

THE OLIVE BRANCH

West Valley Presbyterian Church



August 2021 Newsletter

West Valley Choir

Thanks to Janet Shaw for reviving the choir, and Hardy Hemphill for leading it - for some special Sunday performances. Below, everyone stands at a safe distance apart!



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Our Sunday School kids are small and mighty!

When they studied the miracle of the loaves and fishes I emphasized that a young boy sacrificed his lunch—and Jesus used his gift to feed the crowd. I challenged them to make some sacrifices for 3 weeks, earning money by extra chores or giving up a treat and saving the money instead.

We agreed as a class to donate the money to Heifer International. This wonderful organization provides farm animals along with feed and education, and continued support to families in need. Instead of providing one meal, Heifer gives them a chance to feed themselves and potentially begin a business. The 4 kids worked very hard and earned enough to buy a flock of chicks for one family and a pair of ducks for another!

With these animals, the families will eventually have eggs to eat, to breed more birds, and even have enough to sell! Our wonderful kids participated in a miracle—their sacrificial gifts eventually could feed thousands!

Terri Dias, Youth Director



*As summer winds down, it's a great time to think about fall cleaning. **The next time you are on campus**, please check cupboards and cabinets where you may have material to be retrieved and consolidated. Ask three questions: Are we using this now? Can it be used in the future with no repair or refurbishment? Does the program it was used for still exist? If an answer is "no", out it goes! Have you craft and sewing supplies in multiple places? Now would be a good time to pull them together and discard unusable items. Is there electronic equipment that is no longer serviceable? Let's move it out to be recycled.*

Let's make our campus "spark joy" for all of us.

The space in which we live,
should be for the person we are
becoming now. Not the person
we were in the past.

Marie Kondo





Mission Opportunities

August 29, is a 5th Sunday, but we will enjoy a regular church service.
For the month of August, we can collect items for CityTeam backpacks.
Contact Donna Perry with any questions.



Help children in need succeed when school starts!

DONATE TODAY

Help low-income children through CityTeam's Backpacks for Success program! You can help provide a backpack and essential school supplies to kids who might otherwise go without. Our goal is provide 2,500 children with backpacks before school starts.

1. Collect backpacks and school supplies, then divide the supplies and place them in the backpacks.
2. Include an encouraging note to a kid who will be receiving the backpack.
3. Bring your items to:

CityTeam in the Neighborhood
1297 North 13th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
408.232.5600

DROP OFF SCHEDULE:
Tuesday-Saturday from
9AM-12PM

- ☐ Backpacks
- ☐ Glue Sticks
- ☐ 3-Ring Binders
- ☐ Colored Markers
- ☐ Lined Paper
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Pencil Holders
- ☐ Plastic Rulers
- ☐ #2 Pencils
- ☐ Blunt Scissors
- ☐ Pencil Sharpeners
- ☐ Index Cards
- ☐ Erasers
- ☐ Encouraging Notes
- ☐ \$20 gift cards for shoes:
 - DSW
 - Famous Footwear
 - Journeys
 - Foot Locker



CITYTEAM.ORG/SJBACKPACKS



Come Join Our Micro-Lending Team!

This September, the Missions Department wants you to participate in a new effort to support economic development globally, using a popular microlending platform. Interested WVPC and GrX members will be invited to apply for a free gift code on the WVPC website. You'll be sent the \$25 gift code, and you'll select a project to support on the lending site. Watch the weekly email update for more information.

Where Did The Cameras Go?

We're all so grateful to our Media Team for the many technical improvements to our equipment and training.

1. We now have three robotic cameras. Two are attached to the monitors on the left and right side walls, and one is in the back behind the crew. Having three identical cameras that match in color and quality, has really bumped up the consistent beauty of our broadcasts.

With the cameras high up and out of the aisles, members no longer have to worry about raising their hands when they stand in worship.

2. We also have a switcher that is able to control color correction, focus, framing and dissolves or cuts between shots for all three cameras. The switcher also simplifies our video and soundboard audio stream to YouTube.

3. The left switcher monitor is split into small windows from the three camera and graphic images, and a larger preview and program display. The right monitor shows camera programming and special effects.

4. In the photo to the right, we see crew members working at their stations:

- Yonas working the soundboard*
- Greg teaching Ethan the switcher*
- and Dave working the text and graphics.*

Theresa, Betty, Evan, Frank and Lanette also assist as crew members.

1.



2.



3.



4.



Transition Team Update

August 2021

On behalf of the transition team, thank you all for your prayers and support during this summer of change. As you may recall from our recent town hall meetings and ongoing Q&A opportunities on the patio after church, the contractual issues related to the 2014 Dismissal Agreement with San Jose Presbytery have temporarily slowed us down. With the assistance of legal counsel, we have developed several options that will allow us to move forward.

Here are a few milestones we hope to reach before the end of September and desire your prayerful support as we work to bring GrX onto campus.

The first milestone is the approval of a proposal letter to Bluewater Presbytery, our ECO governing body. Our letter, crafted in consultation with Session, legal counsel, the GrX transition team, and leadership from Bluewater Presbytery, is nearing endorsement by all involved and will be formally presented to Bluewater Presbytery soon. Of course, before it is delivered to the Presbytery leadership, we will share it with the congregation so that you will be aware of specifics in the proposal. You can expect to see something in the next few weeks.

The second, very important milestone, is meeting with the San Jose Presbytery, initiated by the leadership of Bluewater Presbytery, to discuss our plans. This is a complicated situation, but we hope to get the issues resolved by the time the San Jose Presbytery meets in the fall.

Finally, **our third** milestone is the final vote by our congregation and the congregation of GrX. Once discussions are completed with San Jose Presbytery, Session will determine the best option and present a final recommendation to the congregation for vote. At the same time, the GrX leadership team will present the final proposal to its congregation for vote.

GrX continues to meet virtually due to concerns about the increased rate of infection in our area and the fact that many of their members are children not yet eligible for the Covid vaccine. This means we will not plan any joint congregational gatherings over the summer, although we have one or two "virtual" projects that may help us get to know one another better as school starts.

We will continue to have transition team members available on Sundays on the patio after the worship service to answer your questions and receive your input. For members who continue to worship virtually, please email your questions or input to Donna Perry at DRPerry1955@gmail.com.

Finally, I want to thank the Transition Team for their work: weekly meetings, reading and consolidating multiple documents, and brainstorming ideas to assist West Valley members in making the transition to a new church as painless as is possible. Team members include Brenda Gips, Terri Dias, Donna Perry, Dan Yuen, Pastor Morgan and me. Brenda and Terri are doing double duty since they also serve on Session. **Please continue your prayers for West Valley and GrX as we look forward to a new outflow of God's love for Silicon Valley on the corner of Miller and Bollinger.**

Grace and peace,

Mike Clark