CARILLON
Newsletter of the Village Presbyterian Church of Northbrook
Volume 32 Number 1 FEBRUARY 2017

A Big Month Ahead! Mission Study Unveiled & PNC Selection Begins

By Interim Senior Pastor Rich Hansen

The wind of God's Spirit is moving through Village Church! February offers two significant opportunities to step forward in faith.

First, on Sunday, **February 12,** after ten months and hundreds of hours of prayer, reflection and plain hard work, our **2017 Mission Study** will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Our Elders spent many hours delving deeply into the recommendations and research presented in the Study, and will consider and approve it during their January 28 & 29 retreat.

On February 12, the Mission Study Team will present the highlights, with copies of the full report distributed at the meeting. However, this presentation is only the beginning! Everyone will need time to digest, and most of all, discuss and "process" the Mission Study with others. To accomplish this, many opportunities for small group discussion of the Mission Study will be offered—both on Sunday mornings and in regular gatherings of all church groups during February and March. We want to make it very easy for you to learn more, ask questions, and offer your ideas. ***A thriving future for the Village Church will need everyone's support.***

February 12 offers a 10:00 am combined worship service, immediately followed by the meeting from 11:00-12:00 pm. A light lunch will be served by the Deacons, and childcare for infants through 5th grade will be offered.

Second, work to elect a **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** to lead the search for our next Pastor will begin. This is the first time in recent history a PNC is being formed with a major Mission Study already in place to guide their search process. Typically, there are 4-6 months between the election of a PNC and beginning a search. Because the Mission Study has completed the needed research and background work, this PNC should get their search underway in only a few weeks. Indeed, the PNC will become your "experts" on the Mission Study, as it will be a big part of the discussion with potential pastoral candidates.

Please be thinking of the characteristics listed below that every PNC member will need. **The Church Nominating Committee will be soliciting your nominations for PNC members later this month.**

PNC MEMBER DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS

...are mature Christians.	...have a gift for vision.	...are not afraid of change.
...love their congregation.	...have the time to commit to the process.	...are realistic about the church's strengths and weaknesses.
...can see the big picture.	...do not have axes to grind.	...have the courage to deal with conflict.
...are not angry or bitter.	...have the trust of the congregation.	...have a voice in the congregation
...reflect a cross-section of the congregation (but who are not there to represent a particular constituency)		...are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the time to faithfully step forward and trust as the Lord leads Village Church has arrived! By God's grace, where God leads, we will follow!

Pastor Rich

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Vision Statement: To be a vital loving community actively bringing Christ's example to life.

Mission Statement: Know God through Christ, Grow in our faith, Go witness and serve.

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Phone: 847-272-0900

Sunday Morning Worship Services:
Contemporary Service at 9:30 am
Traditional Service at 11:00 am
Christian Education:
9:30 & 11:00 am
Live Simulcast:
9:30 & 11:00 am services on our website: www.tvpchurch.org

Videos of sermons available on website:
tvpchurch.org/sermons

Television Broadcast:
9:30 or 11:00 am Sunday Service
Northbrook, Channel 35, 8:00 pm

TVPC Program Staff
Rev. Dr. Richard Hansen, Interim Pastor, Head of Staff
Rev. Greg Buell, Associate Pastor
Dr. Donald Chen, Director of Music
Nancy Frese, Interim Director of Children's Ministry
Dr. Chuck Guth, Minister of Spiritual Growth
Steven McDougald, Youth Minister

Administration
John Hopkins, Office Administrator
David Kemper, Administrative Assistant
Kim Karpeles, Communications Coordinator
Mike Jin, Financial Secretary

The *Carillon* is published ten times a year by the staff of The Village Presbyterian Church of Northbrook.

Article submission deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication. For questions about the Carillon, contact: Kim Karpeles, kkarpeles@tvpchurch.org, or John Hopkins, jhopkins@tvpchurch.org.

