



Vernon Park Church of God

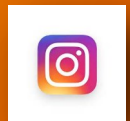
April 2018

Committed to loving God, loving others and serving others!

HE HAS RISEN



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Vernon Park *Church of God*

The Corner of Hope & Possibilities

A monthly reminder of what's possible!

Greetings Family,

As I look around our building it's clear that "all things are possible." When we moved into this large facility that was less than complete, we converted a small section into a place of worship. While that space was originally designed to house classrooms, it served as our main place of worship for many months. Because of your help and two families particularly, the stark cold area became a warm intimate church sanctuary.

Today that former worship space is being transformed into its original purpose. The McKay-Henry Education Wing is poised to welcome its first Sunday morning students. Some couldn't picture the space as classrooms just a few months ago. But there were always original architectural drawings that precisely marked how the space would be used.

Likewise, many of us haven't always appeared to be what we were created to be. It's amazing how God transforms lives! The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* Aren't you glad the Lord doesn't leave us in our old state?

Remember as 2018 continues, we're emerging as a strong family of faith, individually and collectively. Continue your journey knowing as you progress, He has a well thought-out plan for your life.

My pen is poised,

Pastor J



PASTOR OF POSSIBILITIES



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Earth Day 2018

Earth day is on April 22nd. It is a day of observance of good environmental stewardship. As God's people, we should be the first to practice good environmental stewardship.

God gave Dominion over this planet to men and women that we should become good stewards and trustees of this planet. The Bible says in Genesis 1:26 ***Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."***

Rachel Carson wrote a book called "Silent Spring" which addresses the effects of pesticides and other chemicals. This spurred a grassroots movement which later inspired President Richard Nixon to start the Environmental Protection Agency better known as the (EPA) whose purpose is to protect our land and water from dangerous pollutants.

Earth Day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin in 1970 and is now celebrated by 123 nations bringing focus to environmental issues. Vernon Park Church of God is also doing its part by investing in Mother Carr's Farm which grows and distributes produce naturally under sustainable conditions. We practice non-use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, while using composting techniques which divert waste from the land fill. Bees pollinate the vegetables, thus increasing our yields. We also employ good water conservation techniques.

All these techniques lower our footprint, allowing us to produce high quality vegetables locally at affordable prices. The produce is made available to our congregation and the community-at-large.

The Bible says in Hebrews 6:7, ***"Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God."***

Deacon Anthony Williamson
Farm Manager





Vernon Park *Church of God*

Responsive Reading

April 1, 2018, Luke 23:53-56, 24:1-8, "Jesus Has Risen"

Lead: Then (Joseph of Arimathea) took his body down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

Cong: The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Lead: On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

Cong: But when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

Lead: In their fright, the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee.

Together: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again. Then they remembered his words.

April 8, 2018, Galatians 6:1-10, "Doing Good to All"

Lead: Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Cong: For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.

Lead: For each will have to bear his own load. Let the one who is the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Cong: For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Lead: And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Together: So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Responsive Reading

April 15, 2018, John 13:5-17, "Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet"

- Lead:** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
- Cong:** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me. "Then, Lord, " Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"
- Lead:** Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.
- Cong:** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.
- Lead:** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
- Together:** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

April 22, 2018, John 14:1-10, "The Way, The Truth, and The Life"

- Lead:** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"
- Cong:** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.
- Lead:** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Cong:** If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."
- Lead:** Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- Together:** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Responsive Reading

April 29, 2018, Psalm 105:1-15, "The Faithfulness of the Lord"

Lead: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Cong: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

Lead: Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced, you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

Cong: He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

Lead: He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit. "When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it. They wandered from nation to nation; from one kingdom to another.

Together: He allowed no one to oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings: "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."



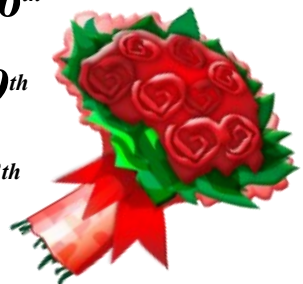
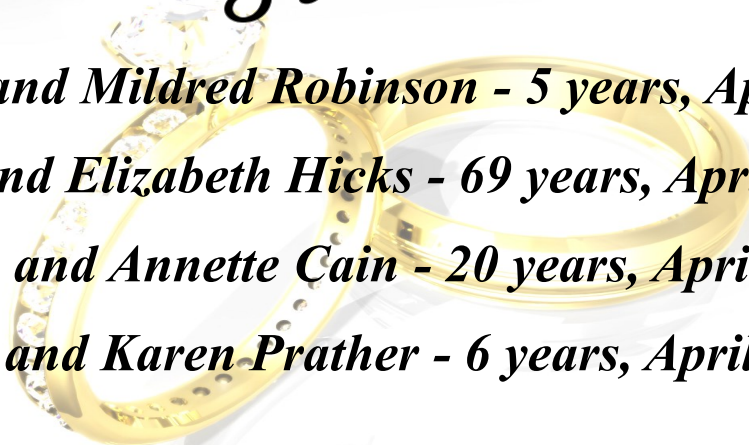
Wedding Anniversaries

Darryle and Mildred Robinson - 5 years, April 6th

James and Elizabeth Hicks - 69 years, April 16th

Charles and Annette Cain - 20 years, April 19th

Jordell and Karen Prather - 6 years, April 28th





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

**On Sunday, April 29th, during the 10 a.m.
service, VPCOG will have a Baby
Dedication ceremony. If you are parents
with a new baby or a child 2 years of age or**

BABY DEDICATIONS

**younger and would like to participate,
please contact the church office at
708-753-1975.**





Vernon Park *Church of God*

Announcements



**The Jerra January Scholarship Fund
and Missions Ministry will host an Estate Sale of Women's
Clothing, Jewelry & Accessories**

April 21 - 22, 2018

Proceeds to help African refugees in Europe

Attention Graduates

Scholarship applications for high school graduating seniors are now available. Applicants must be a member of Vernon Park and an active member of a Ministry.

