



Village Green
Community Church

Annual Report 2017



*Celebrating the choices we've made this past year to love God,
love others and change the world!*

Contents

1. Pastors Report – Jon Korkidakis
2. Board Report – Al Vanderlaan
3. Prayer Report – Jennifer Paul
4. Finance Committee Report – Don Shirley
5. Baseball Report – Don Shirley
6. Missions Report – Shirley Ella
7. Benevolence Report – Sue Das
8. Strategic Ministries Report – Matt Loveday
9. Kids Connection Report – Matt Loveday
10. Rentals – Matt Loveday
11. Facilities Report – Jeff Hopkins
12. Student Ministries Report – Jeff Hopkins
13. Life Group Report – Brad and Renee Alcox
14. Worship Arts Report – Sarah Hekman
15. Website & Social Media Report– Rob Hueniken
16. Pollard Youth Ministries Report – Jarred Curtis
17. Women’s Ministry Report – Betty Obokata
18. Men’s Ministry Report – Dale Mackness
19. Sunday Morning Hospitality Report – Mavie Jansen
20. Chaplaincy & Community Care Report – Jason Snelgrove
21. Day Camp Report–Jeff Hopkins
22. Tutoring - Jennifer Charlton

Pastor's Report

Jon Korkidakis

Darlene and I are beginning our tenth year here at Village Green. To say we've experienced a lot of ministry would be quite the understatement.

In those years we've grown, we've flexed, we've lost some but we've won more. There have been changes, some good, others not so much. We've collectively mourned and collectively celebrated. We've seen some walk away from the faith while we've seen many more transformed by the Gospel message.

We've suffered through attempted power struggles, financial shortfalls, staffing changes and have even survived the threat of extinction as a church - moments that over the course of ten years brought us to our knees before God in prayer.

We've even come through a building project. Something that ranks very high on the list of most stressful things a church can experience. Alas, with all the changes we have endured as a church, here we are.

What hasn't changed, though, is the Lord our God. In a world that seems to be unstable under its own weight we can proclaim that through the ups and downs that is church life, God has remained faithful. For that, we are and always will be, grateful.

Regardless of the wonderful community that is Village Green, the priority will always be reaching people with the Gospel. It is what keeps us focused and intentional when it comes to evaluating what we do and how we do it.

What it means for the believer is continuing to create opportunities for personal growth. For the non-believer, it means an open invitation to hear how Jesus can transform their life, not just for the present, but also for all of eternity.

With those priorities in mind, we continue to look towards the future – how do we shape the ministries of Village Green to meet those future needs? It is a constant question that allows us to never take what we have as a church for granted.

At a time when many churches in parts of our country are closing, and many others experiencing declining numbers, we remain a viable and healthy congregation that is a blessing to its community. I believe we can honestly say that if we should ever leave this property, the community of Westmount would sincerely miss us.

So, considering the challenges facing the church culturally, and the commitment we have taken personally to meet those challenges head on, we want to give you a glimpse of where we are investing in the months ahead.

- We are looking at better ways of engaging volunteers and creating easier onramps for leadership development. We do not want to create an audience, but a body of believers who are actively engaged in kingdom work, whether it's serving the ministries of the church, or the community that surrounds us.
- We are looking at a greater online impact. Trends in our culture are pointing to the ongoing demise of brick and mortar stores and greater online engagement. This is a trend that cannot be ignored by the church. Besides, this is an incredible opportunity to reach others who would not otherwise appear at church on a Sunday morning.

- We are continuing to look at ways of improving the overall experience at Village Green. Whether its Sunday mornings or Life Groups, we want to make your journey with Jesus inspiring and compelling.

These have been part of the impetus behind #mychoicematters. We wanted to create something that would hopefully resonate throughout our community. Something that would prompt you in every decision you make to realize that whenever your choices honour the Lord, they create not only a blessing for you personally and for your future, but also for the church community as a whole.

During one of our strategic communication times on a Sunday morning (i.e. announcements), I said that Village Green is a great medium size church. Why would I say that? Here's my list:

- We are small enough not to overwhelm you,
- Yet large enough to deliver great ministry.
- We also know why we exist which keeps us focused on our mission, which is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Frankly, it doesn't get much better than that.

Before I close out my report, I do want to extend my thanks to all of you. I am grateful for the years of serving you in this great enterprise known as the church where together we are loving God, loving others, and changing the world.

Blessings for 2017;

Jon Korkidakis

Lead Pastor, Village Green Community Church

Board of Directors' Report

Al Vanderlaan

The church is currently in the midst of our #mychoicematters campaign and I can truly say that Village Green is the church it is today, thanks to all of you and the choices you make that matter! Can I say thank you to each and every one of you?