Calendar

FEB	1	Men's Bible Study (weekly)
	2	Men Meeting Early (weekly)
	4	Men's Ministry Event
	5	COMMUNION/FOOD & FUNDS/WORSHIP
		PADS
	6, 20	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	7	Women's Bible Study—weekly, am & pm
	9	Muslim Outreach
	10	La Caccina Concert—Music at Village Church
	11	Parents' Night Out
	12	ONE-SERVICE SUNDAY/WORSHIP
		Annual Congregational Meeting & Mission Study Report
	14, 28	Stephen Ministry Team
	19	BAPTISM SUNDAY/WORSHIP
	20	Stated Session Meeting
	22	A Just Harvest Kitchen Prep
	23	A Just Harvest Soup Kitchen
	26	WORSHIP

Under Construction

Mike Kennedy, Greg Hartfield and Keith Parker of Properties hard at work building a new stable for the crèche.

The crèche at the corner of Shermer and Cherry was purchased through memorial gifts made in honor of former Elder Larry Sinyard who passed away five years ago.

Parents' Night Out

Parents have the opportunity for a date night courtesy of the Congregational Life Council on Saturday, **February 11**, from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Parents may drop off their infant through 5th grade children in Fellowship Hall for a fun evening of supervised games, crafts, pizza and maybe a movie.

There is no cost, but reservations must be made by **February 6**. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Wayne Arntsen at whasue@att.net or 847-486-8303.

This event is part of a continuing effort to promote fellowship events for all ages and especially for young families.

Take advantage of the free babysitting and enjoy a night out!

Financial Update

From Financial Committee

Financially, 2016 concluded on a positive note. Thank you for your continued support of our church's ministries! Receipts for the year totaled $990,243 while expenses totaled $960,696. We were aided by spiritual growth personnel expenses being lower than budgeted due to fewer staff than planned. However, as we look towards 2017, spiritual growth personnel expenses will increase due to the expected hiring for two positions. Therefore our 2017 budget will be more challenging than 2016. If you have yet to submit a pledge for 2017, we would greatly appreciate you doing so to assist us in our planning for the upcoming year.

Later this quarter the finance committee will host informational events following Sunday services that will provide a financial overview of our church. These will include an overview of operations, endowment, memorial & special gift funds, and the finances for missions. If you are interested in learning more, please stay tuned for the dates of these events.

Discovery: the Bible in the Library

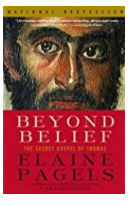
By Karen Wickman

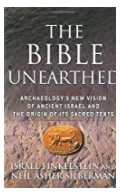
"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and choices." Hebrews 4:12

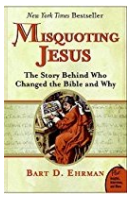
God's word has been recorded and passed down through the ages. What is the original, true word of God? How were the beliefs of our fathers established? What have new archaeological discoveries revealed about the morphology of our Christian faith?

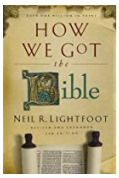
After an examination of the Nag Hammadi scrolls, Elaine Pagels, Professor of Religion at Princeton University, explores an early text in Beyond Belief: the Secret Gospel of Thomas. Another New Testament scholar, Bart Ehrman, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, reveals the varied and sometimes conflicting Christian beliefs during the first centuries following Jesus's crucifixion. His book, Misquoting Jesus, discusses the different reasons why early versions of the gospels and New Testament texts vary widely and sometimes conflict with each other. Other books that explain the history and evolution of our modern Bible include: How We Got the Bible and Eyewitness to Jesus: the Amazing New Manuscript Evidence About the Origins of the Gospels. For children we have: Nelson's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Bible and The Children's Illustrated Bible which, along with Bible stories, contains photos of the plants, animals, and places in the Bible along with maps of Bible story locations.

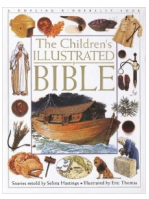
Visit our library soon to explore and discover the roots of the Bible. The Village Church collection can also be searched online at www.tvpclibrary.follettdestiny.com. Don't lose a moment, dig deeper in your faith today!











