

WAYNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Wayne Pres 



Grace to you and peace!

When I consider my faith practices, there are four that have made up the bedrock of my spiritual life: prayer, worship, service and giving. I want to talk to you about giving today. For most of my adult life, I have given to God's work in the world. Pastors often hesitate to talk about giving because it sounds very self-serving since the money goes to a place that also signs our paychecks, but the truth is that it is a powerful spiritual practice. Jesus talks about it constantly, going so far as to say that where your treasure resides is also where your heart is. Giving has been shown to have so many benefits: it will change your life, make you happier, make your spouse love you more, make your children behave, make you thinner, and make your hair grow back. (I may actually be overselling it a bit there at the end, but it is a powerful antidote to the anxieties of our age.)

Giving will change your life. It will make you happier. For much of my life, I was submarined by the notion of 20% more. If I could just have 20% more income, everything would be okay. This was true the year I earned \$19,000, and the years I earned far more. Once I began to give, however, I discovered that I didn't need 20% more. In fact, I felt much freer when I had 10% less (a biblical tithe). The reason is simple: once you give something away to God and you discover at the end of the year that you had enough, you don't feel the anxiety associated with needing 20% more 'just to be okay.' In fact, you start to appreciate more what you do have. You begin to recognize that God

does provide--just like scripture says.

Now, I understand that even thinking about increasing your giving during a pandemic might cause you heart palpitations. What if I need this? So let me suggest this: add 1% of your income this year. If you gave away 4% of your income last year, give away 5% this time. Or move from 6% to 7%. Check back at the end of the year and see if you needed that extra percent. If you didn't, add another percent next year.

The truth is that the church will use it well. For instance, in most years about half a million dollars goes out the doors for those in need. We'll also use it around here developing worship services that change the heart, Sunday school classes that help raise our children, mission trips that challenge our youth, choirs that enrich our community, pastoral care programs for those in grief, and adult classes that shape our minds--all endeavors that help us lead meaningful lives. What giving most helps us with, however, is living into God's future—not the meager future we would imagine for ourselves but the future that God has dreamed for everyone. It is God's future that frees us from worry and allow us to be our best selves. That, my friends, is an idea to invest in!

Casey



THE COMMON PLACE EITC

Eight years ago Wayne Presbyterian Church did a remarkable thing.... we acted on our beliefs, we chose to serve in Jesus' name, we created The Common Place. From an abandoned building given to us by New Spirit Presbyterian Church, with God's help and lots of dedicated folks both in Southwest and Wayne we created a remarkable place. But what you help create you must support, and we have a great way to do that. Through God's grace we were led to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC), which has been the largest ongoing program for financial support of TCP. Since the program onset in 2016 the EITC program has contributed almost 1 million dollars to The Common Place. Over the past few years many of our contributors have retired or left the area so we need new participants. The program has been so successful because you can give and get a PA tax credit for 90% of your gift. Please send me a note if you are interested in participating. Peace.
Doug McBrearty, dmcb@gulphcreek.us

144 YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE – ROSEMONT AND THE SOUTHWEST PREHEIM CENTER

BY JANE BEATTY

On the beautiful Rosemont campus, seven homey cottages, an infirmary, chapel, gymnasium, and central kitchen were quickly constructed. The elegant Robinson mansion was remodeled for administrative offices and the superintendent's apartment. On a spring day in April 1960, 72 children moved to the bucolic estate, bringing enormous change for the children including a new church connection (Ardmore Presbyterian) and a new educational connection (Radnor public schools). Back in Philadelphia, the rapidly changing population of troubled children resulted in reliance on government funding and an expanded professional staff at the Village.



A new chapter begins with the donation of the Rosemont estate of Samuel Robinson, founder of the ACME stores. In April 1960, 72 children were transferred to the expanded facility, and mainline connections were made for education (Radnor Public

Schools) the spiritual development (Ardmore Presbyterian Church). The estate was quickly modified to add seven cottages, an infirmary, chapel, gymnasium, and kitchen. The mansion was converted to administrative offices and the superintendent's residence.