Thank you! Your choice to serve in leadership, in worship, in creativity, in teaching, in giving, and in service (those are all broad categories that I hope speak to all of the individual ministries) is so appreciated by the Board of Directors.

This past year we encouraged you to invest, invite and inspire with us. As I look back through the minutes of our meetings this year I can joyously report that:

- 12 students gave their lives to Christ at Day Camp last year
- Our youth have a space of their own to grow, learn, and fellowship together
- We ended the year in the black
- We were able to invest in a new amplifier, new wireless mics, and new hearing aids to aid in our worship
- We were able to invest in a new sign for the front of the church as well as some new carpet downstairs
- We have continued to lay the foundation for future ministry through updating our by-laws and policies

I'm sure that as you read through this annual report you will see and remember countless other instances of God's faithfulness to us as a congregation this past year.

The board of directors continues to meet monthly, with the Elders, and provide guidance to staff on ministry initiatives, hear reports on existing ministries, as well as watch over the finances of the church including helping to shape the vision and budget of the church. The board of directors is comprised

of the following members: Jarred Curtis, Kim Harrisgreen, Davi Pontes, Don Shirley, Dave Willms, and Al Vanderlaan (Chair). Thank you to all who have given of your time and energy. Special thanks goes out to Jarred Curtis who has served on the board for the past six years and whose insight and wisdom will be missed.

We look forward to the 2017/2018 ministry year where we reflect on God's faithfulness in bringing us here and look forward to how God will use Village Green Community Church to reach our community for Christ! Your choices do matter as we together learn to Love God, Love Others, and Change the World!

Blessings in Christ,
Al Vanderlaan
Chair – Board of Directors

Prayer Report

Jennifer Paul

Imagine if we lived out this next year's theme – #mychoicematters – in our prayer ministry? Do we really believe that it matters if we pray? Prayer is so portable that we can do it wherever we are – driving, walking, sometimes while caring for our families, or working, etc., or of course, in quiet times dedicated to prayer.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.” Ephesians 6:18

We have continued in prayer these ways this year:

- Sunday pre-service prayer times: (Leader - Dale Mackness)
- Prayer Room following each Sunday morning service
- Prayer Partners for people in leadership roles at VG
- Intercessory Team- for specific requests (keeping them confidential),
- Leadership Retreats, and this year again, for Day Camp
- Prayer time in LIFE Groups
- Elders Prayer time early each Thursday morning.

Our Infusion Evenings – prayer times for whole church community – have been a challenge this year. This is an area we really need to put aside time for this year.

So, we have opportunity to make our choice matter in prayer by:

- Coming to pray at 9:30am before the Sunday morning worship service, if you are not serving elsewhere in the building at that time. Making a choice to arrive that ½ hour earlier matters. No one needs to feel pressure to pray out loud. Just come and join with us. Any age is welcome. (Can you imagine our children observing us seeking God in this way?)
- Remember to pray for our church leaders, the ministries of the church, how we can reach out to our community more, our missionaries, whatever you see happening in the bulletin...
- Come to pray as a church body at Infusion.

Our desire is to pray as an admission of our great need and as a declaration of our great expectations.

Finance Committee Report

Don Shirley

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial operations of the Church and the preparation of the annual budget, financial statements and the oversight of the accounting procedures. The committee is made up of Don Shirley (Chair), Scott Rowe, Dave Willms, and Ed Murphy. This past year Scott stepped down as treasurer. We thank Scott for his many years of faithful service. We also thank Dave Willms for taking over this important position. We thank Josh Gowan and Dave Raney for their help earlier in the year. We thank Sue Das (Church Administrator) for the managing of the accounting records along with Dave Willms. Nancy Burr stepped down as the tax receipt administrator during the year. Again, we thank Nancy for many years of faithful service and we are grateful to Diane Willms for taking over this important ministry. We also thank a team of offering counters that have done a great job over the past year.

We have been greatly blessed by God over the years with a committed congregation that has financially supported the work here at Village Green. As we look ahead we will need to deal with the increasing complexities of financial reporting as well as the financial implications of the many important ministries that take place here at Village Green. We pray that we will be good stewards of the many material blessings God has given us.

