

**November
Calendar
of
Events**



Missions Ministry
November 9, 7:00 p.m.

Financial Resources Committee
November 9, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Elders
November 10, 7:00 p.m.

Craft Night
November 11, 7:00 p.m.

College Supper Club
November 12, 6:30 p.m.

Children's Education Ministry
November 13, Noon

Worship Planners
November 13, 4:00 p.m.

**Int'l Day of Prayer
for the Persecuted Church**
November 13, 7:00 p.m.
(Covenant Church, Libertyville)

Caregiving Ministry
November 14, 7:00 p.m.

Dudes' Night (Youth Group)
November 19, 5:30 p.m.

Congregational Meeting
November 20, 6:30 p.m.

All Church Holiday Decorating
November 28, 9:00 a.m.- Noon & 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Weekly Dates:

Sr. High & Middle School Youth
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. (except Nov. 23)

Women's Daytime Bible Study
Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

Women's Evening Bible Study
Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. (Nov. 8 & 29)

Christmas Children's Choir
Sundays, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Holiday Handbell Choir
Sundays, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Adult Choir
Sundays, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.



VCL Christmas Holiday Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Monday, Nov. 28	9:00 a.m. to Noon & 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	All Church Decorating
Saturday, Dec. 3	9:00 a.m. - Noon	All Cast Dress Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 4	6:00 p.m. (Childcare for infant - 4 yrs.)	Hanging of the Greens
Friday, Dec. 9	6:30 p.m. (Ticket Required)	Annual Christmas Dinner
Saturday, Dec. 24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 25	10:30 a.m. (Childcare for infant - 3 yrs.)	Christmas Worship Service No 9:00 a.m. classes
Sunday, Jan. 1	10:30 a.m. (Childcare for infant - 3 yrs.)	Worship Service No 9:00 a.m. classes
Monday, Jan 2	10:00 a.m.	All-Church "Undecorating"
Regular Schedule Resumes on Sunday, Jan. 8		

**Annual Christmas Dinner
Tickets on Sale, Sundays
Nov. 13-27**



You have probably noticed as you visit local stores that we are getting close to the Christmas season, which also means that the annual Christmas Dinner at VCL is not too far off. This year's dinner will be held on **Friday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.** in our Great Room. The beautifully decorated tables will give the room the glow of Christmas. A delicious meal will be served and there will be special music and the singing of Christmas carols and, of course, the *Twelve Day of Christmas*. Tickets will be \$12. (\$10 for full time students). Tickets will go on sale after the service on November 13, 20, and 27 at the Information Center.

**A big THANK YOU to all who
participated in our fall clean-up.**

Over 28 people turned out to help with the annual fall cleanup. From raking leaves to polishing the pews, VCL friends left no stone unturned. Many thanks from the Buildings & Grounds Ministry.



**Operation Christmas Child
Boxes Due
November 20**



We are participating in Operation Christmas Child again! Last year we collected 99 shoeboxes, this year we are aiming to pack 125 gift-filled boxes. You can follow your box online or even build a box online at Operation Christmas Child starting November 22.

Since 1993, 85 million children have received shoeboxes. These gifts become the vehicle for churches and Christian organizations around the world to present the gospel to children and their families. Pastor Sornprom of Santisuk Samutprakarn Church in Thailand explains, "Before, we tried to reach out by handing out tracts and booklets, which was hard. The parents didn't want their children to come to learn about God. But when we hand out shoebox gifts, they're a tool for reaching out!"

Village Church of Lincolnshire

201 N. Riverwoods Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Phone: 847-295-7707 **Fax:** 847-295-7757

Email: evcl@evcl.org

Website: www.evcl.org

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Ministries Administrator
Office Manager
Custodian

Lee Eclov
Michael Mauriello
Susan Eclov
Susan Beck
Angela Fisher

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

November, 2011

Pastor Lee Finishing Book on "Pastoral Graces" for Moody Publishers

By Pastor Lee Eclov



About a year ago I was approached at a conference by two men from Moody Publishers. "We'd like to talk to you about writing a book," they said. I was flabbergasted. "About what?" I replied.

"What would you like to write about?" they responded. And that is how it started. Dave DeWit, an acquisitions editor, and Dr. John Koessler, a professor at Moody, came to my office last December. As we talked the idea for a book about shepherding God's flock took shape.

