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Welcome to the latest update. Though we are early in the process, there has been a lot of activity that we want to make you aware of.

In September we released the first Blueprint newsletter which has been received very well. Thanks to all of you who gave us your feedback as well as your encouragement concerning the exciting days ahead for Village Green.

Many of you were especially taken by our own Matt Loveday, who got right into construction mode while handing out the first Blueprint. I'm sure that as time goes, we are going to see more of this kind of behaviour. Can't wait! After-all, when we've committed to make a real difference in the community around us through this project, it's hard not to get into the act.



In the meantime, we hope you enjoy getting caught up with the projects so far. We also want to remind you that a special page has been set up on our web site where you can review or catch up on any newsletters you've missed.

RENOVATION UPDATE

We have been overwhelmed by the positive responses we've received in regards to the renovations downstairs. This became Phase I of our multi-phase plan. Here is what we accomplished in August and early September

- We re-formatted the classrooms to suit the size and needs of each age group, especially the nursery.
- We totally renovated both washrooms. They will now be much easier to keep clean. New closets have also been built in each washroom to maximize on our storage needs.
- A new computerized check-in center with updated cabinetry to improve on the safety and monitoring of each child.
- We updated the cabinetry in the nursery as well as expanded the storage capacity downstairs by almost a third.
- The kitchen was totally re-modeled and updated. Again, this will add to the ease of care in that area.
- We upgraded the lighting to better, more efficient units that are cheaper to operate as well as give the volunteers better visibility.
- The entire downstairs was given a fresh coat of paint.
- The wall between the kitchen and Room 205 was removed. A panelfold door has been installed which now gives us the versatility of a large classroom, or two when needed.

All in all, we are grateful to TSB Design and Build who came in and did a fantastic job of getting the renovations accomplished in a very short period of time. We are also thankful for Copps Buildall who graciously offered the materials at substantial discounts.

In terms of cost, the total project was \$31,558.00. Again, we are thankful to TSB and Copps, otherwise the normal costs of a project like this would have been much greater. (For instance, we had one company quote \$17,000.00 just to remove the wall in the kitchen and that did not include materials).

Lastly, the overall aesthetic of the downstairs has increased dramatically. This is one of the things a young family who is bringing a child to Kid's Connection for the first time would notice. And first impressions are lasting impressions. Imagine what this has done for morale in our volunteers and for the kids as they enjoy their new and improved environments.

MEET OUR BUILDING TEAM

Along with the Elders, the Board of Directors, and the Finance Committee, we have established a Building Team made up of members

who have experience and the necessary skills to oversee the project. The Team presently consists of:

Don Shirley – Chairman of the Board

- Don has served Village Green faithfully for many years and in many different capacities. He is uniquely positioned in his role as Board Chair to be a part of this team and to lend his expertise in the early stages of the process.

Jarred Curtis – Board Member

- Jarred currently serves on the Board, as well as part of our Logistics Team. As a kid he used to help his Dad with projects around the house including finishing their basement. He has a high mechanical aptitude, reflected in his career that is mostly related to aircraft and aircraft maintenance.

Paulette Schiestel

- Has served on our Logistics Team and has over 35 yrs experience in the building materials field, as well as design, sales, purchasing and cost management. Paulette has extensive experience with residential and large development projects.



David Hiebert

- Has worked in various trades including window replacement, siding, framing, and concrete forming. While in BC he owned a flooring and renovation business and since moving to Ontario, oversaw a residential building project just outside of London. He was also a building project coordinator for a medical facility in Western Africa.

Please pray for the various leadership groups as we meet together to plan and shape the project in the months ahead. We are always open to suggestions, questions, and simply having a chance to hear your thoughts along the way. You can contact the Building Team at buildingteam@vgchurch.org.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

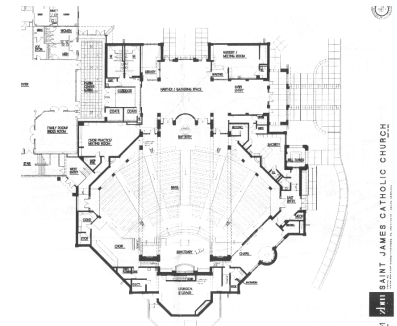
We are very much still in the planning stages of the building project. In the meantime we have collected from the various ministries a list of what they would need in the addition. The following list is a representative one of all the requests that have come in so far.

