



The GOOD NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RANCHO SANTA FE, CALIFORNIA VOLUME 7 NUMBER 9 **October 2005**

Celebrating our Past — Envisioning our Future — Join Us

Nearly fifty years ago, a group of people had a vision for the founding of a Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe. Out of that vision in the spring of 1956, The Village Community Presbyterian Church was born. Over the years, the members of the Village Church built a legacy of faithful Christian worship, discipleship and service in North County, to the glory of God. As we prepare to celebrate this milestone in our church history, it is also vital that we take a thoughtful look at where the Village Church is today and where it is headed in the years to come.

Each of you is invited to attend one of several light meals and discussions with our Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jack Baca during the month of October. The purpose of these discussions will be to learn more about the vision, needs, and future direction of the Village Church as we contemplate our ongoing service to Jesus Christ. You will also hear an update on plans for possible enhancements to our church campus over the next few years. This is a great opportunity to hear some of the “big picture” thinking from Jack as part of an enjoyable social event with your church family.

The dates for these events to be held in the Fellowship Center are:

Sunday, 10/ 9	7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (dessert)
Sunday, 10/16	12:00 – 1:30 p.m. (light lunch)
Sunday, 10/16	7:00 – 8:30 p.m. (dessert)
Sunday, 10/30	12:00 – 1:30 p.m. (light lunch)

We look forward to your seeing you at one of these events! RSVP by calling or e-mailing Roxie Jenkins (858-756-2441, roxiej@villagechurch.org).

Register for The All Church Retreat

Join us at the Annual All-Church Retreat November 4—6 when we will return to the tranquility of Warner Springs Ranch to join together in learning, fellowship and just plain fun!



Our guest this year will be Tim Smith, speaker, author and President of Life Skills for American Families. Tim has written over a dozen books, including: *The Relaxed Parent*, *Life Skills for Girls*, and *Life Skills for Guys*, *Connecting Teens and Parents*. You can find out more about him from his website: www.parentscoach.com. Retreat topics include:

- Friday: "Moving Your Fast Family From Chaos to Closeness"*
- Sat AM: "Connecting With Your Kids (& grandkids)"*
- Sat PM: "REAL Family Values"*
- Sun AM: (kids attending with adults)
"Trading Spaces" (BLESS)*

There will be activities for all ages: adults, children's programs and child care, junior and senior high activities, with plenty of time included for relaxation and fellowship.

You can register on the patio between Sunday services or online at our website: www.villagechurch.org. See you there!

Jack's Journal



“You can’t get there from here,” is the punch line to a famous joke about the lost traveler who asked the Vermont farmer for directions. It is one of those phrases that pops into my mind when I pull out a map or begin to think seriously about the future.

“You can’t get there from here.” Where is “here” anyway? And to where must I go before I can get to “there?” Am I even sure “there” is where I’ll want to be, or would I rather settle someplace along the way? Maybe it is all just so much fuss about nothing, and I’ll go somewhere else, but maybe I can’t get there from here!

Our church is in a season of thinking about the future, of making sure we are on the same page and using the same map. The cover article of this issue of the Good News is about how we’re going to be thinking together about these issues. Let me give you some background information and some food for thought.

First, we need to remember that God’s people are always going somewhere! From the time God told Abraham to leave Ur and go to the Promised Land, we’ve been on the move. Theologically speaking, God is leading us more deeply into the good life we find as we follow Jesus. We are, quite literally, going somewhere with Jesus!

For some time now, our church leaders have been praying, working and thinking about where God is leading the Village Church and about how we are going to get there from here. The place to which we are going—as individual believers and as a family of believers—is a place of greater blessing, wider service, increased impact, deeper devotion, and more faithful reproduction of Christ’s life within our own. Our families, community, and larger world, need us to bring God’s grace and

truth to bear in all we do, and we are learning how to do that by following Jesus.

