

# THE OLIVE BRANCH

*West Valley Presbyterian Church*



*October 2020 Newsletter*

**August Family Day  
at the Philippine  
Seminary:  
International  
Graduate School  
of Leadership**

*What a normal  
August looks like  
at the Seminary >*

*Story on Page 2 from  
Missionary Adam Day*



**Hardy Hemphill**  
WVPC Music Director

Send a welcome to our  
new Music Director, Hardy  
Hemphill, at [Hardy@wvpc.org](mailto:Hardy@wvpc.org).

Read all about his amazing  
background on page 7.

***Please email your Questions  
or Ministry Stories to [Lanette@WVPC.org](mailto:Lanette@WVPC.org)***

**INSIDE**

**Page 1**

August Family Day  
Hardy Hemphill

**Page 2**

Missionary Adam Day

**Page 3**

Refuge Friends  
CityTeam Partners

**Page 4**

Thank you Dugans  
Alan Rowe

**Page 5**

Blessing the Next Generation  
Remembering

**Page 6**

Campus Improvements  
September Boutique

**Page 7**

Leadership Opportunities  
Hardy Hemphill Bio

## August Family Day Update from Missionary Adam Day

Our seminary has students from 20 different countries in Asia, so the primary goal is training students for the Great Commission - to plant churches and take the gospel to the least reached in Asia. About 40-50% of the school is international (depending on the year) and then 40-50% are from the Philippines, so it's a pretty diverse school.

**We draw students from China, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Korea, and many others!** Our student body is about half Filipino. The school was started with an international focus and we seek to maintain that in our student body and faculty. Many of our students are first generation Christians and have come out of Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu backgrounds, which is always **encouraging to hear how God has been at work around the world.**

Our biggest challenge right now is online teaching. Our school has never offered online classes before, so we have a pretty steep learning curve for doing so. To make things more challenging, all of our students were sent back home due to the pandemic, so some of them **don't have great internet and live in less than ideal circumstances to do school.** Our semester just started on Monday (8/24), so we're in the midst of navigating those challenges.

Last year we had 3 families come to our school from **Mongolia** which are the **first students we've ever had** at the school (in our 40 year history). Since Mongolia is less than 2% Christian, it was a significant development for our school. The church in Mongolia is only about 30 years old - it started after the end of the Soviet Union. I've developed a great relationship with 2 of the Mongolian students.

There are many Christians in the Philippines, but discipleship is something that is needed, so the church there can feel a mile wide but an inch deep, as the saying goes. There aren't a lot of resources that are written in the Philippines for the Philippines. Most books, curriculum, music, etcetera, are all developed in the West and then imported there. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but the **growth of the church is most evident when nationals are producing materials for their own countries.** This is an issue in Asia in general, that we hope to remedy by training and discipling more church leaders.

I have two funny stories...

There's the time that I was preaching at a student's church and Anna was standing in the back, 'wearing' Caleb (he was 6 months old). But then Caleb 'blew out' his diaper! I noticed Anna was gone. When I saw her next, Caleb only had a diaper on and Anna was wearing a different shirt.

I asked a student why he chose to do his **MA in Biblical Studies** (we also have an MDiv and MA in Leadership). He didn't speak much English, hoping to learn some his first year. I learned that when he had to check which degree he was applying for on the application, he did not know any of the words except for "Bible" and he knew he wanted to

learn about the Bible, so he checked that box.

My wife, Anna teaches Bible in the certificate program (for student wives) and has co-led a small group. Otherwise, she's at home with our 2 sons. Our oldest, Luke, started preschool while we were in the Philippines, and our youngest, Caleb was born there, so he was 1.5 when we came back to the US.

Right now, Anna oversees a program to help student wives read through the Bible in 2 years, where she helps them understand the overview of each book before they start reading it and gives them questions to reflect on in their Bible reading. Otherwise, she's with Caleb (who is almost 2.5) and helping Luke with school (he just started kindergarten).

Because our students are from all over Asia, I teach in English. I did spend 6 months learning Tagalog, but my level is that of a 4 or 5 year old. So I can have a basic conversation and get around town if I need to, but I'm not advanced by any means.

Most of our students plant churches, are involved in para-church ministries, or pastor throughout Asia. Our students from the Philippines are pastors, church planters, or want to become overseas missionaries somewhere in Asia.





