



Village Voices



MARCH

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2005

Straight from the Hart

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

One way that I know God is real is the "coincidences" that seem to occur. I believe that they are not coincidences but "God-incidents." I have had a series of them recently on the topic of "steps" and "walking."

First, we have begun a capital campaign called "Step by Step." It is different from campaigns this church and school have done in the past. Instead of "pressuring" people to give to a building or because we are "desperate," this program, spearheaded by Kevin Cook our Development Director and a host of volunteers, simply leads us step by step to evaluate what God has given us, to recognize the value of our ministry, and to ask the decision question of "How does God want to use me to help this ministry grow?" It's a journey, and it is one that will change how many of us look at stewardship and also how effectively we are able to grow in the years to come.

At the very same time, Deric Taylor, our Associate Pastor, created the midweek sermon experience on the theme: This Lenten Road. The sermons and the worship are incredible, and incredibly focus on this theme of steps and walking. If you have never been to our midweek Lenten services or have become negligent in your attendance, now is the time to take a step back. I am deeply moved by the very special time of communion with God and the theme is one of those coincidences that are really "God-incidents."

Finally, Pastor Taylor's talented and lovely wife Julie, our Associate Organist and Advancement Officer at Concordia College, asked if I would like to participate in the Arthritis Walk in May with a team from the VLC and Chapel School called BLESSED. Julie and I both have chronic autoimmune diseases in the arthritis family. Julie (Fibromyalgia) and I (Psoriatic Arthritis) both do well in managing our diseases, yet as "thirty-something" people we have come to empathize with the many that have these diseases and to better understand how truly debilitating and agonizing these diseases are to many. "Another STEP!" I thought as I quickly said, "Of course I would be proud to walk." I am already a daily walker and if I can raise awareness of these diseases and hopefully lead to a cure, these are steps I am happy to take.

So perhaps God is saying something to us. Perhaps he wants to encourage us to think of our lives in steps; day by day, walking with him. As the hymn writer said so well

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
 Flee the world, which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
 Ever in His footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above, Full of faith and hope and love,
 Let us do the Father's bidding. Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

A thought about the steps we take that is straight from the Hart!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Focus on Worship*
- *Tsunami Relief*
- *Fellowship Opportunities*
- *VLC and Chapel School Annual Auction*
- *Scholastic Book Fair*

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VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities



Daytime Bible Study

Join VLC Adjunct Pastor Allen Kebschull for an informative look at the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. The study meets on Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m. in the Friendship Room.

Women's Bible Study

Saturday, March 12 at 8:30 a.m.

Do you remember Job? He's the poster boy for misery and we ask, "Where was God?" In the Book of Esther, God is never even mentioned and we ask, "Where was God?" In our own world, we lose jobs; face serious illnesses; tsunamis and earthquakes destroy entire cities; war ravages parts of the world; millions are homeless; even more do not know the Savior. We ask, "Where is God?"

Join us as we seek to understand the mystery of God's timing. Why has he remained silent? How has God moved throughout history? What is the meaning of his sovereignty? How does God intervene in our lives?

All women are invited for breakfast (bring something to share) and discussion EVEN IF YOU HAVE NEVER COME BEFORE! Please read Esther 7-8 (and Swindoll's book, chapters 8-9). For more info, call Deborah Cook (472-4744).

Prayer Opportunities this Month

Monday, March 7, 7:15-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room

Monday, March 14, 7:15-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room

Join us for quiet reflection on God's blessings and sovereignty in our lives. Share prayer concerns and lift them up to the Lord. Spend 75 minutes in his presence.



Do you want to be abundantly blessed by God? If you missed *The Prayer of Jabez*...

Here are some more opportunities to hear *Jabez* author Bruce Wilkinson in his video series and participate in a discussion about this little prayer: "***Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!***" Learn the meaning of each phrase; the misconceptions that some people have; biblical truths for each part; and applications which broaden your understanding, serve as practical steps, and enable you to dream of the potential for life change.

Part I: Thursday, March 3 – 7-8pm and Sunday, March 6 – 10:30-11:30am

Part II: Thursday, March 10 – 7-8pm and Sunday, March 13 – 10:30-11:30am

Part III: Thursday, March 17 – 7-8pm and Sunday, March 20 – 10:30-11:30am

Part IV: Thursday, March 31 – 7-8pm and Sunday, April 3 – 10:30-11:30am

If you want to see the video, but none of the above times work for you, please call Deborah Cook (472-4744).