Specifically what this means to our many ministries is being spelled out in increasing detail, and we need your help to continue the process. We need to know your ideas, your dreams, and your needs. We need to know how the Spirit is speaking to you about your own personal life and about our life as a church. We need to know what your vision of “there” is and your ideas of “where” we need to go in order to get “there!”

Your leaders, of course, have been thinking of these things for quite some time, and we’d like to share with you what our thinking is. In general terms, our church has been growing numerically for several years. We also have been growing spiritually, becoming more and more interested in experiencing the blessed and powerful life that Jesus promised. We are not happy with faith that is on the sidelines of our lives. We want a vital, challenging, dynamic, enriching experience with God, and God is ready to help us have exactly that! Go back and read the Gospels: following Jesus was nothing if not a great adventure.



I believe that in this coming year—the 50th year of our existence—God is leading us to take some bold steps forward in our mission and ministry here at the Village Church, and I hope that every single one of you who calls this church your spiritual home will participate in one of the Celebrating & Envisioning desserts in October. God means for us to be together in this grand journey of following Jesus, and I am so grateful and excited to be included in this great company.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Bacon".

Who Are Our Acolytes?



The Acolyte Ministry at The Village Church is a prime opportunity enabling young people to take a first step in a lifetime of active participation and ministry within the church.

Young people who pursue their servant ministry as acolytes enjoy being a valuable part of our worship service.

Acolytes lead the way for worship by lighting the candles on the altar at the beginning of the service. Our acolyte facilitator Mrs. Sue Harris trains the young people in their duties and helps them into their robes on Sunday mornings prior to worship.

Acolytes must be in the 4th, 5th, or 6th grade, have a desire to take an active part in this servant ministry, and maintain their commitment and loyalty within the Church. Acolyte values are Servanthood, Commitment, Loyalty, Timeliness, Leadership and High Standards in all we are and do.

These are God's children serving Him and His congregation with joyful hearts!

If you know a young person who is interested in becoming an acolyte, please call Kathy Hogan in the Children's Ministries office, 868-756-6736, ext. 121.

A Good Book to Read

"Every Child Needs a Praying Mom" by Fern Nichols is a book to bless and inspire you. Fern encourages her readers to use the four steps of prayer, how to prepare for any spiritual battles your child may be facing, and how to use the Bible to pray.

Amazing things take place when you pray for your kids and this book will inspire you.

Check it out of the **library in Dierenfield Lounge** next Sunday!



Drama Ministry Christmas Play

Celebrate with your family, on Saturday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center, a performance of one of America's Christmas classic stories, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by the Village Players. This well-loved play relates how the Herdmans, the worst kids in the world who lie and steal invade the church one Sunday and decide to take over the annual Christmas pageant. None of them has ever heard the Christmas story before. Their interpretation - the Wise Men are a bunch of dirty spies and Herod needs a good beating has a lot of people up in arms. But the actual pageant is full of surprises for everyone, starting with the Herdmans themselves. The play is lively, funny and wonderful as the Christmas story takes on a strangely moving depth of meaning and shines through with a new brilliance. You won't want to miss this!



Nursery School Update

The Village Nursery School is off to a great year with Pam Miller as the new director. There are 210 students and 14 full classes.

This well respected program is getting even better.

We have added teacher Barbara Nelson, who comes with 20 years of experience. She joins our outstanding staff of experienced child care professionals.

In the new chapel program the children will be spending the year learning and talking about the fruits of the spirit — both in chapel and in class. And, there will be an art and music program that starts later this fall.

We are blessed to have this important ministry and look forward to another successful year.



"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence"

— Ephesians 3:12

My Church Wanted To Care—A Stephen Ministry Case Study

Beverly could not possibly have anticipated the tragic turn her life would take when she kissed her husband, David, good-bye after lunch that day. Recalls Beverly, “He said, “I’ll see you later, “ and left. I never saw him again.”

On his way back to work David died instantly in a traffic accident. Because of the nature of his injuries, Beverly didn’t see his body. “I never had closure,” she said. “I knew he was dead, but in some ways I didn’t believe it. I was in shock, I couldn’t even cry.”