2017 Music at Village Church Concert Series

The next concerts in the 2017 Concert Series will be:

- **Friday, February 10 at 7:30 pm -- La Caccina,** an acclaimed Chicago women's chamber choir of eight, will perform.
- **Friday, March 10 at 7:30 pm -- Naeim Rahmani**, a Classical Guitarist, will perform.
- **Friday, April 21 at 7:30 pm -- Floyd's Torpedo Lounge,** a 6-piece band that delivers a mix of smooth jazz instrumental and vocal hits, blues and a bit of funk. Come and join the Village Church's very own Chuck Gress, Susan Mathein, Dan Walsh and their bandmates. All funds raised at this concert will benefit A Just Harvest soup kitchen.
- **June 7, 9 and 10 at 7:30 pm -- VI Season of The North Shore Chamber Music Festival.**

For more information contact Director of Music, Donald Chen, at 847-272-0900 x 144 or dchen@tvpchurch.org.

Children's Christmas Pageant—"All About That Baby"

By Nancy Frese

The Mission Study Team Update

By Sue Frieden

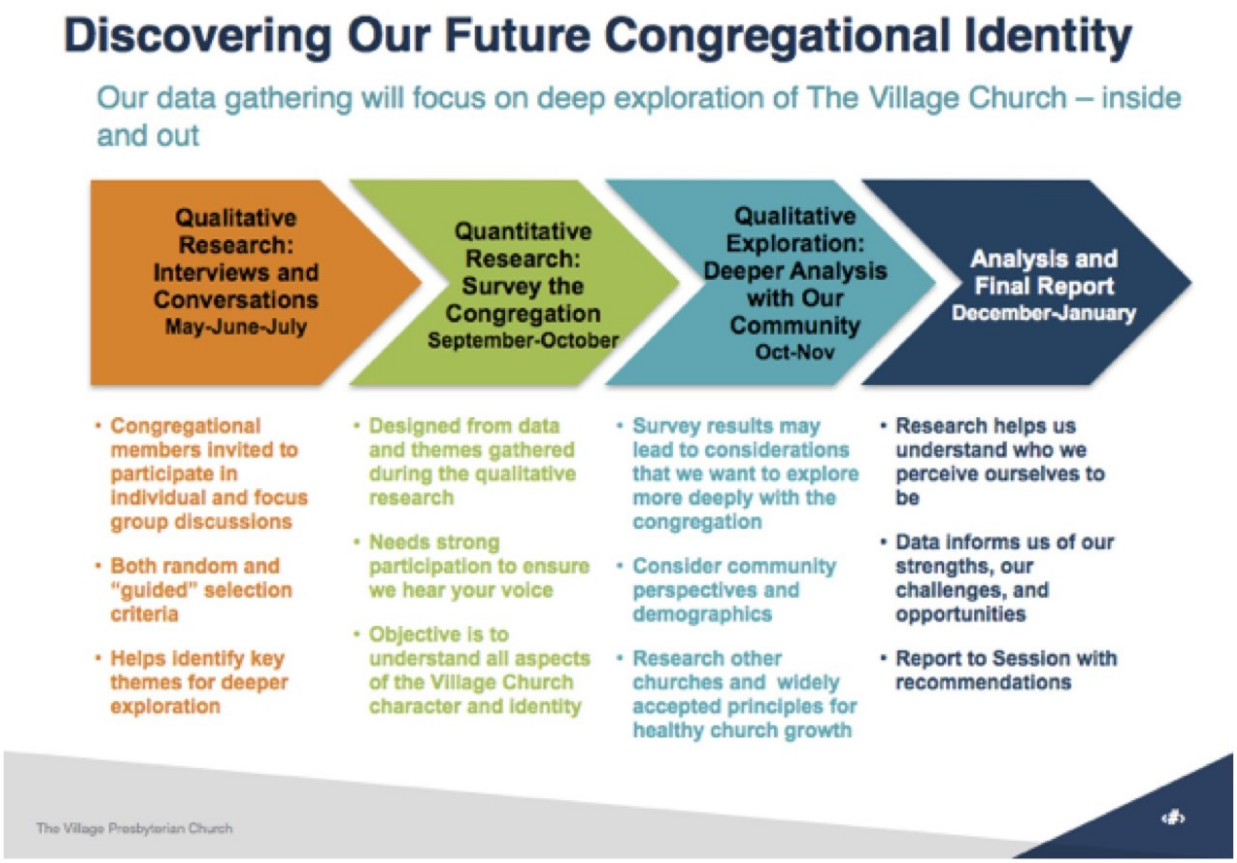
As you know, the Mission Study Team has been hard at work since last April examining the Village Church today and exploring who God is calling the Village Church to be in the future.

