



Calendar of Events

Missions Ministry Team
August 10, 7:00 p.m.

Financial Resources Committee
August 10, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Elders
August 11, 7:00 p.m.

Craft Night
August 12, 7:00 p.m.

Children's Education Ministry Team
August 14, Noon

PADS Sandwich Ministry
August 14, Noon

Worship Planners
August 14, 5:00 p.m.

Concert of Prayer
August 21, 6:30 p.m.

Dudes' Night
August 27, 5:00 p.m.

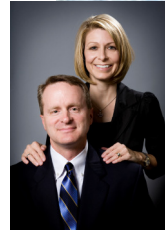
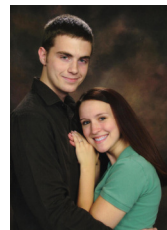
Weekly Dates:

Ignite (Sr. High Youth) & Club 180 (Middle School Youth)
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Eric and Emily Scarborough on the birth of Noah Jonathon, born on August 1st, 7 lbs. 10 oz., 21 in.



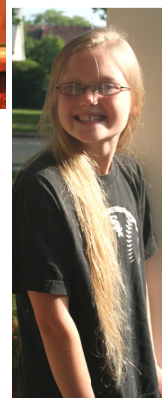
Congratulations to new members Andrew and Sarah Seaman and David and Joanna Hoag.



Congratulations to Anne and Kelvin Tohme who dedicated their daughter Lauryn Anne on June 19th. Lauryn was born on December 15, 2010.

Congratulations to Lillian Mauriello who received her white rose on June 5th. Lillian asked Jesus into her heart on April 14th.

Congratulations to Emma Uren who had her first haircut on July 29th and donated 12" to Pantene's Beautiful Lengths wig donation program.



Commissioning prayer was held for the Patterson family on June 5th. The kids of VCL also presented them with money for instruments to be used in their ministry in Slovakia.



We had a great turn-out and lots of fun at the annual **Ravinia** outing July 31st.



Dear Church Family,

Again you have blessed Pat and me with your overwhelming kindnesses while I was away on vacation, and I want to express my thanks to you! Thanks to your efforts, Pat had many visitors, and I'm certain she enjoyed each one! In addition, the caregivers at Manor Care greatly appreciated your visits. I know this is true because after my return (as on other occasions when I've been out of town and you've visited Pat), several of them made a special point to mention how wonderful all the people are who visited Pat. I, of course, know that you are the greatest, but it is wonderful to hear that others recognize this as well. In addition, there were special members of our congregation who helped with caring for Pat's laundry, standing "in the wings" to accompany Pat just in case she needed to go to the hospital or see a doctor, getting me to and from the airport, making the arrangements for all of these things, etc., etc. By doing these things, you allowed me to relax and enjoy my time away, because I knew that Pat would be well cared for, regardless of whatever she needed! So, thank you so very much for all that you have done and continue to do in serving my family and so many others! It is a great encouragement and a great testimony to everyone of the difference it makes when people are connected to one another through their connection to Christ! May the Lord greatly bless you and give you and your families a restful summer!

In Christ,
John Feinberg

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Associate Pastor
Ministries Administrator
Office Manager
Custodian

Lee Eclov
Michael Mauriello
Susan Eclov
Susan Beck
Angela Fischer

Elders: Warren Anderson (chair), Carl Johnson, and Jim Stamoolis



August 2011

Are You Wise Yet?

By Pastor Lee Eclov

Proverbs tells us again and again how wisdom calls out to us. That has certainly been true as I've preached through Proverbs 1-9. In August we will transition to a New Testament angle on wisdom. Colossians 2:3 says that in Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Think how rich we'll be for studying that text together on Aug. 14.

Wise women and Lady Wisdom will be front and center in our thinking on Aug. 21 when Anne Tohme opens the familiar passage from Proverbs 31 that begins, "A wife of noble character who can find?" We will honor women who are wise in the ways of the Lord that morning.

Beginning on Aug. 28 we will turn our attention to 1 Corinthians 1-3 in a series called "Good Minds." We will think about what Paul calls "the foolishness of God" in the gospel, and what it means that "we have the mind of Christ." See the *Vine* flap for the series details.

Remember, you can always listen to or read our sermons at our website, evcl.org.



Have you noticed that we're growing?

By Pastor Lee Eclov

Years ago, a colleague was interviewing for a pastoral position with a church plant. One of the founders of the church told him on the phone, "We started in a donut shop, but we got too big." (Get it?) Growth can be a funny thing.

Perhaps you've noticed that VCL is growing. As an interesting example: on the third Sunday of July last year we had about 150 adults and children in church. On the same Sunday this year, we had 220. I am

thrilled that so many people are exploring this wonderful church. Of course, we have yet to see our expected influx of Trinity students that we typically get once school starts. In past years, we have rarely had 200 people on even our biggest Sundays, let alone in the middle of July, so things have definitely been changing over

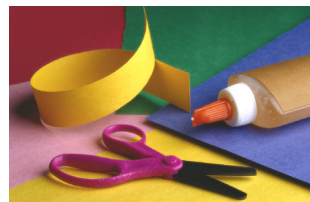
the last year!