“Seven weeks after the accident, I was alone and visiting his grave. That’s when I finally realized he was gone. I fell apart. I remember thinking, “if I was sick, I’d go to the doctor. If I had a toothache, I’d go to the dentist.” I had a spiritual problem, but I didn’t know where to go. When I looked across the cemetery, I saw my church in the distance. That’s where I went.”

“My church had provided some immediate care, but I needed more. I needed someone to hold my hand through the days and weeks ahead, to point me in the right direction and walk with me. My church wanted to care, but just didn’t have the resources to provide the ongoing care I needed.”

Then Beverly heard about Stephen Ministry from a friend in another state. “I began calling churches in my area and asking if they had Stephen Ministry. I finally found one in a neighboring town. I went there and met with one of their Stephen Leaders, and I was assigned a Stephen Minister. We’ve been meeting ever since. My Stephen Minister has given me a reason to go on. She encourages me to grieve and gives me a safe place to do that. She helps me remember to take small steps as I continue to grow in the Lord.”

With the encouragement and support of her Stephen Minister, Beverly began to piece her life

together again. But her story does not stop there. Having benefited from Stephen Ministry in another congregation, she decided to bring it to her own congregation.

“We have so many needs for care in my own congregation, and there are people who may not be strong enough or persistent enough to find the care they need. They are out there pulling the covers over their heads. I want to help hurting people who are all alone in their pain.”

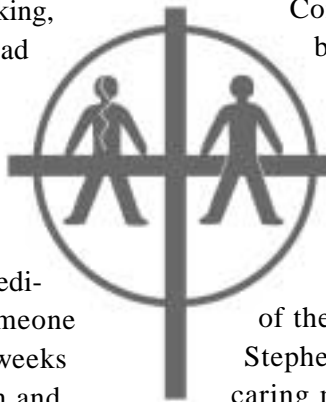
After much prayer and discussion with her pastor, Beverly gave a donation in memory of her husband to get Stephen Ministry started at First Congregational Church. “I had wanted to bring Stephen Ministry to our church for a long time,” said Beverly’s pastor.

“And now the time was right.”

Beverly’s congregation enrolled in the Stephen series and she, her pastor and another lay person attended a Leader’s Training Course. The three of them have now equipped a team of Stephen Ministers who have multiplied the caring ministry happening in and through their congregation.

“Stephen Ministry is the good that is coming from my bad situation,” said Beverly. “I want others to benefit from a Stephen Minister’s care when they go through a crisis, just like I did. I know I couldn’t have survived the past year of my life without my Stephen Minister.”

The Village Church has an active Stephen Ministry program. If you are interested in talking with someone about any of your own life issues, please contact Rev. Jan Farley and she will match you up with one of our trained leaders. This program has helped many people through a variety of crises — in any type of situation where you need to talk with someone. Don’t hesitate to call if you have a need. We’re here, waiting to help you.



Hurricane Relief Fund

As we continue to see the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, please be aware that we are accepting donations through the church for disaster relief efforts, to be forwarded to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Teams from PDA are already in the affected regions assessing the needs and determining the best avenues for help. Checks may be made payable to "The Village Church" with a notation for "Hurricane relief." Please keep those affected by the storm, and those working to assist survivors, in your prayers!

Progress Report from Kenya

Following the Village Church ministry team's trip to Kenya and having Stu Ross come to explain the wonderful mission opportunities there, our congregation responded by generously donating \$160,000 in funds to build churches in Kenya. These churches are typically the only structure in the community and serve as both school and meeting place. In a recent letter from Stu Ross we are told that the following churches will be built in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa:

The Mtwapa Church will be for 300 members and could grow to 1,000 to support an area 20 km north of Mombasa. Construction is scheduled to start in February and be completed in July/August. They may build a brick making machine that can be used for other churches in the area.