Baseball Report

Don Shirley

We had another successful season of fellowship, exercise, outreach and fun. The season lasted from May until the tournament in September. We played games at Weldon Park in Arva and also in Poplar Hill. While we didn't win a trophy this year we did meet some great people who joined our team. It was great to have fans from the church come and watch our games and socialize. We were thankful for the high level of commitment from the players. We enjoyed a BBQ and awards night near the end of the season. The main challenge was to have enough players during the vacation months of July and August.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

The main goal is that the team will continue to offer opportunities for fellowship and connection. We look forward to getting to know several new players who have become involved with the team. We continue to try to model Christian sportsmanship during the games. We look forward to meeting people on the other teams and make new connections.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

We would ask people to continue to pray that the team members would be protected from injury, that friendships would continue to grow, that outreach would continue and finally that a spirit of Christian sportsmanship would pervade the games.

Missions Report

Shirley Ella

Mission Committee members: Emily Allen, Gayle Dew (Secretary) Shirley Ella (Chair), Brent Paul (Elder Rep), Matt Rowe, Paulette Schiestel, Mauricio Vellojin.

As a committee, we continue to work with our partnership missionaries and those agencies we support through our missions budget.

JOYS

- We are grateful for the opportunities we had to connect with our Partnership Missionaries this past year.
- We supported the London Crisis Pregnancy Centre in the Baby Bottle Collection from Mother's Day to Father's Day. We collected 70 baby bottles and raised \$ 2,233.00 for this ministry.
- We supported Samaritan's Purse Shoebox collection in December. We collected 70 shoeboxes.
- We supported Mission Services of London as we collected 329 pairs of Undies on Undies Sunday.
- We had a very successful Missions Fest. Special thanks to Emily Allen for her leadership in this event. During this event, we:
 - Made an alphabet book for Luca Griffiths to help him with English
 - Decorated onesies for use by El Nido in Colombia
 - Presented information on each one of our Partnership Missionaries
 - Carluci dos Santos from Latin America Mission was our Sunday morning speaker
- We donated to Ark Aid Ministry

- We supported Sara Leggett for the Israel Project in May 2016.
- We encouraged and prayed for Brent and Jennifer Paul as they went to Colombia to minister and provide leadership support and encouragement to our missionaries there.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

- Continue to provide encouragement and prayer support for our missionaries on a regular basis through personal contact, e-mails and Skype
- The Missions Committee will discuss special “Missions Initiatives” for this coming year
- Continue to work on connecting our Missionaries with the LIFE Groups

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray that God would continue to give us unity and wisdom in the decisions we are required to make

Benevolence Report

Sue Das

One of the best things about this ministry is seeing how over time people start to trust enough to tell their real story.

Yesterday a young man I've had sporadic, superficial contact with over the past years shared with me that he has a significant problem with anxiety and depression. He told me that his family says he should just get over it. He shared some of the ways he has been working very hard to make his way toward recovery. I could affirm his choices and encourage him.

I know he left not only with the food voucher he came looking for, but also feeling accepted and with renewed strength for the fight.

There are so many stories. Some of the joys have been making connection between those who have specific needs and members of our congregation meeting those needs, seeing those who are struggling and isolated finally start attending church or others finally manage to get back on their feet again.

The benevolence ministry is a doorway into the struggle and suffering of the lives of others. Some people come only to get a food voucher, many others are just as hungry for acceptance, caring and real connection. By investing in each one that comes looking for help, we always get the opportunity to show them that they matter to us and to God, we often get the opportunity to pray with people, invite them to study the Bible with us or even come to church. Sometimes we even get to change the world.

This ministry has taught me that God always has more planned than I think is possible and that my choice to engage with people beyond the superficial, matters.

Speaking to people does not have the same personal intensity as listening to them. The question I put to myself is not 'How many people have you spoken to about Christ this week?' but 'How many people have you listened to in Christ this week?'

Eugene H. Peterson

Strategic Ministries Report

Matt Loveday

Launching our #mychoicematters campaign this year has really helped us all to understand that every choice that we make – whether BIG or small – makes a difference. In March, we collected diapers to donate to our friends at the Westmount Family Centre only to find out that they support several organizations in the city with the diapers they collect. Our one choice to collect diapers on one Sunday ended up making an impact of hundreds of people in our city. Wow! Thank you, Village Green Community Church, for being an intentionally generous group of people – your choice to serve Christ and share his love is changing lives and changing the world.

On Sunday mornings, we have a dedicated and friendly group of encouragers who stand at the doors of our church and welcome people into the building and into our worship service. Our Greeters and Ushers are an essential part of our strategic ministry at Village Green. Each Sunday they create an environment of welcome and generate a feeling of acceptance and belonging to each and every person who walks through our doors. They are the first line of every song we sing and every sermon we hear – and what they say is, “you are welcome here”.