- Classrooms
- Dedicated youth room(s)

- Kitchen
- Nursery and nursing room
- Full accessibility washrooms
- Larger welcome centre
- Resource centre
- Staff offices
- Auditorium
- Storage

Some of the list above will become obsolete depending on what is decided for the addition. For instance, if the addition includes a new auditorium, the present one will house classrooms, offices, etc. If the present auditorium is kept and we expand the Welcome Centre into the present Resource Centre, washrooms and Room 202, then the addition will house classrooms, offices, etc. As you can see, there are at present a number of different configurations that we are looking at.

What is important is that we build systematically to the needs of the church and in a way that minimizes the impact the construction will have on continuing ministry.



TWO IMPORTANT MEETINGS

The month of September saw us initiate two meetings that were important as we begin to establish the framework of the next steps.

The first meeting was with a financial advisor who has extensive experience with church building projects. He was able to assess our present situation, evaluate it, and give us recommendations on how best to move forward.

He was able to lay out the various options for fund raising as well as give us the various scenarios for mortgages and borrowing.

The second meeting was with a Project Manager. Again, this individual has years of working with churches and has a number of projects presently under way. Not only does he have extensive experience, but his commitment to helping the local church gives him sensitivity to the unique circumstances a church faces when entering into a project like this. When evaluating a Project Manager we used the following criteria and believe we have found someone who fulfils every one.

- Experience
- Flexibility
- Fit

- Collaboration
- Character

At present, the Project manager is beginning preliminary work on what we can build, taking into account city regulations and other criteria such as parking needs and green space allocations. From there, we will begin to make some initial drawings in order to present a visual representation of what the addition is going to look like.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FINANCING

Whenever a church begins a building project questions arise surrounding the financing and how we are going to pay for it. The leadership wants to restate that we want to be as prudent as possible with the resources that are entrusted to us. The magnitude and implications cannot be underestimated.

Because this is so important of a subject, we are taking time to develop a comprehensive policy as it relates to the build. Questions such as:

1. What are we able to build on this property?
2. How much is the overall project going to cost?

Don't advance your army past
your supply line.

Dave Ramsey

3. Are we willing to take out a mortgage, and if so, how much?
4. How are we going to raise the funds?
5. What is a manageable debt load based on our present resources, not on future growth projections?
6. What are the alternatives should funding fall short?
7. How do we determine deadlines as they relate to dollars raised?

What we do want to communicate at this early juncture of the project is that we understand the anxiety most of us feel about debt. While we do not know the actual projected costs of what is being proposed at this time, we are actively engaged in formulating a policy for borrowing that will be implemented prior to construction and serve to govern how the project is handled financially.

As the initial sketches and proposals become available, as well as the financial projections, we will be coming to the membership for discussion and approval. For now, please prayerfully commit this to the Lord.

INFUSION PRAYER EVENINGS

While we are discussing the matter of prayer; on Friday November 25,

we held the second Infusion Prayer night. These evenings have allowed us as a community to gather together in corporate prayer.

We have been greatly encouraged, not only by the response, but also by the involvement of so many different age groups. It has been one of the more unifying exercises and has demonstrated a desire to be a church where everyone can participate. If there is one place where the Orange



principle is demonstrated, it is in these prayer events.

Each of these has been specifically timed. The first, just prior to releasing the first Blueprint newsletter, allowed us to prepare ourselves for outlining the projected five-year plan. The second, at the beginning of Advent, recognizes that many come to church at this time of year who do not regularly attend. We want to prayerfully be asking God to help us in our desire to reach as many as possible this Christmas season.

There are two more Infusion Prayer Evenings to come; the next one prior to Easter and the fourth prior to the summer holidays. Again, both of these have been timed to significant events during the calendar year that will help keep us focused and intentional in our prayers as a community.

Thank you to Jennifer Paul, the Prayer Ministry Team and everyone who helps out; the sound and A/V people etc., your work is so appreciated.

CHANGING OUR WORLD

Many of you will recognize the title of this section as part of our Mission Statement. What is really exciting about Village Green is that our Mission Statement to Love God, Love others, and Change the World is resonating with so many people. Week after week we continue to hear stories of how people are taking an active interest in changing the world around them and demonstrating the reality of God's love in their lives. Here is a short collection of some of the happenings over the last few months.