I have been writing articles and columns for several years for *PreachingToday.com*, a publication of Christianity Today Inc., and occasionally other publications. My work had caught their eye and apparently they feel I have enough name recognition among pastors to sell books. Last May, with much help, I gave them a book proposal which was accepted. In late July I began writing in earnest, and am planning to submit a finished draft by the end of November. As of late October, I have finished the Introduction and seven chapters out of a total of eleven. The editor's feedback has been very encouraging.

I undertook this task with the permission and blessing of our Elders. I've tried to do most of the work on my own time, but I also have their permission to scale back some at church in order to write. That will be necessary in November as I try to finish.

The book is entitled, *Pastoral Graces: Reflections on the Care of Souls* and is scheduled for publication in early May, 2012. In the proposal I summarized the book this way:

Grace is the pastor's stock-in-trade. When Jesus Christ, the Lord of the church, calls a pastor He instills a kind of heightened instinct for grace; what we call 'a shepherd's heart. Often, pastors become disoriented by leadership demands, congregational expectations, and the wounds of ministry and forget how to use the grace of Christ in the everyday work of pastoring. Through striking word pictures and stories that resonate with every pastor, this book will reinvigorate pastors' instincts for doing grace in the churches they shepherd.

The book will be approximately 35,000 words, which translates to about a 160-page book. I've been told it will cost \$13. Moody Publishers are investing significantly in this project. I have seen the cover art, met with sales people, and learned about my role in marketing. Soon I will be asking a certain prominent pastor and author to write the Foreword and will be seeking endorsements from a number of recognized ministry leaders.

This is all quite a trip! I have never aspired to write a book. In fact, I never *wanted* to write a book. Articles were more my speed. But this opportunity has been extraordinary and very rare indeed. I have had fun writing though it is very hard work. As I write about the role of grace in pastoral ministry I tell lots of stories. Many VCL folks are in these stories. (Curious?) I am more and more grateful for what a wonderful church this is to shepherd. I can't wait for you all to see what I've written.

**For more news and information
from VCL check our website:
www.evcl.org.**

Update on New Ministries for Senior Adults

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

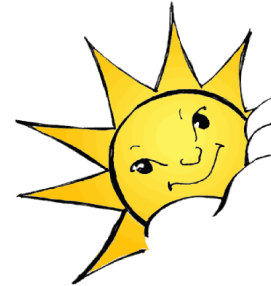
The Lord has opened doors for us at the senior adult living communities around Village Church. I am so excited at the interest and enthusiasm expressed. We're working very hard to begin new initiatives and I thank you for your patience as we work to get going.

Our first new event has been scheduled at Brentwood North. "Walk Your Dog Day" will be held November 12, at 10:00 a.m. Anyone who has a well-trained and obedient dog is welcome to come and walk the hallways at Brentwood. Don't have a pet? Don't worry. Come along and join us as we make new connections.

We continue to conduct three services a month; one at Wealshire, one at Brentwood, and one at Sedgebrook's Independent Living Community. Soon we will launch a fourth service at Sedgebrook's Assisted Living Community. Going

Mornings with Michael

By Pastor Michael Mauriello



Heidi Ramer and Arthur Kok will be joining *Mornings with Michael* following the conclusion of our study on the book of *Micah*. We'll conclude our study in two weeks, but we won't be leaving its themes behind.

From November 13 through December 18, Heidi and Arthur will be taking us on a ride through biblical theology tracing some

Welcoming Back Wendall

By Pastor Michael Mauriello



It's always good to welcome back our missionaries — especially those who have been gone a long while. During the last week of October, we were able to welcome back Wendall Hollis. Wendall was a part of our church family for some time. He attended VCL while he earned his PhD in New Testament at Trinity.

Wendall serves the Lord by working with Entrust, an organization that partners with indigenous pastors and teachers by crafting context appropriate curriculum that deals with biblical studies, theology, and social concerns. Wendall functions as a final editor for Entrust; he proofs and edits the curriculum to ensure that it

forward, Sedgebrook will provide some excellent training and orientation on serving residents, including those who struggle with dementia. Volunteers will first need to complete a criminal background check, drug test, and two step TB test. I've gone through this process already. The steps may seem complicated, however, Sedgebrook is right to be concerned for their residents. These are all precautions designed to protect a very vulnerable demographic of our society.

At Brentwood I continue to work on coordinating volunteers with opportunities. Once complete, I'll be able to start scheduling events at Brentwood on a recurring basis and introduce our group to Joan, the Activity Director.

I praise God for all of you as we continue to make forward steps in this ministry.

of the significant themes of *Micah* all the way from the beginning of the Old Testament to the end of the New Testament. They will help us to connect *Micah* more specifically among the remainder of the Christian canon, helping us to see the importance of this short, but significant prophetic book. Heidi and Arthur are both gifted teachers and I'm excited to "go on tour" with them as we explore the biblical theology of *Micah*.

is orthodox, evangelical, well presented, and relevant to the learning context.