Outside of Sunday mornings we strategically engage with our community in a variety of ways. Why? Because we believe that we are called not just to invite others to join us in the church – but we are also called to invest our lives into our community. Both the inviting and the investing are important in helping us accomplish our mission of **LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS & CHANGING THE WORLD.**

As a church, we have partnered (or are partnering) with the following community organizations and groups this year:

Thames Valley District School Board	Westmount Family Centre
South London Neighbourhood Resource Center	The London Camera Club
Forest Edge Community Pool	Cheryl O Art
2 Addictions Support Groups	Boys and Girls Club of London
Horton Street Seniors Centre	St. Joseph's Health Care
Mad Science of London	LARYLN Property Management
Settlement Workers in Schools	Sherwood Fox Public School
Arthur Ford Public School	Cross Cultural Learner Centre
Middlesex Health Unit	Faiths Footsteps
ChildCan	Harmony Youth Services
Samaritan's Purse	Ark Aid Mission

Some of our key community connecting “events” that happen in the year are our Fall Festival (September), Ark Aid Mission Meal Serving Team (monthly), Reading Matter Tutoring Program (most of the school year), Kids Connection Christmas Event (December), LINC Soup Lunch (December), Family Day Event (February), Westmount Family Center Event (February), English Conversation Connections (throughout the year), Dine and Dive Socials (July and August) and Community Cup with the Cross Cultural learner Centre (August).

We make a choice every day at Village Green to be a church that has an impact 7 days a week and 12 months a year in our neighbourhood and in our city. It takes a lot of sacrifice, intentionality and strategy to reach out into our community – but it is ALWAYS worth it when people begin to associate

church not just with Sunday morning, but with every day of the week.

Looking ahead my hope and prayer is that we as a church continue to make the choice to expand our connections, our influence and our message of God's love further and further into our neighbourhood, community, city and world! The opportunities are endless, our God is limitless, so why not reach higher!

Kids Connection Report

Matt Loveday

Kids Connection is such a vibrant, fun and energetic ministry of our church. It provides a safe and fun place for kids to not just be CARED FOR but CARED ABOUT. Through Kids Connection young lives are connected to the wonder of God's love by learning three consistent truths that are reinforced each Sunday: God made me, God loves me and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Each month we have a new theme with a brand new fun song and a new memory verse that really helps drive home the truth of God's love for kids in practical and engaging ways. This past year at both Easter and Christmas, our Kids Connection kids sang in our Sunday morning service and recited for everyone two of their memory verses. If you are lucky enough to have witnessed it – you saw just the tip of the fun iceberg that is Kids Connection.

Kids Connection has four main classroom divisions: Nursery (0-23 months), Preschool (2-4 year olds), Kindergarten (JK and SK) and Elementary (Grades 1-5). Each group learns truths in ways appropriate for their age and stage of development. For the past year, we have been averaging 30 kids each Sunday morning. Of course, not every child can make it each Sunday –

so from a numbers perspective Kids Connection is teaching and influencing approximately 45 kids throughout the year. These kids are full of energy and full of potential – they are the church of today and they are the church leaders of tomorrow.

Kids Connection is FAR MORE than just a ministry to kids – it really is a FAMILY BASED ministry. Our goal is not just to have an impact on a young child’s life, but also on the lives of their parents, grandparents and caregivers. It’s what we call our ORANGE PHILOSOPHY – building bridges between church life (the colour yellow) and family life (the colour red) in order to combine these two foundational influences in a kids life (to make the colour orange) and create a more effective way to grow faith in kids and in their parents. What a valuable and eternally worthwhile investment we are making as a church in these young lives. Please pray for our ability to consistently and effectively build relationships with these kids and their families, that we may encourage and support them as they grow in faith.

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all our Kids Connection Volunteers who make this ministry not only possible – but truly life changing! In total – we have over 30 volunteers that serve in this ministry, and as they do, they are intentionally making a choice to plant seeds, love kids, support parents, change the world and change the future – one child at a time.

In December Kids Connection ran a family Christmas event called “A Not So Silent Night”. It was opened up by intentional invitation to our Westmount Community families, our Reading Matters Tutoring families as well as the families of the Language Instruction for New Canadians (LINC) program. The event was very well attended and was used to invite these families out to our Christmas Eve service. What a blessing it was to see 7 families from LINC attend our Christmas Eve

service this year...Muslim families attending a Christian worship service!!