The Chaani Church on the West Coast of Mombassa will be a large mabati that will seat 500 people. They hope to start construction in October/November 2005.

Three churches (Hindi, Bomani, and Terereni) will be built in the very poor Mpeketoni area in the January/March timeframe.

The Taveta Church will be the second church in the Voi region, 150 km north of Mombasa.

Thank you for making these new churches possible through your missions giving.

Christmas Program Help Needed

The Village Church is currently looking for people who are willing to share some of their time and energy to help make a difference in God's community. There are a number of opportunities available. Did you know volunteering is very good for your health and spirit?

Just imagine, you can: Serve the Lord and make new friends, challenge your brain and get more exercise, share in something your kids enjoy, do something new, the list goes on...you get the idea!!

Children's Ministries is looking for a gifted group of people. First we need someone who has a heart for children and drama to direct the Children's Christmas Pageant. Next, a pageant costume coordinator (we have the costumes), and lastly a pageant make-up artist for the performance.

If you would like to thoroughly enjoy yourself, and positively impact the lives of a great group of children please pray about these opportunities and call Karen Jensen for more detailed information at 858-756-6736, ext 119.



Successful Harvest Table Season



Thank you for supporting the Harvest Table mission by bringing produce, baking delicious treats and freely spending on these special goods. All funds raised at the Harvest Table go to San Diego Rescue Mission, which reaches out to the homeless in San Diego. In addition to providing overnight shelters and meals, the mission also offers a 12-month holistic rehabilitation program for men, a 12-month holistic rehabilitation program for women and their children and Nueva Vida Haven, an emergency shelter for women and their children. Your support makes a big difference in people's lives. Village Church member, Kay Wilder, is the current chairperson on the Mission's Board of Directors.

Investing for Eternity...

...is the wise investment of our time, abilities, and finances in ways that honor God and serve God's purposes in the world. Investing for Eternity is not simply about supporting a church budget or program; it is an investment in the ongoing work of Christ in the world through the church. It is a wise investment in God's eternal purposes.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt. 6:21), and our financial support and stewardship is an expression of our heart for God.

How can our investment help? What will our sound Christian stewardship really accomplish?

- It's an investment in our future, as the church helps to raise our children in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The church is a solid foundation of Christian character for our children to help guide them in a society of rapidly shifting morals and values.
- It's an investment in ourselves. We are fulfilled through the teachings of Jesus Christ, the fellowship we experience, the abundant knowledge we attain, and the power of our spiritual journey.
- It's an investment in changing lives. Literally thousands of people are positively impacted through the Village Church's mission partners at home and around the world. The Village Church, through your financial giving, supports Christian ministries on five continents.
- It's an investment in our community. Whether it be a church event or a group, families are strengthened, healthy relationships are fostered and we make and nurture disciples to serve God's Kingdom.
- God can take any investment, large or small, and through it reap great dividends for his Kingdom. Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than receive" (Acts 20:35). In giving generously we also experience God's blessing in our own lives.

The Village Church has a fifty-year history of ministry and mission from the heart of Rancho Santa Fe. Your generous giving through the church makes it possible to carry on our legacy of Christian ministry and service as we continue our journey of "Following Jesus for Life." Your giving truly is an investment for eternity.

Join Us In Bible Study & Discipleship Classes — Something for Everyone



Small Group Bible Study:

A small group Bible study for couples that meets twice a month on Sunday night at 7:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study:

Held every Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Center. Child Care is provided.

Women's Early Morning Bible Study:

Meets at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings at Denny's.

Men's Bible Breakfast:

Meets at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings at Denny's.

Men's Bible Study:

Meets Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club Crosby Room.