Our newest attendees are coming from a variety of places. They are young and older, singles and families. A number of these friends have come from an area congregation that closed in early May.

This means, of course, that we need to roll out the welcome mat! What a privilege and responsibility God is giving us! I get excited thinking about the new gifts, passions and friendships that are awaiting us. Please be sure to greet each other and visit a few minutes after church. Take advantage of opportunities for fellowship meals or to pray or sing together. If you don't have one of our pictorial directories, pick one up at the Information Desk. (We'll update it again this fall.) You will undoubtedly see new faces helping in our worship services, greeting at the doors, and helping with other ministries.

The Board of Elders is beginning to think through the ramifications of moving to two services if this growth continues. A rule of thumb is that if a church is filled to 80% capacity frequently, it is time to consider another service. We're pretty close to that. We will certainly keep you posted on our thinking on this and we will seek your input this fall.

Join us for our monthly craft night at VCL on August 12th from 7p-11pm. Bring your craft or just come for some fellowship. This month children 6 and older are welcome to join their parents. They need to bring their own craft and 6-8 photos to use for a demo. Don't forget our swap table! Next month's demo will be hair bows by Londa Mauriello. Call Steph Ingersoll with questions.





"Who Is Wise and Understanding Among You?"

8/14 Wisdom's Treasury
Colossians 2:1-5

8/21 "She Is Worth More Than Rubies"
Proverbs 31:10-31

GOOD MINDS: 1 CORINTHIANS 1-3

8/28 The Foolishness of God
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Communion

9/4 Bragging Rights
1 Corinthians 1:26-31

9/11 A Way With Words
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

9/18 Inside Information
1 Corinthians 2:6-12

9/25 "We Have the Mind of Christ"
1 Corinthians 2:13-16

Prayer Requests



AUGUST PRAYER LIST

Please tear off this list and use it in your regular prayers for VCL

For God's help to warmly receive the many new friends who are coming to VCL. It isn't enough to be friendly; we want to love one another.

•
For the launch of Growth Groups this fall. We need new leaders and homes, and want to find the right place for each person desiring a small group.

•
For our Elders and other leaders to wisely adjust to our growth. How do we plan well for the future? How do we help new people find places of service?

•
For our new outreach ministries to senior adults in area nursing homes and retirement communities. Are there other ways God would have us be involved in compassionate outreach?

•
For our Human Resources Committee and Elders as new leaders are sought for 2012.

What's Happening at 9 AM on Sunday

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

Do you know what ABF means? Neither do we.

Well, that's not quite right. ABF is an acronym for Adult Bible Fellowships. ABF's developed as a church growth strategy and integration point for new church attenders. In larger churches, ABF's became the mini-congregation within a congregation; sort of like a Cheers. It was the place where "everyone would know your name." Generally, an ABF was 60-90 people big, with a committed teacher and coordinator.

In our church, it's what we've called our Sunday morning options for adults for years. Generally, we've had two "ABF's." The first is the "Mornings with Michael" group—which I took over in January. The second is Raymond Wunderlich's "Abundant Life" group. Neither are really ABF's. But both are great opportunities to stretch and grow. And they are places where everyone will know your name. And places to participate.

Several of you told us that you had no idea we had morning options before service. Well, you can't miss them now. Many of you have shown up for our special pecha-kucha summer, where we introduced our "Grounds for Convictions" coffee bar. You've seen that getting up early isn't a drag, it's fun. Well, the fun goes on all year long around Village Church!

Growth Groups Gear Up

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

Every since the earliest days of the early church, small bands of Christians have gotten together to seek the Lord's wisdom in his word, to gather for fellowship and encouragement. This is something we all need. Sunday morning is great; but we need small groups to get our own chance to talk about how things are going. God speaks to us on Sunday in worship. We speak to each other in our growth groups.

What are Growth Groups like? Most of our growth groups meet once a week or twice a month. Some have a meal. Others have tea. All have a time of prayer and in depth sharing about our lives, our joys, our hurts, and our longings. All have a time of learning and formation in Scripture. All are full of people caring for each other. They meet on different nights, in different places.

Most of you are in a growth group, and you know the value of these special gatherings of special people. We've had a lot of new folks lately, and we in-

Starting in September, our "Mornings with Michael" group and the "Abundant Life" class will be gearing up again for fellowship and learning. Is there a difference between the two? Yes. "Mornings with Michael" is a group that will always take a book of the Bible for and inductive look and lots of application discussion. "Abundant Life" is also discussion oriented, but deals more with its member's stories and life journeys with Jesus. Two different but wonderful approaches.

I'm thinking of a new name for these groups. They aren't Sunday Schools. They aren't ABF's. What they are though, is great. Naming things isn't always easy. But getting into a group for learning and growth, and fellowship, that's good. There are two on Sunday mornings. Which will you join? If you are new, this would be a great chance to meet and get to know folks in the congregation. If you are not, it's a great way to dig in on a Sunday with fellow travelers and explorers. Both start at nine. Both will have great coffee and fellowship. Both will challenge us to deeper relationships with Christ.