As Kids Connection moves forward, please be praying for more and more volunteers who love kids and are passionate about seeing them learn the truth of God's love. Pray for more opportunities for us as a church to have a supportive and loving voice into the families of our community. Parenthood can be challenging, and being a kid can be full of struggle – but Village Green is making a choice to love and support parents and kids in life and in faith...may we ALWAYS do so.

Rentals

Matt Loveday

505 Village Green Avenue is a popular address! Our building is used by several different groups each week. One interesting piece of information is that we have MORE people walking into our building from Monday to Saturday than we do on Sundays. This DOES NOT mean we don't have a lot of people coming on Sunday, rather it DOES mean that we have a lot of people coming the rest of the week.

People come to the church from Monday to Friday for all sorts of reasons: to learn English, to teach English, to look after kids, to study the bible, to socialize and interact, to be a part of a club, to learn how to paint, to go to camp, to have a meeting, run a car wash, to learn to read, to get some help with an addiction, to practice for Sunday's worship service, to get some food assistance and some come to celebrate a birthday or new baby! God is bringing people into our building all week long (through rentals and various church ministries). Our hope and prayer is that as they come, they experience and come to know the love of God in Christ Jesus.

There are over 25 different individuals/groups that rent our building in any given year, however, our key and consistent rental groups that meet at Village Green are...

1. Thames Valley District School Board – they run their Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program here Monday to Friday from September to June. There are 112 adult students, 23 children and 15 staff that are a part of this program. This is a HUGE commitment and a significant partnership in our neighbourhood.
2. South London Neighbourhood Resource Center – there are two settlement workers working at Village Green all year long. Mudrika and Lamia meet with LINC students and other New Canadians who live in Westmount to help with various issues that arise as families settle in a new country and begin a new life. Due to a lack of space they work out of make-shift offices in the foyer of our church.
3. The London Camera Club – this group is 200 members strong and meet at the church every Thursday evening from September to May. They meet to share their love of photography and have speakers and workshops to help them improve at their hobby. They also meet a few Saturdays throughout the year for special events.
4. Westmount Gathering Place – this is a group of about 25 seniors (55+) that is run in partnership with St. Josephs Health Care Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club of London. They meet every Monday morning in the lower level of the church to socialize, learn and encourage one another.

5. Two Addiction Support Groups – these two groups remain rather anonymous for privacy reasons, but both groups meet weekly throughout the year at the church in the evening to help, love, encourage and support each other deal with an addiction that deeply effects their lives.

Rentals bring people into our building who otherwise would never come through our doors, but rentals also help support us financially. Did you know that rentals account for \$164,000 of annual income at Village Green? This is a significant part of our church budget – and it allows us to do ministry and build the kingdom of God. I am so thankful that Village Green is a church that understands the value of a building and the potential it has to change people’s lives.

Using our building so much, and renting our space out to various groups and individuals, also comes with a cost. It means contracts need to be managed, things need to be replaced and repaired more often because of constantly being in use, it means our utility bills are higher and it means A LOT more cleaning and A LOT more set up and take down each and every day. As we continue to be a busy building, please be in prayer for the many EXTRAS that it takes...pray that in those moments we would be thankful that God is filling our building with people, and that each and every person that comes into our church building would experience the love of God – through us and through our building.

Facilities Report

Jeff Hopkins

We have had several upgrades this year around our facilities, which are needed as we are a very well used building. Our church building is used almost every day for most of the day and that is really good, but it means regular updates and upgrades to our facility are necessary as things wear out more quickly with frequent use. This year we have had new carpets installed in portions of the lower level of the building, a new green space in the upper portion of the property as well as some new trees. Many thanks go to the landscaping team of Dwight Dew, Larry and Mavie Jansen for taking care of our outdoor property!

This year we also did repairs on our parking lot as there was a large amount of damage resulting from construction vehicles, and we also got the parking lot re-lined and new mobility parking spots to make our building more easily accessible.

Student Ministries Report

Jeff Hopkins

This year has seen exciting developments in the Youth Ministry as the students have started to come into their own. Infinity is becoming less of a group of people who meet on Friday night and Sunday morning and more of a group of friends who get to meet regularly. I attribute much of this to the space that they now have in the Youth room. This gives them a home before and after service on a Sunday Morning that is specifically for them. There are many things to do, pool, basketball and just hang out in this space as well as listen to music and just relax. We also use this space on Friday and Sunday to teach for our Sr and Jr High students, and through this teaching we are seeing

some deeper life issues challenged and changes starting to happen! We have a team of committed volunteers who give of their time and their lives to invest and help our students Grow. These volunteers are; James Das, Julia McKone, Paul Goertz, Valerie Ortega Diaz, Cleopatra Camara and Dave Forneri. A huge thank you goes out to these people. Without them, there is no way students could connect nearly as well!