Applications must be postmarked by May 21, 2018

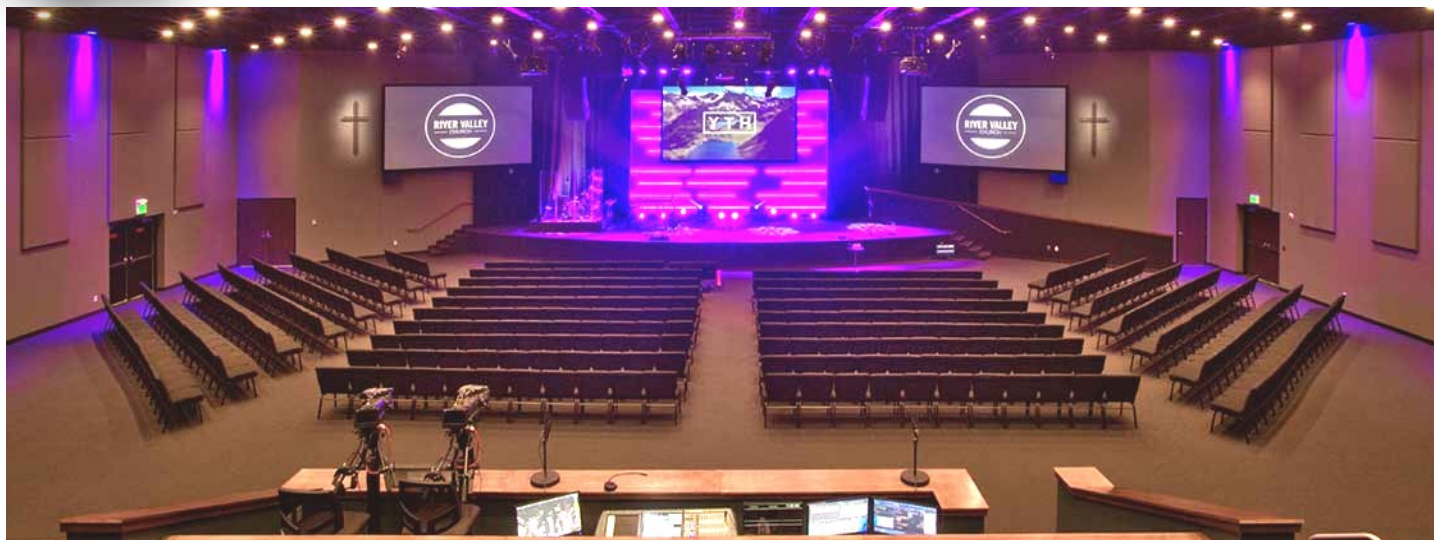
Notification of Graduation forms are due May 21, 2018

Pick up forms from the Media Table





Souvenir Journal



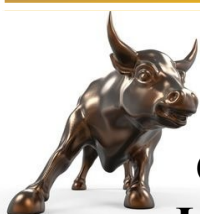
There's still time to get your ad into the Souvenir Journal ... a collector's item that will commemorate the opening of our new main sanctuary.

Full Page Color - \$250 Full Page Black & White - \$200

Half Page Color - \$175 Half Page Black & White - \$125

Quarter Page Black & White - \$75 Patron - \$25

For more information, contact the church office at 708.753.1975



Before you spend that income tax check,
GENESIS INVESTMENT MODEL CLUB (GIMC)
Invites YOU to join them in their monthly meeting on
SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

(Continental Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.)

Here you will see us in action! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Please RSVP (required) with Denise Turner Alston at

Dtalston1@aol.com or call (773) 374-4184

Looking forward to seeing you there!





Vernon Park *Church of God*

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: April 1, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: April 8, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: April 15, 2018



Vernon Park *Church of God*

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: April 22, 2018

Speaker:

Sermon:

Date: April 29, 2018

Vernon Park Church of God Health & Wellness Ministry and The Mother Carr's Farm Team

In celebration of Earth Day



Dr. Terry Mason, *Chief Operating Officer*
Cook County Department Of Public Health
with Fred Carter - Black Oaks Center

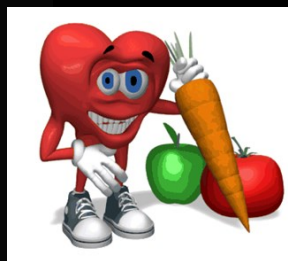
"How the Earth Heals the Heart!"

SATURDAY, April 21, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Vernon Park Church of God - 1975 E. Joe Orr Road

Lynwood, IL 60411 - 708.753.1975



FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

And 2018 FARM SHARES KICKOFF!

