

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

September 2021



"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing."

James 1:2-4

I doubt that any of us have rejoiced or are rejoicing in the pandemic through which we have lived for the past 18 months. It has been painful for so many of us on so many different levels and in ways that we never anticipated: we have lost friends and loved ones to death, some have lost their jobs and/or their homes and we have had to alter our methods, routines and social lives to such an extent that many people no longer even felt that they were "living." Paired with a polarizing political landscape, our diverse opinions and approaches to the virus in this time have been the driving force behind the destruction of countless relationships.

It has been anything but "joy." And yet...

We are told that in the midst of struggle there is still something to gain. The struggles *themselves* should certainly not put smiles on our faces, but the endurance that our steadfast faith produces in the face of adversity *should*. If our faith is never tested, it is never given the opportunity to grow or mature.

We have *already* experienced pain and disappointment on a scale perhaps unknown to us before 2020. Since it's already been done and there's no reversing it, should we desire to be exactly as we were before this all began? Or should we instead be engaging in constant prayer, stretching ourselves and endeavoring to get as much positive mileage as possible out of this painful experience by growing in the most important area in our lives – our Christian faith?

We always pray "not to be led into times of trial," but if those trials come – and they always will – it is our golden opportunity to get closer to God. It is a time to reevaluate our lives and our priorities. It is our chance to flourish in our relationship with the Savior that endured the ultimate time of trial for our sake.

We have gone through a great time hardship and it's not over yet. But, my friends, make no mistake about it: *this is your time to shine*.

Seize the day: show God what you're made of and prove to the world that the *true* Christian is complete and lacking in nothing. In so doing, perhaps others will be brought into this fellowship that is blessedly able to turn even the worst moments of our lives into the most meaningful ones.

Pastor Mike

MIDDELBURG CARE VILLAGE

OUR FRIENDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A Letter from Bob Cindric

It is such a pleasure to have the opportunity to update my Kirk friends on all things Care Village. First, let me say how much the children, the staff, and I appreciate the genuine love and care The Kirk has shown the children. I can promise you that they feel the genuine care you show for them, far beyond the fact that many of you support them by allowing them to feel special on their birthdays. The children don't know much about the U.S., but they do know Kirk of Our Savior and because of you, they associate love and caring with the U.S. and with Michigan. Thank you for giving the children one more thing to hold on to as they struggle and deal with the rejection they feel every single day.

For those of you who may not know, Middelburg Care Village houses 108 children at capacity, all of whose guardianship has been stripped from their families, usually due to abuse. The abuse is most often neglect as children have been left for days and weeks without food or parents, but the reason for the neglect is even more traumatizing. Many have been abandoned so that the parents can acquire alcohol and drugs and they suffer the effects of being raised by addicts. Many have been physically and sexually abused, and many are voluntarily given up because the families can't afford to feed or clothe them or to keep them safe. While many of the children love their families because they are told that their parents really want to keep them, they all feel the same rejection when they are brought to Care Village.

The pandemic has been an extremely difficult time for the Care Village children. There has been so much fear and lack of understanding about how to deal with possible exposures and with infections. On several occasions, the children have been confined to their houses for 10 days in order to stop potential spread. You can imagine how difficult it is to keep 15-20 children busy indoors for that period of time. Fortunately, the latest method has been to keep the children isolated inside the Care Village, but to give them the opportunity to play outdoors and to mingle. With the introduction of vaccines in South Africa, there is much hope that life can return to some sense of normalcy before too long. However, there is also the realization that they are going to have to learn to deal with the pandemic and that Covid-19 will be around for some time.

If you have followed Care Village for a while, you probably know that several of my church friends from The First Presbyterian Church of Saline established a non-profit charitable organization, Care Village Outreach in 2018 (www.cvoutreach.org). Care Village Outreach has spearheaded fund-raising and has sent four shipping containers of goods to Care Village since 2018. We are collecting items to send our fifth 4000-cubic foot container on the 17th of September. If you are interested in helping collect badly needed items, please see the attached flyer. I will be happy to pick up items you may wish to leave at the church. Care Village Outreach also sponsors a golf outing every year to help defray the costs of the shipping container, among other things. If you are a golfer and would like to participate or know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring a hole, please see the second attached flyer. Thank you in advance for any help you can lend!

