund-raising with Gift Cards



The next order for Jewel gift cards will be placed on January 26 to be delivered on February 2 (another order will be placed at the end of March). Please let Betty Prorak know what card(s) you would like. The church receives 5% of the cost of any cards we order as a group.

The RaiseRight (formerly ShopWithScrip) gift card order will be due on February 23, 2025. 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 <https://www.raiseright.com/>, contact Betty Prorak (BLProrak@yahoo.com) for the church's enrollment code.

February, March and April Celebrations

February 6	Heidi		March 12	Sharon Philip
8	Ruth Martin		22	Minni Philip
16	Jayne Hochstetler		April 5	Diana Robbins
March 4	Freya Verson		20	Dan Carter
5	Amy Slinkman			



April 14 Betty & Steve Prorak

April 29 Amy & Ed Slinkman

The Love of a True Friend (with Jesus)

What can one possibly share to express the flight
That brought them, blindingly, close to the enfolding Light,
Which was so life-changing and internally bright
Because only feeling (the love of)
one's true Friend could widen the sight;

...

But that feeling is not the only Way, as knowledge brings might,
Which can grow one's confidence into challenging a plight
That's been, forever, won through one's true Friend's love fight
What else could possibly guide one through the darkest night.

Tender Sender/T.M.A.



To view a video about this special offering, go to:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT2_Top49UQ