Our approach to this project was to conduct interviews, form focus groups and take a church-wide survey. We visited churches, spoke with people in the community and read about what makes churches thrive. Most importantly we listened to the Holy Spirit during this process.

Now the Mission Study Team, as well as Session, invites everyone to the Annual Congregational Meeting on **February 12, 2017** where we will share the results of our work. **We will present a clear vision for the future of the church with distinct expectations for the pastoral qualities needed to lead the Village Church toward that vision.**

We want to thank everyone for their participation and their prayers, and we hope you will join us on February 12.

If you have questions, please reach out to any of the Mission Study Team members: Christine Cheung, myself, Randi Handzel, Catherine Hazlitt, Storm Metzger, Jeff Myers, Dan Walsh and Fred Weber.



We are in Phase Four of our process, "Analysis and Final Report," identified as the navy chevron in the illustration above.

Mission Partners in FOCUS

Bethlehem Bible College in Bethlehem, Palestine

The local community which Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) serves has been impacted by political unrest and conflict. Prior to 1948, Christians were roughly 8% of the population in the Holy Land. Today the Christian population is less than 1.5% of the Palestinian community as many have emigrated from the difficult political situation to find better opportunities for education, work, and their families abroad.

Bethlehem Bible College was founded in 1979 by local Arabs to offer high-quality theological education and to train Christian leaders for service in the local church and community. It aims to strengthen and revive the Christian church and support the local Christians in the Holy Land in order to combat this growing Christian exodus.

BBC President Jack Sara, Greg Buell, Younan Shiba, and Caryl Weinberg

The Biblical Studies programs, including a BA in Biblical Studies and Christian Education and an MA in Christian Ministry, are the heart and soul of Bethlehem Bible College. The BBC Tour Guide Program serves the Palestinian and international communities by offering a unique Bible-centered curriculum taught in English to provide professional training, education, and practical preparation to tour guides for the Holy Land.

In the fall of 2016, Village Church began a partnership with Bethlehem Bible College. Specifically, we made a $4,000 contribution to their online certificate program which enables Arabic-speaking Christians around the world to receive the foundation they need for ministry. Students enrolled in this program come from many countries including Palestine, Yemen, Algeria, Sweden and Germany. It is the Mission Council's desire to support scholarships for future students at BBC.

Stephen Ministry

Snow creates a lot of dangers on the road, and like the picture here, can sometimes bury us completely.

There are other factors which can have a similar emotional and spiritual effect on us. At various points in life, people get bogged down and even stuck by marriage problems, divorce, parenting issues, grief, financial and job-related issues, addictive behaviors, and more. February in Chicago is the period when the greatest number of people become depressed.

Perhaps you have issues in your life, are feeling burdened by the weight of it all, and could use help to get unstuck. This is what our Stephen Ministers are here for. They serve friends and members of The Village Church by meeting with an individual on a weekly basis. These one-on-one confidential sessions are led by a Stephen Minister who has undergone fifty hours of training in order to care for you in the best way possible.

For more information, please contact the church at 847-272-0900 or Stephen Ministry Intake Coordinator, Penny Carlo, at 224-213-7085 or 410-977-7606.

Thanking God for Millie Webster: Long-Term Missionary Retires

In 2017, Village Church mission partner, Millie Webster, will retire after forty years of mission work. Most recently she served in Cuamba, Mozambique. As she reflected on her ministry, she commented, "It's awesome to think of God's faithfulness over the years."