Men's Evening Bible Study:

Meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

People of Prayer:

Junior High Bible Study Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Lounge

Senior High Bible Study Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Lounge

Village Life:

Wednesdays, Sept. 21-Nov. 16
5:30 p.m. (dinner), 6:30 p.m. (program)

Planning Gifts to the Village Christian Foundation

This fall promises to be an exciting time for Village Christian Foundation as your financial gifts continue to enable it to support the mission of the Village Church throughout the local community and to other parts of the world. Remember, no matter what your goals for contributions to the Village Christian Foundation are, we can help with the implementation of a plan that efficiently satisfies your desires while maximizing the overall benefits to you and the Village Christian Foundation. From the simple outright gift to the complex estate plan, please call upon us to help to guide you through some of the legal and tax aspects of proper gift planning be it with cash gifts, gifts of appreciated securities, gifts of personal property, gifts of real property, or gifts of life insurance. These are only a few ways that we can help plan a gift around your needs.

This month we'll highlight gifts of real property. Yes, you can contribute appreciated real estate to Village Christian Foundation. Examples are personal residences, ranches, commercial property and most any other real estate. Some gifts of ranch property and personal residences can provide a current (deductible) gift, yet allow you to retain the right to live on or farm the property for life or the joint lives of you or your spouse.

For more information please contact Jerry Harris, President of the Village Christian Foundation at (858) 756-0317.

Support the Soup Kitchen October 9

Junior and Senior High School students will go to the First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Diego to serve lunch on Sunday, October 9 from 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Serving this ministry qualifies for service hours. Village Church student ministries has supported this mission for many years, providing hands-on help to the needy.



October Birthdays

- 1 Don Rindell
- 3 David Marshman,
Jack Baca,
Xandra Scott
- 4 Stacey Fricker, Andrea Hulsey
- 5 Bob Bernhard
- 6 Shannon Frost, Fred Cutler, Kerri Swarner,
Lois Calkin
- 7 Fir Geenen, Sandra Klingelhofer
- 9 Jennifer Forte
- 10 Betty Edman, Barbara McWilliams,
Mona Nelson,
- 11 Mary Ruth Hakken, Marge Camp, John Reed,
Samantha Robert
- 12 Linda Moore, Ruth Godley, Kathi Burg
- 13 Martha Walker Reed, Gregory Hall,
Becky McKinney
- 14 Jack Edman
- 15 Harold Steese, Paul Cook, Marlene Cashin
- 16 Bill Duley, June Looock, Barbie Major
- 17 Alex Lee, Fred Steese, Rebecca Baca
- 18 Kathy Hewitt
- 19 Joyce Oren
- 20 Taylor Sims, Chuck Arledge
- 21 Andy Shrader, Ron Cashin, Del Richey
- 22 Tom Bell
- 24 Jan Goodin, Donna Dixon
- 25 Taralyn Tanner
- 26 Vicki Steese, Ed Kim, Margaret Weigand,
Duff Sanderson, Barbara Metzler
- 27 Ron Hogan, Alex Harris, Amanda Harris,
Keith Edwards, Kris Gotta
- 28 Colin Cruickshank, John Miller
- 29 Susan Bailey Cowan, Ev Nienhouse,
Jerry Harris, Judi Panton, Anne Mitchell
- 30 Jan Farley, Debra Gilmore
- 31 Eric Sparling, Margaret Botka,
Greet Hostetler



*Above all else, guard your heart,
For it is the wellspring of life.
— Proverbs 4:23*

Submit stories to newsletter editor Laura Metzger (858) 755-7107, ljmetzger@adelphia.net.

Email, fax or leave your story in the church office (with pictures if you have them) and we'll do the rest. Submissions received after the 1st of the month may not appear until the following issue.

If you would like to help with our newsletter or the Village Church web site please call Bob Vernon (760) 438-4419.

Ushers Needed

We need volunteers who are willing to serve as ushers at each of the Sunday services (9:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.M.). If you are interested in helping out, please contact the Church Office.

The GOOD NEWS

Make a Difference — Sponsor a Child

Just an hour and a half south



of the church, the Los Angelitos Orphanage offers hope and healing to orphaned children in Mexico. If you are interested in sponsoring a child at Los Angelitos, contact the Rev. Mark Swarner for details.



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