March Mite Box Blessings



The opportunity to give in the smallest way – the gift of coins – is on the piano in the Multi-Purpose Room. As you enjoy your cup of coffee, take a moment to drop the change that weighs you down into the large MITE BOX. These gifts support mission grants throughout the world. Be a part of something bigger than you could ever do on your own!

Pancake Supper for Tsunami Relief



The Pancake Supper on Ash Wednesday was truly a community effort! Many thanks to the Chapel School children who donated food, artwork, or labor; to the members of the Youth Group who assisted with the meal; to the women who donated desserts, helped in the kitchen and cleaned up; to all other adults who helped in every and any way; and to all who enjoyed the meal and fellowship—your generosity provided \$3691 for Lutheran World Relief's *Wave of Giving* program. With matching gifts from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, our *initial* gift to LWR is over \$6,000 and growing! A final tally will be provided later this month after our Sunday School and Chapel School offerings are received. To God be the glory that we can help in such a happy and generous way!



FOCUS ON WORSHIP

“The Color of Easter”

Did you notice what color has been in use at the church since Ash Wednesday? It is the color purple, a sign of both royalty for Jesus, our King--and repentance--for us, whose sinfulness must be acknowledged. We find this color on the altar and on the pastors' robes to remind us that Lent is a time to reflect on our sinful human nature and God's plan of salvation for us. On Good Friday, we will shroud the cross and the altar in black as a sign of mourning for the suffering and death which Jesus took upon himself in our place. Black is also appropriate because it represents the absence of light, a condition further dramatized by the traditional darkening during the Tenebrae Service. By the third day, however, the darkness and mourning are swept away by Resurrection light. The Easter Church color is white, the combination of all possible colors, and flashes of joyful color will be everywhere in flowers, clothes and decorations. Much as the March weather may “come in like a lion” but “go out like a lamb,” our Lenten journey begins with dark and subdued tones but ends in celebration of The Lamb in glorious color and light.

Wednesday, March 2

8:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service (“The Road to Jerusalem”)

Sunday, March 6

Lutheran Schools Sunday

Wednesday, March 9

8:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service (“The Road to Jericho”)

Sunday, March 13

12:00 pm Voter's Meeting

Wednesday, March 16

8:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service (“The Bethany Road”)

Sunday, March 20

Palm Sunday and Reading of the Passion

Thursday, March 24

8:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service with First Communion

Friday, March 25

12:00 and 8:00 pm – Tenebrae Service

Saturday, March 26

5:30 pm – Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 27

8:00 am – Easter Sunrise Service

9:00 and 10:45 am – Festival Easter Worship

8:00 am to noon – Continental Breakfast

Our Annual Auction – by us and for us!

Now in its fifth year, the Gathering of Friends' auction – a three-day event here in the Multi-Purpose Room and a dinner event at Siwanoy Country Club – serves to raise funds to support and enhance all the educational and outreach programs of the Village Lutheran Church *and* Chapel School. Together families, church members, school friends obtain and contribute terrific gifts – together we bid and buy and invite others to do the same! It's great fun and of great value for our school and church.

So... there's still time to volunteer to help, time to have gifts donated, time to gather friends to attend, and time to bid on your favorite gifts!

New gifts donated recently... wonderful baskets of Italian foods, Avon products and craft books; a fabulous 'cash-gora' stole; a child's electric scooter; certificates from bakeries and restaurants; four tickets to a taping of Nickelodeon's U PICK LIVE (for students aged 10-15); and an amazing vacation for two at a St. Thomas VI resort!! And the list is growing!

SILENT AUCTION: Friday-Sunday, March 4-6

(includes a new feature – a dozen select VENDORS of lovely merchandise,
a portion of whose sales benefit our auction!)

DINNER AUCTION: Friday, March 18.

(includes a new feature – dancing to a great DJ after dinner!)

For more information, extra invitations, and the final stop for your donation; call Kevin Cook in the Development Office at 337-0207, ext. 1039. And thanks so much!

MUSIC MINISTRY AT VLC – BURST INTO SONGS OF JOY



“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’...Burst into songs of joy together.” (Isaiah 52)



YOUTH CHOIR – Rehearsals: Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 31 at 7-8:00 pm in the multi-purpose room. Sunday, March 6, 8:30 warm-up and 9:00 am service and the beginning of the 10:45 am service. Sundays, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3: 8:15 warm-up and 9:00 am service. Friday, March 25 (Good Friday) 11:00 am warm-up and 12:00 pm service. If you have any questions, please call George Heath at 337-0207 x1012 or

e-mail at GHeath@vlc-ny.org.