## Dear Friends of the Refuge,

Saturday, August 29 was our August Refuge. The Paulsons and New Beginning Church, who are the original organizers of the Refuge, have begun holding a socially distanced service and sermon every Saturday in the little amphitheater outside our usual room at Murphy Park. We begin serving food at 4:30 pm. We hand out pre-packaged dinners and bags of supplies, then the participants take their food over to the little amphitheater for the service. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's to be flexible and open to figuring out our best practices through trial and error!

Our menu was BBQ chicken, potato salad and cucumber salad. We were shooting for 100 meals/bags of food & water again - any not served at the Refuge were delivered to homeless encampments around town.

Finally, we are grateful for those of you who come out and help Saturdays. We always need people to pack bags beginning at 2:00 pm, then we need a few vehicles to help transport the meals and bags to the Refuge at 4:15. You could be done by 5:00. I'd like to take a minute here to thank Maggie Day for her faithfulness to this ministry. I think she has missed only 3 or 4 Refuge meals in the 9 or 10 years that we have served. I know God is in charge, but He sends Maggie to keep things running smoothly and to keep us laughing every month.

Thank you all for your continued faithfulness to this ministry.

In Christ,

**Sandy & Mike Madeleine**



## Partnering with CityTeam

Graduates from the CityTeam Program's *Renew* and *Turning Point* received floral bouquets and cards from ten families from WVPC. These were delivered on September 11, by Debbi Dunkley and Janet Shaw to CityTeam.

Debbi and Janet also delivered the three full boxes of hygiene supplies collected by the church on September's Drive-Thru Service Worship.

Thank you everyone for your contributions! CityTeam was very excited to receive your gifts.

Sincerely,

**Janet Shaw & Jennie Bader**





## Thank You Dugans!

Friends, we are celebrating the music ministry of Becky and Gary Dugan. They have led us in worship with love and joy for the past three years, and we are incredibly grateful for them! As Gary nears retirement from his work at Broadcom, they get to start the next chapter of life with a move to Roseville California, so they can be closer to their granddaughters.

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## A Note from Becky

Dear WVPC Friends--

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you these past few years. Learning a new style of worship and working with the fine musicians of the Praise Band has been an exhilarating experience for us. The choir also has been a joy and a blessing and I'm very pleased with all we were able to accomplish. I'm confident that God has some great things planned for West Valley Pres and we're sorry we won't be with you to see it. But we'll be enjoying the company of our daughter Katie and her family in Roseville. If you're ever in the neighborhood, stop by!

**Becky Dugan**

Becky and the Messiah Brass Ensemble performed September 13, outside the sanctuary to encourage our neighborhood.



## Alan Rowe WVPC Youth Director

It's so good to be back. I first attended this church at age five and now, I'm hoping to give back to the church that helped me begin and cultivate my own spiritual walk with Christ. My wife Molly and I have been married for eight boisterous years. We have two girls: Madison who is our green thumb at age six, and we have our mischievous and chatty Abby, who is approaching a year and a half. We are loving the duplex and it's given us much more room to bounce around during shelter in place. I've been doing youth ministry for over 17 years and can't wait to do even more with this group of students.



## Guess Who?

Alan has started Crash Zone online, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:30-4:30 pm. Online Youth Group meets Wednesdays at 7 pm. **Spread the Word!**



## Blessing The Next Generation

Did you know that Bill Glass, longtime prison minister, uncovered that it's rare to find traditional Jews in prison? He has discovered families that practice formally blessing their children each Sabbath form a positive bond with their parents and God. His ministry is going to prisons and providing the blessing that the prisoner's parents never thought to give them.

In Genesis 49, we read about Israel blessing his children before his passing. These blessings impacted each tribe through all future generations.

As a believer, you have more power for good than you realize! Your words have creative or destructive power. You can begin by saying the traditional Jewish blessing, or writing and reciting something meaningful for each member of your family.



<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/blessing-the-children/>

***May we fill our mouths with blessings, so that there's no room for curses. Shalom!***



## Remembering...

Please remember those who have experienced loss in your prayers.