Referred by county children and youth services, most new referrals were teenagers, rejected, dejected, mistrustful, and suffering from physical, mental, and sexual abuse, a societal trend that increased and continues to this day. No longer an orphanage, the Village residential program eventually became a Partial Hospitalization program to reunite the young people with their families or transition to foster care. Some blamed the national trend on the war years; others pointed to changes in societal mores; and still others pointed to drug and alcohol use. On average, the teens stayed two to three years.



While the new safe and serene suburban surroundings in Rosemont were a blessing, fewer and fewer orphaned children were being referred to the Village. Most new arrivals were teenagers: rejected, dejected, mistrustful, and suffering from physical, mental, and sexual

abuse. The aim was to reconcile these youngsters with their family or transition them to foster care.

In the sixties, integration also became an issue when the Philadelphia Presbytery asked "Presbyterian Validated Organizations and Institutions" like the Village to integrate or lose the Presbytery's support and use of its name. The Board struggled with the issue but eventually accepted the request. In 1966, the first mention of "nonwhite" children appeared in the superintendent's report. Since then, the Village has cared for a population from diverse ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds, most of the children from Philadelphia.

A full-time chaplain was hired for the first time in 1975 and church services, Sunday school, and Bible study were held on campus. Chaplains often took Catholic, Muslim, and Jewish children to services in the community. In the words of Loren Preheim, our longtime, devoted director, that by the end of the 1970's the Village had left behind its "Mom and Pop" organization to become "a big business".

Proof of this change was the decision to formalize the program in response to a federal mandate that dependent children should be placed in foster care in their communities and not linger in more expensive residential programs. Other community services were created over the next 30 years in Southwest Philadelphia which was the home of most Village clients. These activities included behavioral health counseling and comprehensive family "wrap-around" services, truancy prevention and adoption programs. To lessen travel time from Rosemont for staff working on vital tasks, the Village purchased and modified the underused nunnery of the Divine Mercy Catholic Church on Chester Avenue at 66th Street in Southwest. The new facility was aptly christened the Preheim Center in Loren's honor.



In the late 1970s, the nunnery of the Divine Mercy Catholic Church at 66th Street and Chester Avenue was purchased and repurposed as the locus of the Village's expanded services to the Southwest community. It was named the Preheim Center in honor of

Loren and provided behavioral health counseling and comprehensive family "wrap-around" services, truancy prevention, foster care, and adoption programs.

By the early 1980s, public funding was proving insufficient to cover the cost of the new Village services which had increased 33 percent from the prior decade to some \$2,300,000. Accordingly, a Director of Resource Development was hired and was able to treble the financial resources within five years. Happily, the Presbytery's Tricentennial Campaign made a one-time contribution of \$283,696. Volunteer involvement also changed in the '80s and '90s. The Board of Church Representatives became the Association of Church Representatives (later the Church Relations Council), relinquishing its remaining management responsibilities, while keeping its critical fundraising role. At Rosemont, during this period, many churches like Wayne Presbyterian joined business, and service groups in such projects as raking leaves, weeding gardens, and painting and repaired furniture. Church members made Afghans for the girls and boys and staged an annual fashion show which ceased by the end of the century.

As psychiatric hospitals began to shut down in the 1980s, patients were moved to less expensive and less intensive care facilities, such as the Village. Rosemont adjusted its services to become a Residential Treatment Center with a semi-independent living component. Although expensive, it was less costly than the psychiatric hospitals and offered a pathway to a foster or group home, or to adoption.

As proof of changing needs for troubled children and families, the Board changed its mission statement from "...to heal the spirits of children..." to "...promote the healing..." and added the concept "racism" to the list of issues causing broken spirits. In 1999 the Village received accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Quite a feat!



By 2000, the combined Rosemont and Chester Avenue facilities had been designated an accredited Healthcare Organization. In 2013, the new name "theVillage" was adopted. Included in its mission statement was the concept of healing "racism" in order to deal comprehensively with the broken spirits of inner-city children.