Wendall presented his ministry on Sunday, October 23 during First Hour Connections. He received a standing ovation in the service that day, and he shared with Lee and the congregation more about his particular ministry. During the following week, he attended a few of our growth groups and made some personal visits to close friends and supporters.

Please pray for Wendall as he continues to raise support, as all of our missionaries do. Please pray for stamina as he does a lot of reading and working on a computer; editing and proofing materials.

Join with Other Churches to Pray for the Persecuted Church

By Pastor Lee Eclov



The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is Sunday, November 13. As is our custom, we will be joining with several other churches to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer for the faith in other parts of the world. The service this year will be held at Libertyville Covenant Church, at the corner of Rt. 176 and St. Mary's Rd. at 7 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

One highlight of this service will be a report from David N., a brother who has been attending VCL

and works with the underground church in China. We will also watch a brief video orienting us to the needs of fellow believers who suffer for their faith. Mostly we will pray in small groups for various specific countries and regions. Detailed prayer lists are provided so you can pray specifically. We also hear stories of individual believers so we can pray for them.

Persecuted Christians ask nothing of us but this: "Please pray for us!" We try to do this regularly at VCL, but this is our best opportunity to pray with other Christians for those who suffer for our Lord's sake. Please make a priority of joining us.

"POP!" Pads Offering Project

By Jennie Stanonik

We have an exciting children's offering project involving PADS Crisis Services, Inc. for October and November. PADS is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to providing emergency shelter, permanent housing, and supportive services to families with children and individuals who are experiencing homelessness in Lake County.

As you may know, VCL helps out PADS by making sandwiches once a month to be brought to the homeless shelter. The offering money that our children bring in every week will go toward the supplies needed to make 40 sack lunches.

Children are encouraged to do extra chores or bring in their own money to contribute to our project. One sack lunch costs \$3.00.

We've created a chart with 40 sandwiches on it to represent our goal. We call this our POP chart. Each time we have collected enough money to cover the cost of one sack lunch, one sandwich will be crossed out on our POP chart. We hope to cross off all the sandwiches by the end of November!



College Supper Club

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

Join us on Saturday, November 12, as we kick-off a new ministry for undergrads. Scott and Kim Cordes and Jim and Ann Baker would like to invite college students to join them monthly for a home cooked meal and some away time from campus. There won't be a lot of Bible study or "organized" discipleship, but there will be caring people offering open hearts, open ears, and really good food.

So, College students...

- 1) You all like to eat.
- 2) You all like VCL.
- 3) You should all like Pastor Michael.
- 4) Pastor Michael likes the Cordeses and the Bakers.
- 5). You like good food away from campus.

So, you don't have any reason not to come! ☺

See you November 12!

Directory Updates

Guy Viti — Gwceviti_40@yahoo.com

Wongto and Tiala Chang
1621 Arlington Dr.
Wheeling, IL 60090

Ronnie and Corinna Waud
Box 1390, 261 Waterways Ave.
Boca Grande, FL 33921

Ginny Sutton — vasutton6039@att.net

Becca Gonzalez
244 Inverrary Lane
Deerfield, IL 60015

Donovan Rust (alternative address)
c/o Shepherds College
1805 15th Avenue
Union Grove, WI 53182

Tim Wilcox
3440 N. Elson Avenue
Chicago, IL 60618

Preaching & Worship Series



Let's Put Our Heads Together:

1 Corinthians 1-3, 12-13

August 28 – November 20, 2011

Date	Text	Sermon Title
11/6/11	1 Cor 13	Value Added
11/13/11	1 Cor 13	Love Well
11/20/11	Ps 103:1-5	"Forget Not All His Benefits"

"ON EARTH, PEACE" –

The Peace that Christ Brings

Nov. 27, 2011 – Jan 1, 2012

11/27/11	TBA	(Mike Honl preaching)
12/4/11	Luke 4:16-22	"Gracious Words"
12/11/11	Ps. 13	"How Long, O Lord" with Dan McConchie
12/18/11	Micah 5:1-5	"He Will Be Their Peace"
12/25/11	Luke 2:14	Peace and Favor (Pastor Michael)
1/1/12	Heb. 13:21-22,25	Benediction for a New Year

Prayer for this month

The decisions and discussion at our Annual Congregational Meeting
Nov. 20

The persecuted church around the world
(11/13 is the Int'l Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church)

God's help in organizing our ministries to local nursing homes & our opportunities to share the love of Christ

That we would take our personal godliness and our corporate prayer more seriously

That people would come to Christ through our church

Annual Congregational Meeting Set for November 20

By Pastor Lee Eclow

Twice a year the members of VCL gather to make some of the important decisions that shape our congregation. We are congregational in government so that means that it is up to us as members, under the authority of Christ, to be wise stewards of our church. Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be:

Sunday, November 20, 2011

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Childcare will be provided.