*Melba Swanson would like to honor the memory of Sterling Swanson.*

*We are sad to report the passing in late July of long time member Dean Latter. He suffered from Alzheimer's Disease the last 10 years of his life. Dean served in most every capacity at West Valley during the many years he and his wife Nancy, and their kids, Karen, Steve, and Paul, were active here. He was a gentle soul with a listening ear. Retiring from Santa Clara Unified School District as a principal, he had a BIG love for kids. He also enjoyed fishing and duck hunting. No service will be planned because of the Covid 'Shelter in Place'. Cards can be sent to Nancy and family at Belmont Village Senior Living, 1039 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.*

## Campus Improvements

*Chris ordered some beautiful patio umbrellas for everyone to enjoy.*



*McHattie Hall has a new working toilet,*



*and the gym now has air conditioning, thanks to Bill Day!*



## Get Some Fresh Air

1. **YMCA Online Workouts** - <https://ymca360.org/on-demand>
2. **Public Swim** - <https://www.ranchorecreation.org/public-swim/>
3. **Elkhorn Slough Kayaking** - <https://kayakconnection.com/elkhorn-slough/>
4. **Walk/Hike Filoli Gardens** - <https://filoli.org/>

## Stay Informed

1. **Air Quality Check** - <https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Cupertino&state=CA&country=USA>
2. **Sign up for local alerts** - <https://local.nixle.com/register/> Or text your zip code to 888777.

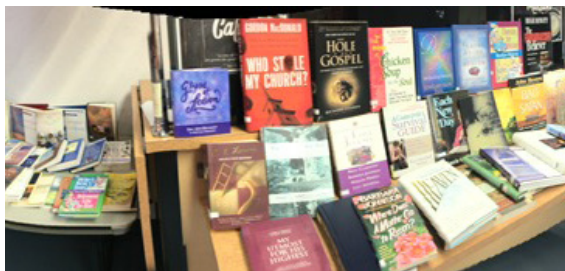
## General Healthcare

- *Did you know that most organizations, including healthcare, are offering discounts on bills, but you might have to ask about it, or ask to speak with a manager.*
- *Do you have a loved one that struggles with mental illness? You can find resources at NAMI or 1-800-New-Life.*

## September Boutique

WVPC members stopped by McHattie Hall to peruse handmade cards and library books. (Sue Willey & Terri Dias checking people in.)

Boutique Coordinator, Cynthia Blank, is planning to have another Boutique on October 24.







## Are You Open to Serving in Leadership?

2020 has been a tumultuous year to say the least. Yet we have seen God doing amazing things, and using us in beautiful ways. Our Deacons and Elders have been incredibly faithful and hard working. Several have stayed on an extra year, and now we need to release them from this work so they can continue to grow in new ways.

New life and new leadership are in store for West Valley. Can you play a part?

If you are open to being called and equipped for service in our caregiving or shepherding ministries, please contact **Elder Brenda Gips** at [antbis@aol.com](mailto:antbis@aol.com).

## Hardy Hemphill



Hardy grew up in the church. His father was a United Methodist pastor in rural Maine. Playing piano at the age of 5 and classically trained on the university level by age 13, Hardy started touring the world with music groups out of Los Angeles at age 16, even foregoing his own high school graduation to tour the US and Europe with an orchestra. After 3 years at Berklee College of Music in Boston, he resumed touring, recording and composing for many recording artists, off-broadway theatre groups, television theme songs and bands.

Hardy had 12 glorious years in Nashville where he lived his dream as a sideman (a musician who plays for major recording artists). He performed/toured live with 24 well known Contemporary Christian Artists, including Russ Taff, Bryan Duncan, Newsong and many more. After 2 tours and 2 albums with Steven Curtis Chapman and a brief stint with Bob Carlyle, country-singer Shania Twain hired him to join her original touring band. He played keys, percussion, harmonica, accordion and sang with her for 17 years.

During this time, Hardy was composing for theatre (8 musicals), television and film. He has continued to work and perform with numerous musical legends such as Kix Brooks (Brooks & Dunn), Renee Fleming, Kenny Loggins, Elton John, The BackStreet Boys, Alison Krauss & Union Station, Jimmy Buffett and many more.

Hardy moved to the Bay Area in 2004 and began a family. While working in secular environments, he has always continued to support music in the church, even volunteering at his local church wherever he lived. In 2016 Menlo Church (formerly Menlo Park Presbyterian Church) hired Hardy to be Director of Worship.

No matter where he goes to be a musician, he considers it his utmost goal to please his Creator, to do the best at all times, to encourage others to achieve the highest and to have fun doing it.