During my nine-month visit at Care Village from which I just returned, there were some wonderfully gratifying experiences. We were able to open the dining hall for about a month while covid policies in South Africa allowed for gatherings of more than 50. We instituted family style dining and the children enjoyed the opportunity to socialize in this way. When the third Covid-19 wave hit, we had to return to dining in the individual houses. Care Village Outreach purchased a soft serve ice cream machine for the dining hall and this weekly treat brought more smiles to the children's faces than you might imagine. Who doesn't love ice

cream after supper, right? Care Village Outreach also purchased propane heaters for each of the children's houses and for the on-site school. Winter mornings reach freezing outdoors and mid-40's indoors! The children have been so grateful to be able to come out from under blankets while they are studying and watching television in the evenings. Television antennas have allowed the children to watch local programming, which helps with boredom. We have also purchased television distribution technology that allows the streaming of video to all of the houses. Movie nights on Friday and Saturday evenings are now something to which the children truly look forward. The Kirk has been instrumental in helping to acquire much of what Care Village Outreach has provided through your generous quarterly financial gifts. So, thank you very much to your Session!

You may not be aware that there has been a transition to new leadership at the Care Village. This allows for a very promising future for the children. As of mid-May, there has been a new management team replacing the previous manager who left in April. While both co-managers are young, they are energetic and enthusiastic about providing more than food and shelter for the children. Already, there have been numerous transitions and initiatives that are child-centered.

The Middelburg community has recently taken an interest in helping to support the children at Care Village. We have received many generous donations of food, clothing and blankets and services. A young woman has offered her services as an art teacher and the children are loving the opportunity to be creative through weekly art classes.

A very recent development revolves around the likelihood that there will be tutoring services available to the Care Village children on a regular basis. In the past, we have tried to get volunteers to assist the children. Many, if not most of the children, achieve far below grade level due largely to the fact that they have missed months and years of schooling. When it comes to dedicated volunteers, we have found that we tend to get what we pay for. However, we were introduced to an organization in Middelburg called Tutogram that specializes in professional tutoring for children. We have developed a detailed learning plan for the children with the most serious educational deficiencies and have been able to raise the funds necessary to bring Tutogram to Care Village three afternoons per week. We are very excited to see future results that come from this program!

We are planning to initiate a program at Care Village that has been on my heart for years. Many of our children come from impoverished homes and yet they are required to return to these environments during school holidays. When they return to family for school holidays, there can often be no food, no beds, and no supervision for the children. This practice comes out of the South African government's desire for these children to be reunified with family so that they will have a place to go when they leave the Care Village. As you can see, this is an absurdity: returning these children to the very environment from which they have been rescued.

There are four annual school holidays in South Africa: ten days in March, three weeks in June/July, ten days in October and **seven weeks** in December/January. Since the time I began visiting Care Village (August of 2017), Care Village Outreach has tried to provide the opportunity for children to stay on site during the shorter holidays in March and October. In June 2020 and July 2021, children stayed on site because of covid-19.

With anticipated assistance from the Presbytery of Detroit and their Mission Interpretation Ministry Team, we are hoping to build a chapel on site at the Care Village in 2022. Care Village Outreach has collected pews, communion paraphernalia, and church fixtures from a church in Detroit Presbytery that closed in 2019. These items were all shipped to Care Village in our 2019 shipping container with the intended long-term plan to build a chapel on site. We hope, pray, and believe this plan will come to fruition in 2022 and we are

hoping to send a mission team to assist with construction. This is very exciting as we will finally be able to provide the children a place to worship every Sunday and on church holidays. Further, we hope to be able to rent out the facility for weddings and other events. Training the children in event planning, catering, and hospitality is the long-range goal for this exciting project. Please pray for vision on the part of Presbytery that they will appreciate the value of this project and will help support with much-needed funds.

This new program will afford those children who wish to stay at the Care Village in December/January and also in June/July the opportunity to do so. This will require employing staff to care for the children and raising funds for other expenses, including educational and recreational field trips. The program has the support of the new Care Village manager, but must be approved by the board of directors. I am so hopeful that this will be approved so that these children can live stress free on site at the Care Village. I ask you to pray for the success of this program as it can be life-changing for so many of our precious children.

In closing, I want to thank Kirk of Our Savior for the love and support so many of you have shown our Care Village children. Your welcoming spirit as we joined you for virtual services has been so appreciated. Many of our children experienced their first communion at one of these services. The children know many of your faces and are so grateful to all of you, especially those of you who have sponsored a child (or many children) for their birthdays. I feel so blessed that I have been able to witness the joy these children experience when they go to the mall and purchase gifts for themselves from you. Thank you for all you do in the name of Jesus Christ, particularly for these children. God bless you all.