CHANCEL CHOIR will sing at the 9:00 am Sunday service on March 13 and 20 (Palm Sunday) and will sing during Holy Week for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (8:00 pm) and Easter Sunday (9:00 and 10:45 am). If you would like to join us for Holy Week, please come to rehearsals on Thursdays at 8:00 pm in the sanctuary.

FAITHWALK will rehearse on Tuesdays, March 1 and 8, and sing on Sunday, March 13. The group will then take a short break and resume rehearsals on Tuesday, April 5, at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. New members are always welcome.



The Chapel School enrollment continues to grow, especially in Pre-School and the lower grades. There are still limited openings in certain grades for the 2005-2006 school year at The Chapel School. If you know of someone who might be interested in sending their child to The Chapel School next year, please have them call the school office. The earlier the application is received, the better chance a child has of getting in.

Lutheran Schools Association is again sponsoring a Lutheran Day at the Stadiums.

Shea Stadium Day Information: Watch the NEW NY Mets

- NY Mets vs. San Francisco Giants and Barry Bonds
- Saturday, June 4, 2005, 1:20pm.
- \$16.00 per ticket Upper Deck
- Deadline to order tickets Monday, May 2, 2005

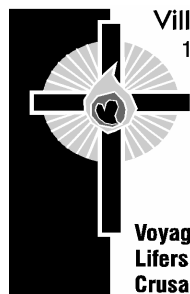
Yankee Stadium Day Information

- NY Yankees vs. Oakland A's
- Saturday, May 7, 2005, 1:05pm.
- \$18.00 per ticket

Deadline to order tickets Monday, April 4, 2005. Send all ticket orders to The Chapel School to the attention of Jim Dhyne. Please make checks payable to the Chapel School. All members from the VLC & Chapel School will be seated together. Come to either/or both games and have a great time. Transportation to the game is the responsibility of each person/family. The Lutheran Schools Association directly benefits The Chapel School. This is a great opportunity to have a good time and support Lutheran Quality Education at the same time.

We are very pleased to announce that Chapel School will once again be offering a Summer Program this coming summer. Our program will be offered to children ages 3 through 10. Mrs. Lynn Lena is our Director of Summer Programs and a number of Chapel School faculty members will be working with her. There will be 8 weeks of flexible scheduling throughout the summer. Brochures are available in the office.

Our annual Chapel School Golf Outing is all set for Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at Leewood Golf Club. RSI Sports Memorabilia will again be offering great silent auction items. Many thanks to long time VLC members George and Mary Lou Grundman who have agreed to sponsor the Brunch. Others have also stepped forward to sponsor parts of the outing, however, we are still looking for more sponsors, raffle prizes and, of course, players. If you are interested in sponsoring, or if you know of someone or some company who might be interested, please contact Jim Dhyne or Kevin Cook at 337-3202. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Golf Outing Committee is welcome to attend our next meeting. Please contact Jim or Kevin for details.



Village Lutheran Church & Chapel School
172 White Plains Road - Bronxville, NY 10708

Erika & Michael Schultz
(914) 395.1954
tyandbash@aol.com

Village Youth

Voyagers ~ Grades 3-6
Lifers ~ Grades 7-8
Crusaders ~ Grades 9-12

JOURNEY of FAITH



March
2005

This year the Youth Groups remain unchanged.

The Voyagers Youth Group consists of 3 - 6 grade and is run primarily by Erika.

The Confirmation II (7th Grade) and Confirmation III (8th Grade) constitute the Lifers Youth Group. Michael Schultz and Pastor Hartwell will be the primary leaders for this group.

Finally, the Crusader Youth Group is 9 - 12 grade, and will be lead by Erika and Michael.

VOYAGERS: GRADES 3 - 6

Meetings: Voyagers will meet Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We will usually meet in the Multi-Purpose Room. In March we will meet on the 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Please call Erika with any questions.

1ST Communion "Night Watch" -Friday, March 11, 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm. All 1st Communion Students in grades 5 - 6 are encouraged to join us for the games, devotions, crafts, pizza and tons of fun!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 26. See ALL YOUTH for more information.

LIFERS: GRADES 7 - 8

Meetings: Lifers regular meeting night will now be Thursdays, from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. We will usually meet in the Art Room. In March we will meet on the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 26. See ALL YOUTH for more information.