In the early 2000s, the Village decided it could be more effective with a single-sex population and began to accept only girls. Reflecting these accumulated changes and the extension of its services to all segments of the community, in 2013 the name was changed yet again to "theVillage." Life at the Village was always more than therapy and school. There were proms, sports teams, pizza parties, field trips, cooking and photography classes, equine therapy (thanks to a generous donor), service projects and excursions to a mall, historic sites, or a movie. The Church Relations Council made life richer for the children by wrapping Christmas gifts, filling Easter eggs, making curtains, and helping in many other ways.

The mother of one resident child wrote to Village staff, "Where would we be without PCV? ... I thank God for where we are because of the help PCV provided in an ever-worsening troubled family."

This is the fourth of five monthly installments of Jane Beatty's history of the Presbyterian Orphanage in Southwest Philadelphia and its relationship with Wayne Presbyterian Church. This segment covers the change in focus at the Rosemont PA facility in the late 1990s from care and nurture of orphans to the support of at-risk female inner-city youth and the transition back to their families or into safe, attentive foster care. At the new Preheim Center on Chester Avenue in Southwest, the PCV ministry, now termed "theVillage," extended a broad range of services to burgeoning number of inner-city Black families. Jane's complete article may be found in the church website at <http://waynepres.org/resources/150anniversarystories>

REV. AISHA BROOKS-LYTLÉ WAYNE'S PARTNERSHIP WITH AN OUTSTANDING CHRISTIAN LEADER BY GEORGE AMAN

The story of Wayne Presbyterian's modest role in the outstanding Christian life of Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle begins in 1998.

That's when our youth pastor, Rev. Dr. Gerry Davis, hired a lively young Philly girl who was completing a Jazz Vocal degree from Temple to lead his equally vibrant middle school program. Rev. Gerry astutely recognized that Aisha's life experiences, magnetic personality, deep spirituality, and communication skills would make her ideal for the job - which she would hold for the next four years.

For a considerable part of that period, Aisha's coworker with the Wayne church youth was Tony Sundermeier. Rev. Davis recalls the synergy between this dynamic pair, their ability to engage with our young people at many levels and tell the Gospel story with great verve and enthusiasm.

During that tenure, Aisha was dating and then became engaged to jazz musician and fellow Temple grad Carl Lytle.

They were married by Gerry in our Wayne sanctuary in November 1999 and for a time the newlyweds moved into the Davis household on Eagle Road where Aisha had already been living.

The center of gravity for both couples and their families then shifted to Philadelphia: To validate WPC's unique City Lights urban-suburban ministry in Southwest Philly, Gerry and Carey moved to a big house on 49th Street. Aisha eventually left WPC to attend Princeton Seminary and graduated with an M. Div. in 2005.

Early on in her ordained career, Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle was called as sole pastor at the small but active Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church in North Philadelphia. With her customary energy, she threw herself into expanding and involving the membership and initiated close ties with the community through a leadership role in the East Mt. Airy Neighbors group.

In time, Carl's health entered a period of steady decline from his incurable, degenerative neurological disease. With the challenges of caring for him and raising their active son Ellington, Aisha felt she must give up her beloved pastorship at Mt. Airy. So, in 2013, she accepted the invitation to come back to Wayne Presbyterian as our Associate Minister for Mission.

Aisha was immediately involved with our select committee to come up with Rev. Casey Thompson's "Next Big Thing" project for Wayne Presbyterian's outreach. After much prayer and reflection, the committee proposed to our Session an initiative which had originated in conversations between Cornerstone Christian Academy president Dick Ollinger, Rev. John Galloway Jr., and WPC Elder and CCA board member Peter Grim – how to save the dormant, 107-year-old New Spirit Community Church building adjacent to CCA, and to benefit children and families in Southwest as well.

With the help of Wayne members like Doug McBrearty and Vijay Aggarwal and the concurrence of the Elders at New Spirit, the Presbytery of Philadelphia approved Wayne Presbyterian's acquisition of the New Spirit church and facilities. A vital component was a fund drive where generous WPC membership would underwrite the major renovations to the building and provide the working capital for a community center based there.