Where were you before Mozambique?
I began in western Zambia at Luampa mission hospital. After four years in the hospital seeing repetition of serious malnutrition and preventable diseases due to traditional beliefs, I moved into community health and development in the more remote areas.

While in Zambia I developed an extensive primary health care project including training and supervision of health committees, volunteer community health care workers, rural mobile clinics with maternal/child vaccination and exams, leprosy and TB treatment and later home-based care for AIDS. Teaching interactively in local languages engaged them in learning. The challenge was to help them move from dependency on others for health care to communities empowered to help themselves. This ministry dramatically decreased TB, malnutrition, and deaths related to pregnancy and delivery. The request from Mozambique was to help develop a similar ministry, but the governments were very different and this wasn't possible.

How did you incorporate your nursing into your role?
With my background and experience when I moved to Mozambique, I continued health education with those who came wanting 'medication' as well as teaching preventative health to churches in that district. While at Muapula, Mozambique, I volunteered to assist and offered health education at the local government clinic where staff often listened and learned along with the patients.

Later, during a cholera epidemic in Cuamba where I'd moved, the hospital medical director invited me to help educate the public to curb the epidemic. Where I was already known, I was well received and advice taken, but where I was unknown, I was treated with suspicion and threatened by local leaders. During this time I was reminded that responding in crisis doesn't prevent disease. Therefore I did preventative health teaching at the hospital until early 2015 when the rains and reconstruction made it extremely difficult to gather patients and families as I'd done for years. Most recently, I mentored the newer missionaries to understand relations and cultural issues, and explored with

them ways to develop ministries which suited their interests and gifts.

What is prompting you to leave Mozambique and retire?
A combination of factors over the years, including advice of retired single missionary friends, has led me to retire. Also, the many trips for required mission meetings, government paperwork, and dental or medical care were taking their toll. Each trip was a day's journey out and another back on rough roads that leave even the youngest needing an extra day or two to recover. This year a trip to SAF to replace stolen glasses and to dentists reminded me I'm not getting younger! I have increased hearing loss making it frustrating to effectively do church seminars in the rural areas, and I know hearing aids would not function in Cuamba's very fine dust.

In addition, I turned 67 last year and sensed God may be leading me back to Harlan, Kentucky to invest in that very needy area. Drug and alcohol addiction are incredibly high, and third- and fourth-generation dependency on welfare is the norm. The situation has worsened since coal mines were closed a few years ago.

The Mission Council is proud to have partnered with Millie for over 20 years and will continue to support her through June 2017. She has been an inspiration to our congregation and a blessing to countless men, women and children in Africa through working to improve health care and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. May she be deeply blessed as she enters this new chapter of life.

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Pancake Festival

The Village Church will host the 61st annual Pancake Festival on Saturday, **March 4,** from 7:30 am—2:00 pm. The Pancake Festival is a ton of fun! We will have local bands, giveaways, and all-you-can-eat pancakes.

Tickets are $8 for adults, $5 for kids 5-12 years old, and kids under 5 eat free. We will raffle off a 65" TV—entries are only $5 each.

If you want to volunteer to help with the event, contact Matt Morgan at pancakefestivalvolunteer@gmail.com or 847-348-9109.

We hope to see you there as your support of this fun event is greatly appreciated!

Help Steward Our Resources

In an effort to reduce expenses, links to a color version of the *Carillon* are available on the website and the weekly email blast. An email notice will be sent when a new issue is published. This way you can read the *Carillon* earlier and easily share it with friends and family. Please opt for the online version and help reduce printing and mailing expenses.

We will continue to mail the *Carillon* to members without computer access and printed copies are available in the church literature racks. Please contact the office or go to the website www.tvpchurch.org and request to be removed from the snail mail list.

You can now access your information on file with the church, our church directory, and the calendar of events online. It's easy to get started—visit the church website: www.tvpchurch.org and click on "Member Login."