Life Groups Report

Brad and Renee Alcox

We got off to a great start last summer with the Life Group leaders as we believe that investing in and supporting our leaders is vital to the long-term success of this ministry. However, immediately following that great start, our family was turned upside down with more than one medical crisis that we are still dealing with today. As a result, we were not able to invest in our leaders this past year as we would have liked to. Despite that fact, our Life groups have continued to be a vital contributor to Village Green living out its mission to love God, love others and change the world. This is because God is at work and using the people of Village Green. We are so grateful for the Life Group leaders we have at Village Green who kept the Life Group ministry vibrant largely on their own this past year with minimal help from us. They are a great example of “#mychoicematters”. They have chosen to love, encourage, grow, welcome new members to their groups, rejoice with those who are rejoicing, mourn with those who are mourning, stay committed to this ministry even with us at a distance, and much more, all of which literally changes the worlds of those they touch! Their love and commitment should not go unnoticed. *Thank you!* And thank you to all who have chosen to be involved in Life Groups this past year and as a result, in this way, chosen to grow in your love for God, chosen

to grow in your love for others and chosen to change the worlds of those you touch, including your own.

A priority for us this next year will be to identify and prepare new leaders as many of our existing Life Groups have grown to capacity and will be ready to birth new groups in the very near future. We had a good number of new people get connected in Life Groups this past year but we would love to see even more people, new to Village Green and current attendees, choose to get plugged into community life at Village Green this upcoming year. We are also excited about the opportunity to actually be able to invest into our leaders this upcoming year. Our leaders have done a tremendous job this past year at keeping this ministry vibrant but we are committed to seeing long term success by investing in them.

Worship Arts Report

Sarah Hekman

JOYS:

The joy for this past year is definitely working with the group of volunteers we have in the worship ministry. There are so many dedicated, passionate, and talented volunteers here, that it makes working with them to craft a service into something that creates an atmosphere to connect people to God a sheer joy. Because we have had fewer members on our team this year, it has created a need for many of our current musicians to put in more time and weeks. Instead of it being a burden, I feel that it has drawn our team closer together as the greater frequency of volunteers being together has allowed for greater unity - musically, relationally, and spiritually. Another joy is the addition of Grant Whatford on bass and Phil Wiebe on our Worship leading team.

It also was a joy to purchase the front of the house amplifier to improve the clarity of sound. Current feedback is that the sound quality has improved significantly. This is a large step of many sound improvements we hope to achieve gradually at Village Green.

CHALLENGES:

As I mentioned in the Joys section - one of the greatest challenges was a large number of volunteers leaving the worship ministry due to various reasons of leaving Village Green. The positive side of this was the unforeseen benefits of having greater unity among team members by playing together more often; however, our sound and A/V tech ministry could use more volunteers. It would be great to have one more sound tech and two more A/V techs.

A personal challenge for me, and my reason for ultimately deciding to step down was because of the changing needs of my family. Because I also work as a teacher during the day, and three of my four children are in school, I felt it beneficial for our family for me to work during the day, and leave more of my evenings and weekends free for the needs of my family. I will however continue on as a volunteer in the worship ministry, as I absolutely love leading worship and being a part of the worship team, but was finding the frequency of it a challenge.

Looking ahead to the coming year, I feel it will be an exciting time for all of us when the new Worship Coordinator starts in the summer. As change is always an adjustment for everyone, I pray that the transition will go smoothly, and that God will bring the perfect person to take on the role of Worship Arts Coordinator at Village Green. I am excited to see what God has in store for the worship ministry at Village Green!

Website and Social Media Report

Rob Hueniken

Our website continues to be a useful source for many types of church content, including upcoming events, administrative notices, and the weekly sermon podcasts and Life Group notes. A successful addition to the website was the online registration and reporting for Day Camp in 2016, which is being used for its second year in 2017.

One of our vision statements is that we would like to have a greater online presence that is creative and accessible. A lot of people spend several hours a day on social media making this a natural place for us to share some of our content – Bible verses, #mychoicematters stories, pictures of special events and links to sermons – to reach people who do not attend church regularly, but are seeking online avenues for their faith journey.