Missing something on Sundays? Don't miss these great opportunities to dig in.

Mornings with Michael and Abundant Life will both start up again in September.

vite you to be a part of these times. Trinity students, we invite you to especially take advantage of the wisdom these groups can provide. Give yourselves a chance to know older Christians who have walked ahead of you. Older participants, go out of your way to encourage new friends and students to walk alongside the others in your groups.

How do I sign-up? During the later part of the month of August, there will be group descriptions hanging up in the foyer, and a sign up table where you can join by writing down your name. We have at least one new group this fall, a growth group which will be hosted at Pastor Michael's house. The groups meet on different evenings, so that there are options to fit our congregation's very busy schedules.

Many of our members tell us that Growth Groups are the best part of their fellowship with the Village Church. If you haven't joined one, we encourage you to try one out. Surprise yourself; it may be the best decision you ever made at Village Church.

A morning rain shower did not deter **Mr. Wrinkles** or his campers. Catching minnows in the kiddie pool was a big attraction. Feed the Frogs, and Bear in the Park were great indoor games. Storytime at Camp Cabana gave us all a good rest before our hot dogs & S'more lunch. The boys constructed water balloon catapults and scored big points by not hitting Mr.



Rust. And there is nothing like fun games around the campfire with Mr. Mike. Kum Ba Yah!



Change of Editor for Village Vine

By Pastor Lee Eclov

Years ago I learned the hard way what happens when a congregation doesn't know what's going on in their church. That's why the *Village Vine* and our website at eVCL.org are so important. They help us all stay on the same page, you might say.

Jenn Uren has been the editor of the *Village Vine* for the last 3 years, having also served in the role some years before that. Every month she has dogged the procrastinating footsteps of even the most recalcitrant among us to keep you informed about what is happening at VCL. She has done this job without missing a deadline and without losing friends! Jenn has always been cheerful, gracious



and creative. I am so thankful for her service.

Now she is passing the baton to another very capable editor, Linda Wehrheim. Linda, who was our office manager for several years, will assume responsibility for the *Vine* beginning with the September issue. The only bad news is that Linda is no more likely than Jenn to allow me to turn things in late. Like my mother said, "There is no rest for the weary."

And speaking of information, be watching for a new VCL website by the end of August. We'll keep you posted.



Compassion Ministries Update

By Pastor Michael Mauriello



Sedgebrook at 7:00 on third Thursdays.

This summer our compassion teams took new steps in our service to others. Our congregation is developing our existing relationship with Sedgebrook retirement community, and is beginning new relationships with the Wealshire and Brentwood senior adult communities. Teams of people will lead a worship service once a month at each center, as well as form friendships through visitation and care. Our first services will begin in August. Wealshire's service will be at 4:15 on first Thursdays, Brentwood's on second Thursdays at 3:00, and



This summer, our compassion team also took a new step in helping out PADS, a homeless advocacy center in Lake County. On the second Sunday of each month, we created over 80 sandwiches and 40 lunches for PADS to distribute to its clients. The outpouring of enthusiasm for this new venture has been overwhelming, and we are planning on continuing the relationship with PADS through the end of 2011 and possibly into 2012. On August 14th, the compassion team is also planning to meet to talk through some other possible avenues of service and relationships that the Lord may open to us.



Youth Group Update

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

For the summer, our junior and senior higher have been meeting together on Wednesday evenings. Many of our volunteers either moved on to new places and chapters in their lives, or went home for the summer to pursue internships. The school year is fast approaching, and many of our youth staff are preparing to return to ministry. Newly-weds Brandon and Ashley Boulais are returning, as is John Wood. Becca Spellman, a new volunteer, will be coming on board in September. Drew Younger is also coming aboard to help us think through worship. And we are beginning to pursue a partnership with TIU's undergraduate program to see if we can do a similar mentoring church program with undergraduates as we currently do with seminary students in our youth ministry program.

Now that our staff is larger, it is our plan to separate out the junior and senior higher in September. However, rather than have the senior and the junior higher meet on separate nights, they will meet on the same night with different staff. This ought to help our families who have different children in different age groups, and will free Friday nights (when Junior high previously met)—for family time for our volunteers and for our students. During the summer, our teams participated in the adult Sunday School hour for the pecha-kuchas. Starting in September, they will go back to having their own dedicated Sunday School times.

We are thinking through what the coming year will hold for our youth group, and we are anticipating a mission trip for the summer of 2012 somewhere in the continental United States. We will have our annual winter retreat in January. Over the summer, Tyler Ingersoll and Terry LaForge helped us think through innovative ways to do worship without a worship band. And John Ingersoll is continuing our monthly guy's night events.

I am profoundly grateful for the hard work and support from John Ingersoll and Guy Viti over the summer. They have worked hard for our students! Thank you for loving our students.