With tremendous volunteer support the new center was created and christened "The Common Place," and Aisha and Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson were designated its co-organizing pastors. Through their dedicated leadership and with the direct involvement of WPC members like Peter

Grim, Buff Barnes, and Buzz Mossholder, the new vibrant center for youth, family, and community nurture was given a solid foundation.

The glorious sanctuary was opened to the community on Sunday evenings every few months for a The Common Worship Experience, a "kid-led, pastor approved" service... followed by a hearty Common Meal. TCP also inaugurated a youth community choir and orchestra and in conjunction with Grace Christian Fellowship, the TCP Scholars afternoon and Saturday morning youth enrichment programs. A Southwest Center for Spiritual Direction also began operating.

The Common Place immediately became the home base for the ongoing activities of our City Lights ministry under Rev. Cean James, energetic pastor of Grace Christian Fellowship (Southwest and Mt Airy) who had taken over as director from Carey Davis.

Here in Wayne, Rev. Aisha sustained the great work done by her Mission predecessors Kelli Masters, various elder leaders, and Rev. Carol Clarke. She inspired increasing congregation involvement through her regular Saturday Mission Gatherings, and periodic "Saturdays of Service."

In the Wayne area, she supported Scott Laird and teams from other area churches to renovate the Radnor Township Civic Association building on nearby Highland Avenue in West Wayne. This provided a much-needed center for local African American residents.

Working closely with Sarah and Andrew Hostetter, she helped grow more mission programs for our youth. As Rev. Gerry Davis termed it, Aisha's "incredible relational ability helped our youth outreach hit a high-water period in that era."

Our monthly Mission Committee meetings became more meaningful through the formation of a prayer task force for each Mission subcommittee. Decisions concerning our respective global, local, education, denominational and urban activities were greatly facilitated by the minutely detailed spreadsheets she scrolled out at every meeting.

The current chapter of Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle's partnership with Wayne Presbyterian closed in December 2017 when she answered the call to become Executive Presbyter to lead the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Fittingly, Rev. Sarah Hostetter took over direction of our church Mission program.

So, the circle has closed on Aisha's ministry at Wayne Presbyterian. The blessings anticipated by Rev. Gerry Davis

in 1998 from Aisha’s “life experiences, magnetic personality, deep spirituality, and communication skills,” are now acted out on a much larger stage for believers in Atlanta GA and elsewhere to “see her good works and give the glory to God” (Matthew 5:16).



A happy luncheon in the late 1990s with a smiling youth leader Aisha Brooks-Lytle in the foreground and Rev. Gerry Davis and Carl Brooks-Lytle (right rear).



Revs. Aisha Brooks-Lytle and Sudie Niesen Thompson, co-organizing pastors, welcome Southwest residents to a “Common Worship” at the doors of The Common Place.



A Saturday of Service in the New Spirit Church sanctuary with Revs. Aisha and Sudie, CCA President Dick Ollinger, WPC Pastor Casey Thompson and Wayne Presb., New Spirit, and Cornerstone staff and members.

KIDSCARE GARDEN PLANTED



Be sure to check out the new KidsCare Garden outside the door from the parking lot. Our children joined the Earth Care team to learn, plant and create this beautiful space. Special thanks to Josh Cady for the construction of the planter box!

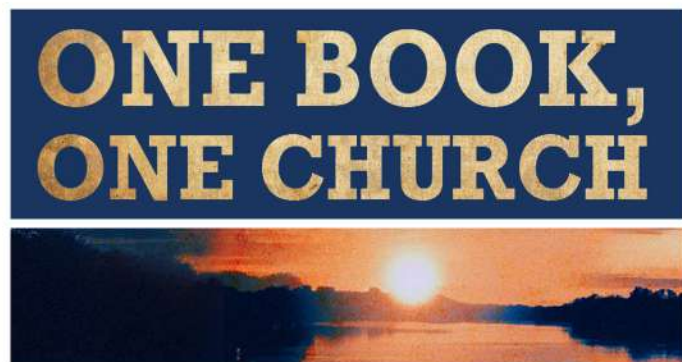
WPC AT FALL FESTIVAL 2021



We enjoyed supporting the community and connecting with our neighbors!