Nonmembers are very welcome to attend and participate, except for voting.

There are three main issues requiring congregational approval at this meeting but we also expect to have time together to talk about our church's health and direction, to hear brief reports from our staff, to address questions or ideas you might want to share, and to pray together.

The three main issues we will vote on will be approving a slate of officers, approving the budget for 2012, and approving the proposed changes to the bylaws.

Election of Officers

Some of our elected officers are in the middle of their terms, and our Ministry Team leaders are not elected positions. Those who will require congregational approval are:

Elders: Chris McNiven and Raymond Wunderlich.

Financial Resources Committee: Henry VanDixhorn, chair; Jim Hanson, treasurer. (Jim has been the chair and will be replacing Bob Betts.)

Human Resources Committee: Sharon Johnson and Karen Kasch to one-year terms.

Approval of 2012 Budget

The budget process is still underway as of this writing, but the Financial Resources Committee and Elders will bring in a budget as close to last year's as possible—about \$500,000. The proposed budget will be available a week before the meeting.

Approval of Bylaw Changes

As noted in last month's *Village Vine* the Elders are proposing a number of changes, however none of them represent a significant change of policy. They clean up unclear language, streamline the way the Human Resources Committee's role is defined, clarify how our Ministries (and Ministry Teams) work, and clarify statements about church discipline and financial oversight. To read a full summary of the changes in last month's *Vine* or to read the exact changes proposed go to our VCL website. On the 'Media' button, look for Resources. There you will find the *Vine* and a button for the Bylaws. The password to access them is 'bylaws'.



2011 by the Numbers

By Pastor Lee Eclow

Each year as we approach our Annual Meeting I take a census of our church. I begin with last year's church directory, which was published in December. I count every name in it, including the children. I tabulate who has gone and why. Then I take our new directory, which is still being finalized, and figure out who is new in the last eleven months or so. Here is what I've found.

There were 300 names in last year's directory. Today 60 of those people are no longer at VCL—20%. That is typical of most years. Of those 60 people most moved away. About 58% of those who left were Trinity students and their families. As I went through all those names I was moved by how much we miss so many of these people, and what great contributions they made to our church. I was also reminded what a privilege we have to put our fingerprints on so many people who in turn will influence the places they go to minister next. On the other hand, there are about 80 people in our church today who were not here last year at this time, a net increase of 7%. About 65 are children and youth.

There are about 160 households in our forthcoming 2012 directory. About 40% of those are singles (close to 70 people), from students to senior adults. Our attendance (which is not always a reflection of the size of our church family given how often our people are gone) averaged about 195 adults and children through 2010, and a little over 210 people this year. (While we have talked about going to two services, these numbers bear out our conclusion that we do not need to take that step yet.)

Here are some other wonderful aspects of our church's spiritual census through October:

White Roses: These people came to Christ this year: Belle Ingersoll, Gareth Hughes, Lillian Mauriello, Andrew Miller, Jenessa Stanonik, Debbi, Michael Harmon, and Alec Holzman.

Baptisms: Lauren Wunderlich, Victoria Hartel, Emma Hedges, Chatham Hedges, Megan Davis, Drew Younger, Hope Hartel, Anit Leons, and Zachary Rumley.

Births: As of Nov. 1, we have celebrated the births this year of Samuel Lewis Pohl, Simon Park, Sammie H. Cho, Noah Jonathan Scarborough, Caleb Mark Davis, and Wyatt Payton Connor.

Members: As of Nov. 20, we have welcomed 20 new members: Brandon and Ashley Whited Boulais, Jan and Bob Coy, Jacqueline Schlosser, Daniel Sjogren, Judy Tao, Krista Sweetser, John and Steph Ingersoll, Bob and Judy DeBaets, Andrew and Sarah Seaman, David and Joanna Hoag, Joseph and Amy Hartel, Barbara (Babs) Myers and Heidi Ramer.

We had one wedding in our congregation on May 21: Brandon and Ashley Boulais. We have had no funerals this year.