Back on October 1st we held our first Family Fun Fair. From games to cotton candy to a jumping castle we had it all. Many from the community showed up as well as many from the church. It not only was a fun day, but it also allowed us to be introduced to new people who would not otherwise come to the church. There were even LINC students there who would never come to a service because of their cultural or religious background, but were comfortable enough with the

church to come and enjoy some games and interaction. Thanks to Matt Loveday and his team for putting on a great event.

Did you know that our youth group is growing? The Friday night program here at the church is seeing consistent growth and there have been as many as 35 youth show up. Did you also know that every Thursday morning our Youth Coordinator, Jeff Hopkins, is at Saunders interacting with just as many kids or more? Do you know what the two have in common? Both have many kids who are non-churched.

Jeff is not only having an opportunity to disciple youth who have a church background, but he also has an open door to speak into the lives of non-churched kids about Jesus and the difference he can make. Keep Jeff and the youth ministry in your prayers, these are exciting days ahead.

Another highlight was our partnering with Mission Services on their "Give a Good Night's Sleep" drive. Village Green has always demonstrated a heart for those in need. We were overwhelmed by not only the response from the church, but from those



in the community as well. This project was a wonderful example of the practical ways we can be involved to really make a difference in people's lives. Thank you again for everyone who took an active part in changing someone's world.

On November 20th we celebrated with a baptismal and parental dedication service. We continue to get comments about the impact the morning had on so many, and the reminder for many of us that God is doing marvellous things at Village Green.



Whenever we have an opportunity to celebrate new life; whether its someone who has come to faith in Christ and become a new creation, or whether it's a new baby, these

are amazing moments for us to share as a community. Continue to pray for the people and the families represented that day. We remain committed to being a place where people can grow deeper in their walk with Jesus.

We also welcomed seven new people into membership on December 4th

during our Communion service. Again, we are truly excited by the growth in membership, particularly over the past year. These are individuals who are affirming that they want to be part of Village Green in a formal way, and are excited about what they see for the future of the church.

This year Village Green will once again be reaching out to our community with gift vouchers. The benevolent offerings for the months of November and December have been put toward these vouchers.

Last year we helped 35 families in need and our goal is to help 40 this year. We would ask that you prayerfully ask God to bless this ministry of care for those in our community. We are issuing the food and gift vouchers the second week in December. Thanks for caring and sharing.

DECEMBER REMINDERS

Here we are at likely the busiest month of the year for most. As I write this we've just had our Christmas banquet and once again it was sold out. Thanks again to the Christmas Committee and the work they put into this year's event.

We do want to remind you of other happenings during the month. Each

of these events are being held right here at Village Green unless otherwise noted.

- Men's Breakfast – December 17th at 9 am.
- Kid's Connection Christmas – December 18th at 6:30 pm
- LINC Christmas Lunch – December 21st at 10:30 am.
- Christmas Eve Service – December 24th at 7:00 pm
- Youth Laser Quest all-nighter – December 30th starting at 11:30 pm until 6:30 am. Meet at Laser Quest on Carling St in London.

Remember that we will not be having a service on Christmas Sunday. Our Christmas Eve service will be the one where we as a community will gather together and celebrate the season in heart-felt worship.

We want to be clear that the cancellation of a Christmas Day service is part of our valuing the many who volunteer at Village Green. To have both a Christmas Eve and a Christmas Day service would be too onerous on our volunteers. We are simply not large enough yet to handle two services within 12 hours of each other.

We also feel that allowing everyone to enjoy this significant holiday together with family is more meaningful and honouring. It is one small way that we can say thank-you for the volunteer hours many of you

contribute throughout the year. It can also serve as an opportunity to invite others into your home that would otherwise be alone.

Also, the Christmas Eve service will be the last opportunity for you to give your offerings for the 2011 calendar year. Please be mindful of the ongoing financial needs of the church.

Thank you for investing the time to read this newsletter. As always, your questions and comments are welcome. On behalf of the Leadership and Staff, we want to wish you the very best this Christmas. We pray that during this Advent season you truly encounter hope, peace, joy, and love through the One who came to be, God with Us. May Jesus Christ dwell richly in your heart this Christmas.



Jon Korkidakis, Lead Pastor

You can also join us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter at: Jon (@jkorkidakis), Matt (@VGMatt), Jeff (@VGJeff), Sue (@VGSue).

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