Bob Cindric





LEARN THROUGH PLAY PRESCHOOL NOW OPEN!

Hello! My name is Tara Herzberg, and I am the founder of Learn Through Play Preschool. I am so excited to have the opportunity to work alongside the members of Kirk of Our Savior as we serve the families in and near our community. I have been in the preschool world for over 15 years serving in various roles including preschool teacher, in-home childcare provider, and program director. I certainly enjoy my time in the classroom. I believe children benefit greatly by having preschool as the foundation of their education. I feel that children do their best learning while they are relaxed, safe, comfortable, and able to play! Some of my greatest joys include watching young minds grow and blossom as well as building lasting relationships with the families I serve.

My husband Rick, and our three daughters Grace, Gabriella, and Jenna, have been hard at work helping me bring this dream and vision to life. We have worked many hours over the last few months revamping the preschool space and the entire program. I am so lucky to have their unwavering support and encouragement.

This school year we will be offering traditional preschool classes, both part-time and full-time for students 3-5 years old, as well as an evening parent/tot class for students as young as 18 months old. We are happy to report that we have 12 new families enrolled for fall classes and this number is projected to grow.

I invite you to stop in to say hello and see the new facilities. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and prayers as we step into this new adventure!





FOOD CUPBOARD HELPS COMMUNITY IN NEED DURING COVID

Nancy Lee Pride is at the church every Tuesday and Thursday assisting community members with their food needs while utilizing our Food Cupboard. Nancy gathers information on family size and children to make sure visitors are getting enough food that meets their needs. She also gives out helpful advice on how to use several items together. At this time, the food cupboard is well-stocked with dried beans and peanut butter. Nancy occasionally lets the congregation know what the cupboard is most in need of if anyone wishes to donate items. Special thank yous go to Nancy's helpers, Ada McMechan, Andrea Alicea and Cindy Handford, who have stepped up to man the Food Cupboard on days when Nancy has been unable to be there. Thank you, Nancy, for volunteering your time to help the community.

NO MORE BOTTLES AND CANS

We are no longer accepting bottles and cans at the church for recycling. Please do not leave cans and/or bottles in the hallway. We are grateful for your past donations; however, the ants have become a problem for us. We need to do everything we can to prevent them from entering the building.



For my Eagle project I beautified the memorial garden. I relevelled the stepping stone and black landscape edging, refreshing the pea gravel, pulled the weeds, put mulch where grass should be growing but won't and weeds are growing there instead. I came up with this idea because I wanted to do something for the church as a thank you for everything they have done for us and how kind they have been to us, I saw how run down and how much TLC the garden needed and thought that beautifying it would be the perfect way to say thank you. I did my project June 12th and 13th with the help of my BSA Scouting troops 1104-G and 1104-B and parents.

—Breanna Jackson



MEMORIAL GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT



- 2 Madeline Carpenter
- 9 Theodore Beckman
- 11 Mary Tedd
- 23 Sharon Garcia
- 26 Lois Hanley
- 30 Lynn King

OUR MISSION CONTINUES!

In addition to our ongoing work with Middelburg Care Village (please see the separate article from Bob Cindric on those efforts), the Kirk has been further developing and strengthening our relationship with Wayne Westland Community Schools. Recently, the Kirk provided the necessary funding for WWCS to establish a "Blessings in a Backpack" program at Hicks Elementary School. Blessings in a Backpack is a national non-profit organization which collaborates with school districts to provide food to students in need on weekends and holiday breaks. The Kirk is continuing to engage with WWCS on how we can help them expand this program in the future.

In other exciting news, the Kirk is establishing the Kirk of Our Savior Student Incidentals Fund with John Glenn High School. WWCS identified a need to address often-forgotten costs for students for things like field trips, event tickets, summer programs, and other incidentals. Teachers and other staff have been quietly donating their own personal money so that students who could not otherwise afford these costs can participate with their classmates. Now, there will be a special fund dedicated to providing for these students and alleviating the burden on the teachers and staff.

Finally, the Kirk is in the early stages of developing a new scholarship program with WWCS high schools. Stay tuned as more information becomes available!