As of March 2017, we have a public Facebook page and an Instagram account which are both easily accessible to anyone, including on a cell phone. Sue Das is doing great work on this. While we have had a Facebook group for a few years, our new public Facebook page provides greater administrative capabilities: we can post to multiple sites at once, as well as get diagnostics which tell (amongst other things) how many people are visiting our page and what kind of posts get the most engagement. Unlike our Facebook group, people do not have to request to join our new page. This lets them follow us anonymously, providing less of an obstacle for those who are cautiously interested in faith. As of May 2017, we have 76 people following the Facebook page and 61 following on Instagram. Several of these people are not church attenders, and we'd like to grow that number significantly, to over 1,000. One of the ways Facebook provides for audience growth is

through “promoting” posts. These paid ads are a proven method for expanding a church’s online presence and influence. We’d love to see this number grow so that we can reach more people for Christ!

In February 2016, the church switched its Internet Service Provider from Bell to Rogers. That has provided high speed internet more thoroughly via wifi, including to LINC students, and via ethernet cables to our church staff and LINC administrators. Now that we have a good video flow from the AV booth to the foyer, and faster upload speeds, we can investigate streaming our services and special events. We had a taste of this recently when Brent and Jennifer Paul Skyped in to participate in the baptisms on Celebration Sunday. Further wifi enhancements might be needed if we move to having an online app, as described below.

Behind the scenes, the website has been stable in serving up the web pages using WordPress and providing the email. But there are alternative ways to host and administer our site, and other online methods to provide information to our congregation. So, we are exploring ideas such as drag-and-drop webpage creation, to provide easier content creation for our staff; and possibly having an app for cell phones, to provide a focused view of the key online content, including sermon podcasts, upcoming events, and one-click donations. If we do move forward with an app and website redesign, there will be a higher annual cost – which is normal in modern churches, given the heightened importance our society places on online information and social media presence. Having a media and function-rich web presence is helpful for serving the congregation and attracting visitors, particularly millennials and young families.

Pollard Youth Ministries Report

Jarred Curtis

This year has been a bit of a transition for the Pollard fund. When the fund was established, it was created with the assumption that there would always be a member of the family to help guide the direction of the fund. This year, the last members of the family at Village Green decided to join other churches. Because of this, the Board of Directors spent a considerable amount of time researching and obtaining legal advice on how to move forward in this circumstance. In short, it was determined that the fund would remain a part of Village Green, and the Board has sent a proposal to the family on how to include them going forward. To date, there hasn't been a response from the family.

Despite any of these minor challenges related to this fund, it has continued (and will continue) to help Village Green fund ministry, especially for young people. Some highlights of what were funded this year include community events where Village Green was able to interact with the community, improvements to our youth room, money to help with the ministry providing after school tutoring, and the funding of a subscription to Right Now Media for our church family to have access to a library of Christ centered media to help encourage and grow in our faith.

In the coming year, the Pollard fund will continue to provide funding and support as reflected in the budget passed by the congregation this past March.

Women's Ministry Report

Betty Obokata and Angela Richardson

We have great joy in sharing our Tuesday mornings with a wonderful group of 15-20 women - growing deeper in our faith, encouraging one another through bible study, prayer words and loving actions.

This past year our Tuesday mornings have been spent studying "The Practise of Godliness" by Jerry Bridges and "The Armour of God" by Priscilla Shirer.

The 'Armour of God" has been especially impactful - and we are thrilled to have offered it also to an additional group of 15-20 women on Tuesday evenings.

Some of the comments from the women:

- I appreciated the illustration of "chipping away at everything in my life that doesn't look like Jesus"
- I've received an enormous amount of peace - I have changed hugely in my mind and experienced a new freedom from anxiety
- I've received tools to use to stand firm in spiritual battles for myself and to share with others - I appreciated the richness and depth of the study.

We are encouraged to continue with a Tuesday morning gathering for women interested in growing in faith and love for one another this fall. Prayer has been an integral part of our mornings and has expanded to a bi-weekly prayer time for women at the church. We are seeking God's leading for a study focus for the fall.

Men's Ministry Report

Dale Mackness

The Village Green Men's Group had steady attendance this year. Our monthly breakfasts enjoying a home-cooked breakfast usually on the third Saturday have averaged about 17 in attendance and featured mostly hearing the inspiring Life Stories of our members and other men in the VG family. Thanks to Larry Jansen who has been our main supplier of great food this past year and thanks to Currie McLean who helps lead our group.

Our Men's Bible Study in the Youth Room on Tuesday mornings has averaged 8 men studying Romans and then studying and discussing video series by Jim Cymbala entitled "When God's Spirit Moves" followed by a study of John 13-17 entitled "Abiding in Christ" plus praying for one another. Thanks to Stan Smith who has assisted me in facilitating these studies.

Our profits from breakfast meetings and some donations have enabled us to donate money to Samaritan's Purse for Water Filters. We do believe that our choices matter. Please pray for us.