CRUSADERS: GRADES 9 - 12

Meetings: We will meet on Sundays....sometimes mornings, sometimes evenings. In March we will have a breakfast meeting on the 20th.

Parent Meeting - Sunday, March 13, 10:15 am, in the Youth room. This is for all parents of high school age youth. We will be discussing ways to help motivate your teen to be more involved in Church Activities! Please plan to join us.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 26. See ALL YOUTH for more information.

LIFERS AND CRUSADERS

Youth vs. Trustee Basketball Game - Sunday, March 13, 2:00 pm. This is our Annual Game and it is always LOTS of fun, please plan to join us!

ALL YOUTH: GRADES 3 - 12

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 26. The hunt starts at 11:00 am, so we need Youth at VLC by 9:00 to help set up. During our March 17th meeting we will be stuffing Easter Eggs. Please bring one bag of candy to help with this project. Thanks!

YOUTH SUNDAY - Sunday, April 3. We will be in charge of all aspects of the Services! More information to follow, but please save the date. Practice for this will be on April 2.



Happy Easter!

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

Parish Health News

Yoga classes are on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room. Drop in. Cost is \$10. Call Faith Forliano at 725-8035 for more information.

The Village Lutheran Church is a proud member of the Lutheran Counseling Center (LCC) Membership Assistance Program (MAP). Through this partnership, VLC members and friends can access professional counseling at the rate of only \$25 per session (for up to 4 sessions). LCC also takes major health insurances and uses a sliding scale. Call Pastor Hartwell to arrange for the MAP sessions. Isn't your mental health and happiness worth the time? LCC provides individual, couple, and family counseling, professional, yet Christian. Call (914) 337-0207 (ext. 1022) for details.

Arthritis Walk for the Arthritis Foundation at Battery Park on May 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Julie Taylor (Fibromyalgia) and Pastor Robert Hartwell (Psoriatic Arthritis) will be leading a group of VLC and Chapel School walkers in the Arthritis Walk for the Arthritis Foundation at Battery Park on May 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Three-mile or one-mile walk routes are available. If you want to join Pastor Hartwell or Julie on this walk, reserve the date and call 914-337-0207 (1022) or register via their website at : <http://arthritisny.kintera.org/>. The VLC and Chapel School team name is " BLESSED."

The "Village" Seniors

The next Seniors luncheon will be on Tuesday, March 8 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Back by popular demand, Dick Forliano, Eastchester Town Historian, will be our guest speaker. Dick will share slides of Civil War Battles in the Westchester/Bronx area. Please fill out the tear-off, on the half page that is inserted into the bulletin, or call 914-337-0207 (1003) if you are planning on attending. All area seniors are welcome.

Fellowship Opportunities:

Saturday, March 5, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

VLC Tennis Tournament

Members and friends, get out your racquets and get ready for an evening of fun and fellowship! Brush up your back hand in the indoor court at the Concordia Tennis Center with other VLC players! Sign-up in the Multi-Purpose Room or speak to Tony DeRosa or Sarah Gleason.



Mayor Ernest Davis Visits Chapel School

Mt. Vernon's Mayor Ernest Davis visited Chapel School on Thursday, February 3, 2005, as part of a special Black History Month Program that has been organized by the school's parent/teacher Education and Curriculum Committee. The Mayor shared a little about his childhood and education, and cautioned the children to "study hard" and "be careful who you hang around with". Raised as an only child in the south, he felt blessed to have opportunities that others did not have.

Mayor Davis shared some insight into why it is important to learn about people and what they have going on inside . . . rather than judging them by what they look like on the outside. "All people originated in Africa," he said. "Some just moved around and adapted to the new places where they settled. Different skin colors are just examples of those adaptations. I am proud that Dr. Carter G. Woodson started a Negro Heritage Week, and that we now dedicate a full month to Black History. But, to me, American History needs to be retold in its entirety so that the contributions of blacks are interwoven into everything that happened. Segregation, racism and discrimination all stem from African-Americans being told that they were of a servant class. I became an architectural engineer because I grew up when there was some progress. Many African-Americans did not have the same opportunities that I had . . . especially in the south."

Mayor Davis added that young people today have even greater opportunities than he had. He emphasized the importance of education, self-respect and pride. "You can all be anything you want to be as long as you find something you love, practice at it, learn from your elders and trust in God", he said. The students were attentive and enthusiastic. They used their mouths to ask some good questions; and more importantly, they used their ears to listen to words of wisdom from Mt. Vernon's "strong mayor".