Mieke Beckman and June Jennings

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter (2022), Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer (2022) Elder

Colleen Williamson (2022) Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Cindy Handford (2022) Deacon

Bill Partaka (2024) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Peggy Flacks (2022) Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Mieke Beckman (2023) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2023) Elder

Andrea Alicea (2022) Deacon

FOUNDATION

Rob Otte (2022) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2023) Elder

CALLS AND CARDS TEAM

Lois Hanley (2023) Deacon

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: June Jennings

A publication for the family and friends of
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**Care
Village
Outreach.org**

***Participation Benefits
South African Students
at Care Village
Middelburg South Africa.***

***Funds raised will go toward: Shipping
Container Expenses, Christmas gifts,
School expenses, including tablets for
school use, Tents for weekend and
holiday trips, Building of a chapel on site.***

Golf Outing

**\$400 per team(foursome) or
\$100 per person includes:
18 Hole Scramble with Cart
Hot Dog(s) for Lunch,
Dinner Picnic Buffet with
Hamburgers, and Chicken,
2 – Drink Tickets. Contests!**

**Saturday
SEPT. 11, 2021
12 Noon Start
SAVEtheDATE**

Brookside Golf Course

**6451 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Saline,
MI 48176**

**Register Online
CVOUTREACH.ORG/GOLF**

Hole Sponsorships - \$150



COLLECTION DRIVE FOR CARE VILLAGE



The community of Saline is coming together to fill a 3,200 cubic foot shipping container for Middelburg Care Village in South Africa, an orphanage that houses and cares for 108 children.

**AUGUST 23rd thru
SEPTEMBER 17th**

DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING SALINE SCHOOLS:

- * Liberty School
- * Saline Middle School



Schools will accept smaller donation items.

For larger donations, please schedule a drop off for Sept 18th at the Saline Middle School loading docks.

FOR INFO PLEASE CONTACT :

Bob Cindric 734-646-4353
 Schedule Furniture
 Pick Up/Drop Off
 Care Village Outreach admin@cvoutreach.org

ITEMS NEEDED:

- + FURNITURE/APPLIANCES**
IN GOOD CONDITION--Foam mattresses (twin/full), sofas/loveseats, upholstered chairs, recliners, coffee/end tables, bureaus, double beds, any new or used commercial gas appliances (burners, fryers, ovens), gas/charcoal grills.
- + INSTRUMENTS**
WORKING--Acoustic pianos, grand piano, keyboards, drums, guitars, small instruments.
- + HOUSEWARES/HAND TOOLS**
Cooking pots/pans, plastic and ceramic dishes (cups/mugs, bowls, plates), utensils, cutlery, hand tools, 3/4 boards.
- + ELECTRONICS**
PCs capable of running Windows10, iMacs, monitors, keyboards, mice, USB drives and other devices (microphone, web cams, headphones, speakers), laptops capable of running Windows 10, macbooks, tablets, iPads, ethernet cable, video gaming sets.
- + TOYS/SPORTS GEAR/BIKES/OUTDOOR**
Bikes and bicycle parts, skateboards, scooters, playground and soccer balls, legos, building toys, sports equipment, toys, board games, puzzles, playing cards/card games, trampolines, tents, camping chairs, umbrellas.
- + SHOES/MASKS**
Black hard-soled school shoes, dress shoes, tennis shoes, flip flops, sandals, face masks.
- + CRAFT ITEMS/WINDOW TREATMENTS**
Fabric for sewing studio, diamond dotz, paints, beads/jewels, frames, curtains, blinds, net curtains.
- + SCHOOL SUPPLIES/BACKPACKS**
Backpacks, pencils, pens (blue), scissors, markers.

September 2021 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

Wednesday, September 1

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
1 Kings 9:24–10:13
James 3:1–12
Mark 15:1–11

Thursday, September 2

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
1 Kings 11:1–13
James 3:13–4:12
Mark 15:12–21

Friday, September 3

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
1 Kings 11:26–43
James 4:13–5:6
Mark 15:22–32

Saturday, September 4

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
1 Kings 12:1–20
James 5:7–20
Mark 15:33–39

Sunday, September 5

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
1 Kings 12:21–33
Acts 4:18–31
John 10:31–42

Monday, September 6

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
1 Kings 13:1–10
Phil. 1:1–11
Mark 15:40–47

Tuesday, September 7

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
1 Kings 16:23–34
Phil. 1:12–30
Mark 16:1–8 (9–20)

Wednesday, September 8

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
1 Kings 17:1–24
Phil. 2:1–11
Matt. 2:1–12

Thursday, September 9

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
1 Kings 18:1–19
Phil. 2:12–30
Matt. 2:13–23

