



Vernon Park Church of God

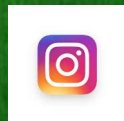
September 2018

Committed to loving God, loving others and serving others!

Health and Nature



Rev. Jerald January, Sr. - Senior Pastor
1975 E. Joe Orr Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411
Phone: 708.753.1975 - Fax: 708.753.1977
Website: www.vpcog.org





Vernon Park *Church of God*

The Corner of Hope & Possibilities

A monthly reminder of what's possible!

Greetings Family,

It's hard to believe that summer vacations have officially ended. As soon as we got used to wearing our summer clothes, we must face the fact that we'll probably be wearing gloves, scarves and coats sooner than we want. I'm wondering if each of you had the chance to wear all your summer attire this year? It's very frustrating when you realize you didn't optimize your entire wardrobe in season.

I wonder how many of us are optimizing the entirety of our spiritual gifts in season? God has given each of us a great opportunity to live out our "Purpose" during our lifetime. The great thing about Purpose is it's designed to fit the seasons of our lives. The gifts we can share as teens can only be shared in those seasons. But if we miss some of that season, we have the possibility to live our lives with maximum impact during the upcoming season.

Let me encourage each of you to live your life looking forward. God has great plans for each of us, but it's important that we acknowledge what season we're in and take full advantage of what that time holds.



*My Pen is Positioned,
Pastor J
The Pastor of Possibilities*





Vernon Park *Church of God*

Meet Your New Outreach Pastor

The following is an interview with your new Outreach Pastor, Rev. Quincy Dyer.



VP Media: Give us your initial reaction upon learning of your new appointment as Outreach Pastor here at VPCOG.

Pastor Dyer: My initial reaction was one of believing that I was in a Kairos moment in God. Meaning that this is the time or season that God has chosen to use me as Outreach Pastor and this appointment is a part of His plan, purpose and design for my life. I am a firm believer that God has an appointed time for everything, we just have to allow him to get us ready in the process as we wait for that appointed time.

VP Media: Describe your role as Outreach Pastor.

Pastor Dyer: Briefly, as Outreach Pastor my primary role at VPCOG is to be an extension of God's church by being the arms and legs of the Church and God's Kingdom, which will extend outside of the church walls. This means that as a church, be it international or within the Cook County/Chicagoland area, we should be positioned to meet the needs of the broken, bruised and neglected. We will also assist in leading those ministries with boots on the ground with that same focus of meeting the needs of others.

VP Media: Talk about your vision for the ministries you oversee.

Pastor Dyer: VPCOG's mission is a commitment to loving God, loving others and serving others. As Outreach Pastor, we are going to partner with other churches that are dedicated to putting this mission into action by providing a full range of charitable, human service, educational, religious and community development activities. My hope is that these activities will help God's people realize their God-given potential as uniquely gifted individuals in their family, community and relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. We as an administrative team believe that as a church, we need to have a holistic approach to ministry that is key for reaching the lost for Christ and meeting the needs of others.

VP Media: You mentioned earlier this year that one of your goals was to be a part of the administrative team here at Vernon Park. What do you hope to accomplish in your new role?

Pastor Dyer: First, it is an honor to serve God's people as a part of the administrative team. Pastor J. has a vision that as a church we extend ourselves to others in our surrounding communities and globally while having the heart of Christ. Jesus refers to his father as "The Lord of the harvest" in Matthew 9:38. He also says to "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field." My goal is to adhere to Christ's words by getting God's people ready to go out and to get the harvest. Hallelujah!!! Who's ready to get God's harvest?

VP Media: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Pastor Dyer: In essence, we are all called by God to be His representatives and His presence in this world. My hope is that outreach will give God's people a platform to be that for Christ in a dying world in need of a Savior.



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Rev. Erwin Lee

NACOG's Newly Appointed Men's Ministry Director

VP Media: How does it feel to become the Men's Ministry Director for NACOG?



Rev. Lee: I am excited about the opportunity. The National Men's Ministry has a strong history of ministering to men and helping NACOG (National Association of the Church of God). I also look forward to making the National Men's Ministry (NMM) multi-generational. If we are going to survive as an organization, we must intentionally include all generations of men - young adult, middle age and seasoned, in our programming and decision-making. The NMM Board reflects this as we have 2 men in their 50's, 3 men in their 40's and 2 men in their 20's serving in different roles.

VP Media: Describe your role as Men's Ministry Director.

Rev. Lee: As President of the NMM, I am responsible for representing the organization within the NACOG churches and on the Board of NACOG. I am also responsible for casting the vision for the National Men's Ministry. I feel this is the most important role. A familiar scripture Habakkuk 2:2-3 states: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it." Clear vision is important because it helps those who hear it move forward. We want to help men's ministries move forward within their churches and in the communities they minister.

The vision of the National Men's Ministry is 3-fold: 1. Strengthen men to fulfill their Godly purpose; 2. Promote a multigenerational atmosphere within NMM; 3. Equip men and men's ministries to spread the Good News of Jesus and disciple other men. My role is to ensure that this happens and to use and develop my team to do so.

VP Media: What do you see as the most important issues facing men in the church?