Chapel School would like to extend special thanks Mayor Ernest Davis for his time and thought-provoking words . . . and to Mrs. Monica Bertran-Bennett for helping to arrange his visit.

BAPTISMAL FONT DONATED



A new baptismal font has been donated by The Gilder family in memory of Donald Gilder. It is now at the VLC in the Altar Area to the right of the main altar. The font, which matches our bronze and swirls motif of the main altar, and which was chosen by a congregational vote before the Christmas holiday, will be dedicated at a service in the future and will be used at Baptismal services and as a reminder of our individual baptisms in the liturgy. The font and the newly refurbished fountain in the narthex (entrance) of the church are tangible reminders of the gift of faith and the spirit given in our baptisms.

First Communion Classes Begin

All 5th - 8th Graders are meeting on Wednesdays during Lent from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Classes continue to meet on Wednesday, March 2, 9, 16, 23. The classes instruct the children on the meaning of this Christian Sacrament and prepares them to receive First Holy Communion at a special Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday, March 24 at 8:00 p.m. All 5th-8th Graders have received a mailing that details the program. For more information call Pastor Hartwell at (914) 337-0207, ext. 1022 or PastorH@vlc-ny.org.



Community Volunteer Opportunities:

JANSEN MEMORIAL HOSPICE provides compassionate and supportive care to terminally ill patients who wish to live their days in peace and dignity in the comfort of their home. **VOLUNTEERS** are a vital part of our hospice team. Please join us for training on seven Wednesdays, beginning March 23, from 2:30-4:30p.m. at the Hospice center at 69 Main Street in Tuckahoe. For further information, contact Didi Marcal at 914-961-2818, ext. 355.

MEALS ON WHEELS 10708, Inc. is an organization in our community responsible for the delivery of a hot and nutritious noon-day meal to homebound seniors, handicapped or disabled persons in the 10708 zip code area and some of the fringe areas as well. They are in need of additional volunteers to assist them in this work. For more information or to "sign up" to help, please contact Bob Grimaldi, Chair. Volunteer Recruitment via e-mail to rlgrimaldi@aol.com or phone the Meals On Wheels 10708, Inc. office at 914-787-3027.

AUCTION ACTION IS HEATING UP!

Great new gifts were donated this week: a great picnic basket complete with a bottle of 'bubbly'; four great seats for the April 30 Yankees game; a big basket of Pepsi products; and a signed football and annual book by NY Jets' John Abraham. **YOUR** donations are needed; **YOUR** volunteer help is needed too! Please call the Development Office at 337-0207, ext. 1039 to take part. Thanks!



Easter Baskets:

On a table in the Friendship Room are Easter Baskets with a note card inside (with detailed directions for filling with Easter Treats). VLC worshippers and friends are invited to take a basket home and fill it and bring it back before Palm Sunday (March 20). Baskets will be given to local social service agencies to be given to local disadvantaged youth. This is a long standing VLC tradition as we show our strong commitment to social justice and helping others.



Chapel School's 24th Annual Scholastic Book Fair

April 5-8, 2005

in the VLC Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday, April 5, 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6, 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Family Reading Night 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the PTO and Book Fair

Thursday, April 8, 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Friday, April 9, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon

Volunteers are needed for set-up on Monday, April 4, for sales April 5-8, and for packing up Friday afternoon, April 8. Please call Sharon Peterson, Chapel School librarian at 337-3202.



Check out the VLC & Chapel School Piano Bookshop located in the Friendship Room. The VLC features an honor-system book & resource shop. Each month at least 5 new resources will be featured that Pastor Hartwell or someone from the staff recommends. Simply drop a check made out to the VLC in the payment box. You may also use a credit card form.

Memorial/Honored Voices

Thanks to Nina Fellerman for a gift in memory of her dear husband Ken,
and to Jim and Barbara Dhyne, for their donation in memory of Jim's dear uncle, Tom Roffe,
and to Mr. and Mrs. Milton Weiner of Yonkers, for their donation in honor of the Boy Scouts of Bronxville.

STEP BY STEP: A JOURNEY TO GREATER SERVICE - Our capital stewardship campaign is moving along, fueled by the energy of dozens of volunteers and graced by God's blessing. Tim and Joy Elwell are steering the work as campaign leaders; and YOU will soon be invited to help, too. There's so much more we can do for our community and for those who need to see Jesus through us.....take the journey, step by step.

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172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, New York 10708