Chaplaincy and Community Care Report

Jason Snelgrove

This will be my 2016/17 report as Chaplain at Village Green. Chaplains are called by the church to extend the ministry of Christ to persons in institutional and specialized settings.

Chaplains are usually clergy with specialized training who serve in institutional settings such as prisons, hospitals,

hospice, long-term care, counseling centers, industrial and workplace and military installations.

The ministry at Village Green thrives outside our walls every day in facilities like McCormick Home, Kensington Village and Glendale Crossing. Through Community Care we also reach the elderly at Chartwell Riverside with Don Brooks, Queen's Village with Dan Dakin and Middlesex Terrace with Dale Mackness.

Services are conducted using large print hymn books and prepared sermonettes with traditional calls to worship and invocations. This traditional style of ministry is what appeals to that demographic.

Chaplaincy and Community Care operate at the cutting edge where ministry and social structures intersect. We commit ourselves to being available to those who are suffering, alienated and confused. We spend time with those who have perplexing questions about suffering, death, and the meaning of life.

Last year we expanded by offering a Wednesday night bible study where we dig deeper in God's word and Dale Mackness has been leading a Men's Study on Tuesday Mornings.

Village Green is able to offer resources and guidance that lead towards spiritual renewal and reconciliation with God. The sermons at Village Green are provided to residents at these facilities upon their request in CD format.

We are able to provide a caring environment in which spiritual guidance can be provided. In so doing we are a part of the professional team within the institution. The duality of serving both the church and institution is key to understanding the challenges and opportunities for this specialized ministry.

We have been blessed as a church to have our Chaplain and others in Community Care in leadership positions in the

institutions in which they work; others have extensive theological training or are retired clergy. The reputation for excellence in pastoral care at Village Green should be celebrated as a wonderful gift from God as a calling where we can minister.

On the Community Care side, we conduct home visits to shut-ins and hospital visits to members of our church family. We also help direct those in need to our benevolence program which assists people in need in our community with food vouchers and other emergency needs at leadership discretion.

Monday nights you will find Village Green in a volunteer role at the Ark Aid Street Mission under Larry Jansen.

I have seen God move through Community Care in 2015/16 and I am excited about how the Lord will continue to use us in 2016/17. If we stay the course, I believe we will become a pillar in the community to provide spiritual guidance and emotional development.

Sunday Morning Hospitality Report

Mavie Jansen

I am very blessed to serve in the coffee ministry. I would like to thank each person that volunteers to serve the coffee and tea; they help make people feel welcome at Village Green and we hope that this hospitality is part of what inspires people to come back to church each week.

Participating in this ministry is my way to show God's love by serving with a grateful heart, and by caring for and loving others in this way. We can change the world by welcoming everyone through this kind of hospitality! Our choices matter!

Day Camp Report

Jeff Hopkins

This year Day Camp saw some exciting changes. Our addition allowed us to take more students than in past years, bringing our registration up from 75 to 104. This allowed us to be a positive impact in more lives of students in our city! We had an amazing group of volunteers who worked tirelessly through the week to love the students with Jesus' world changing love, through their efforts we saw a full class of students come to faith! This was a very exciting Day at camp! We had an amazing time connecting with, growing and loving these students, and as you can imagine it's hard to summarize a week of camp in a short blurb, but suffice it to say, we allowed God to use us during Day Camp to Love God, Love others and Change the World. If you would like to find out more, please talk to Jeff Hopkins and find out how, for a week in July, you too can help students to know more about the Love that God has for them!

Tutoring

Jennifer Charlton

Each Wednesday afternoon, seven children and seven tutors eagerly arrive at Village Green Church to practice their reading skills. We start with a cookie and fruit snack and then it's down to work for one hour. We plan our lessons according to the needs of each student, and the same child always has the same tutor, so great relationships are built both with student and parent alike. Last week, one of our students asked, "Do you tell the others at home how much fun we are having?" We praise God for this way of genuinely caring for the success of our students in reading.

We are becoming well known in Sherwood Fox school and others want help, but we only have seven tutors. If you care for students and have one hour to spare each Wednesday, we can

train you and then our numbers can expand. Just speak to Jennifer Charlton; it's a fun way to reach out!

Thank you to all those who submitted reports – it is inspirational to see what God has been doing over the past year.

May He pour on the love so it fills our lives and splashes over on everyone around us ... May we be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God and may He do immeasurably more than we ask or even imagine in the year to come.

The Elders

Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life.

(Deuteronomy 30:19-20b NLT)