Rev. Lee: I believe there are 3 issues men face within the church: Communication, Accountability and Connection. **Communication:** In general, men have issues communicating. We will go through something and not tell our spouses, girlfriends or friends. When asked, "How are you bro?" We will say, "I'm good," knowing we are facing so much internal and external turmoil. We must do better in expressing how we really feel to the **RIGHT** person (we can't talk to everyone! LOL). **Accountability:** In terms of accountability, we must have that brother who is able to "call us out" if they see something that's not right or something going on in our lives. I am blessed to have a group of accountability brothers and they help me stay focused on my calling to God and my walk with Christ. Accountability helps us as men become stronger spiritually and emotionally. **Connection:** Connection in the church and in communities, I believe, is the biggest issue facing men. In general, we bicker and tear down our brothers instead of talking to one another and working out any problems we have. This causes breaches (breaks or disconnects) amongst brothers. When men stay connected, despite any problems we have with one another, the vision of the church moves forward and people in our communities see our example. But most of all, God is edified and glorified.

Continued next page



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Responsive Reading

September 2, 2018, 2 Corinthians 9:6-13, “God’s Call For A Generous Heart”

Lead: Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Cong: And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”

Lead: Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

Cong: You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Lead: This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

Together: Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Rev. Lee continued

In terms of our communities, there is a big disconnect with our brothers outside the walls of the church. When African-American young men are afraid to walk outside of their door because of gun violence and because they fear those who are mandated to protect and serve, the questions I always hear are, “Where is the Church?” and “Where are the men?” I used to get mad at these questions because I know there are churches that do great work in our communities with men. But I had to take a closer look at what the church is actually doing. In the grand scheme of things, we need to do more.

VP Media: Talk about the solutions for men as you see them.

Rev. Lee: Communication and Accountability go hand in hand. I believe we have to be intentional in forming bonds with other men. Whether it be one or a few, we must have someone in whom we can confide and have real conversations during good and bad times. Those with whom we constantly communicate will then help us become accountable.

I also think that Men’s Ministries must be developed to minister to men in the church and outside the walls for stronger connections to happen. Men’s Ministries, like Men of Destiny at Vernon Park Village, help to promote communication and accountability because it begins conversation with men and builds a community of men who are believers of Jesus Christ. ***Continued next page.***



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Responsive Reading

September 9, 2018, Psalm 16:1-11, “God our Refuge”

Lead: Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.” I say of the holy people who are in the land, “They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”

Cong: Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips. LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

Lead: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

Cong: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Lead: Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

Together: You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Rev. Lee continued

Men’s Ministry also helps develop a community of men to make connection within the church and outside the church. It equips us to minister to men (young and seasoned) within our spheres of influence. When we build community within church and make connection with men outside the church, we are better able to disciple and share the gospel of Jesus, which will help men know that God has a plan for their lives and that they have a hope and a future. I also believe that if any type of change is going to happen in our communities, the presence of Christian men in our communities must increase. If we are going to connect with unchurched men, we must be willing to go to them and not wait for them to come to us. This can happen with viable and strong Men’s Ministries.

VP Media: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Rev. Lee: I would like for everyone to keep the National Men’s Ministry and staff in prayer as we endeavor to fulfill the Vision God has given us. The NMM staff includes: Pastor Markus McDaniel, Vice-President; Rev. Derek Irvine, 2nd Vice-President; Pastor Kevin Wayne Johnson, Secretary; Rev. Brian Burton, Treasurer; Pastor Brian Holland, Registrar; Pastor Tim Quainoo, Chaplain. We will also have our first solo conference in 4 years. It will be in Raleigh, NC on Wednesday, May 29-Saturday, June 1, 2019. More information will come. Last, I would like to thank my Vernon Park church family, my Pastor and First Lady for the encouragement and support during this appointment and our transition to VP. Thank you to my love, best friend and support Rev. Libby Lee and my two children Erwin II and Maia of whom I am so proud.



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Responsive Reading

September 16, 2018, 1 Samuel 2:1-10, "God's Mighty Hand"

Lead: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Cong: "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. "The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.

Lead: Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

Cong: "The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

Lead: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. "For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; on them he has set the world.

Together: He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the LORD will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."





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Responsive Reading

September 23, 2018, Ephesians 5:1-14, "Adhering To God's Standard"

Lead: Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Cong: But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Lead: Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a person is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Cong: Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

Lead: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

Together: But everything exposed by the light becomes visible - and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."





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Responsive Reading

September 30, 2018, Psalm 18:1-14, "I Called and God Heard My Cry"

Lead: I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Cong: I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.

Lead: In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry.

Cong: Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.

Lead: He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him - the dark rain clouds of the sky. Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning.

Together: The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them.





Vernon Park *Church of God*

Announcements



A Community Supported Agriculture Project of Vernon Park Church of God



Full Share - \$350.00
For the Harvest Season

*SHAREHOLDERS WILL RECEIVE ALL NATURAL
PESTICIDE-FREE PRODUCE EVERY OTHER
WEEK DURING THE 2018 HARVEST SEASON*



Half Share - \$175.00
For the Harvest Season

*For more information on the Mother Carr's
Farm Project, please contact the church office
at 708.753.1975 or visit our website at*

vpcog.org

Wedding Anniversaries

Patrick & Dennee' Dent - 8 years, September 3rd

Eric & Julie Bryant - 20 years, September 5th

Ronnie & Thia DeVance - 25 years, September 18th

Robert & Carol Hillsman - 27 years, September 19th





Vernon Park *Church of God*

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: September 2, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: September 9, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: September 16, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: September 23, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: September 30, 2018

Happy Grandparents Day

Sunday, September 9, 2018