Friday, September 10

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
1 Kings 18:20–40
Phil. 3:1–16
Matt. 3:1–12

Saturday, September 11

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
1 Kings 18:41–19:8
Phil. 3:17–4:7
Matt. 3:13–17

Sunday, September 12

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
1 Kings 19:8–21
Acts 5:34–42
John 11:45–57

Monday, September 13

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
1 Kings 21:1–16
1 Cor. 1:1–19
Matt. 4:1–11

Tuesday, September 14

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
1 Kings 21:17–29
1 Cor. 1:20–31
Matt. 4:12–17

Wednesday, September 15

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
1 Kings 22:1–28
1 Cor. 2:1–13
Matt. 4:18–25

Thursday, September 16

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
1 Kings 22:29–45
1 Cor. 2:14–3:15
Matt. 5:1–10

Friday, September 17

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
2 Kings 1:2–17
1 Cor. 3:16–23
Matt. 5:11–16

Saturday, September 18

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
2 Kings 2:1–18
1 Cor. 4:1–7
Matt. 5:17–20

Sunday, September 19

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
2 Kings 4:8–37
Acts 9:10–31
Luke 3:7–18

Monday, September 20

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
2 Kings 5:1–19
1 Cor. 4:8–21
Matt. 5:21–26

Tuesday, September 21

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
2 Kings 5:19–27
1 Cor. 5:1–8
Matt. 5:27–37

Wednesday, September 22

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
2 Kings 6:1–23
1 Cor. 5:9–6:11
Matt. 5:38–48

Thursday, September 23

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
2 Kings 9:1–16
1 Cor. 6:12–20
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

Friday, September 24

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
2 Kings 9:17–37
1 Cor. 7:1–9
Matt. 6:7–15

Saturday, September 25

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
2 Kings 11:1–20a
1 Cor. 7:10–24
Matt. 6:19–24

Sunday, September 26

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
2 Kings 17:1–18
Acts 9:36–43
Luke 5:1–11

Monday, September 27

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
2 Kings 17:24–41
1 Cor. 7:25–31
Matt. 6:25–34

Tuesday, September 28

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
2 Chron. 29:1–3;
30:1 (2–9) 10–27
1 Cor. 7:32–40
Matt. 7:1–12

Wednesday, September 29

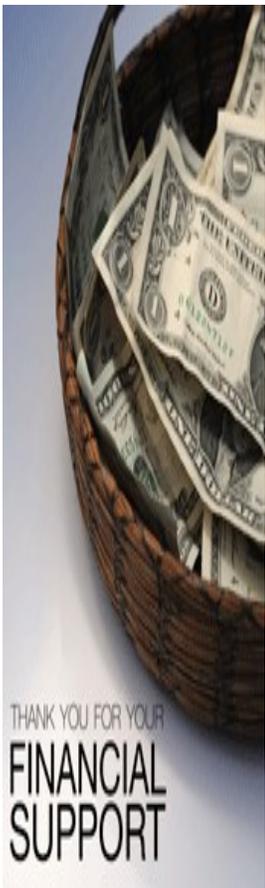
Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
2 Kings 18:9–25
1 Cor. 8:1–13
Matt. 7:13–21

Thursday, September 30

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
2 Kings 18:28–37
1 Cor. 9:1–15
Matt. 7:22–29

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10am Worship	6	7	8 Learn Through Play Preschool Begins	9	10 6-7pm Learn Through Play (LTP) Ice Cream Social	11
12 10:30am Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30am Worship Lois Hanley 100th Birthday Celebration	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30am Worship	27	28 Presbytery Meeting	29	30		



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

Financial Report as of 7/31/2021

	July	Year to Date	Budget
Income	9,555	67,011	63,078
Expenses	9,716	68,433	70,984
Net Income or Loss	-161	-1,422	-7,906

Liquid Assets*

141,389 141,389

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.
Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

July was near break-even and mostly near budget expectations. For the year we are still above budget thanks to extra pledge contributions as well extremely strong mutual fund gains that also occurred in 2020. Ongoing there will be challenges on a monthly basis particularly in winter months but we have built a solid volume of liquid assets over the past two years including some bequests that can compensate if needed. Please be reminded if you have not paid Per Capita for 2020, the cost per member is \$31.

The mission of the Kirk of Our Savior is to glorify God, nurture new and existing relationships, and bear witness to our faith and divine calling through worship, service, stewardship and prayer.

It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in this vision.