AS WE COME OUT OF THE WILDERNESS, WHICH JESUS DO YOU CHOOSE?

Please mark your calendar now for a very special Wayne Presbyterian Church Sunday service on Sunday, October 10, 2021! Join us for a worship service highlighting Richard Miller, Katy Shevel, and Austin Ricketts. They have planned a theatrical way of presenting the morning worship on the topic of *Which Jesus do you choose?* It will be based on the story of Barabbas. The worship services will be held at 9:00 am and 10:30 am with a reception in between when you will have a chance to meet and visit with these special new leaders of our church. Richard, Executive Associate Pastor, arrived six weeks before the pandemic began and Katy, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life, arrived right in the middle of it. Austin, Director of Youth Ministries, joined with us during this past summer. Each are making Wayne Presbyterian Church a very special place to be!

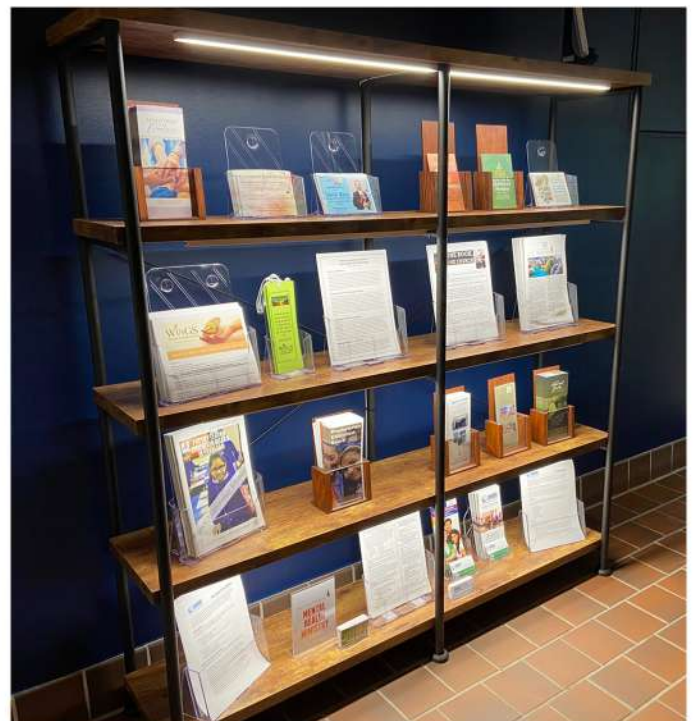


Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in reading this year's selection for One Book, One Church, *This Tender Land*, by Kent Krueger. Set against the backdrop of the depression, this story follows four orphans as they flee an abusive life at an Indian boarding school in Minnesota and canoe down the fictional Gilead River. During the journey south, they encounter folks from desperate situations who pose danger and folks, who despite their own troubles, offer them help and rest. They each have their own wounds to heal, fears to face and talents to contribute to their survival.

We offered four Sundays of programming where we gathered for small group discussions, heard from experts about Native American boarding schools, enjoyed a conversation with the author, Kent Krueger and listened to Rev Katy Shevel present about Tent Revivals of the 1930's. As in years past, we reconnected with old friends and made a few new ones! Thanks again for making One Book, One Church such a meaningful experience.

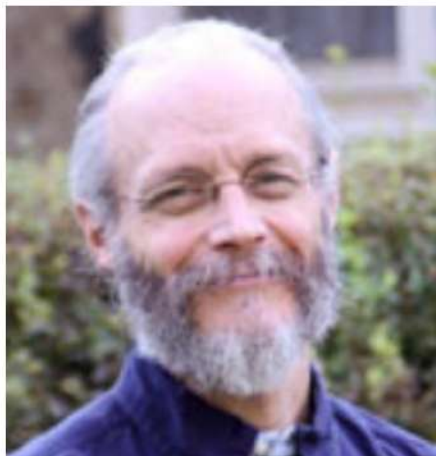


WPC COMMUNICATIONS ALCOVE



Are you looking for more information about what's going on at our church this fall? Not only can you check our website but we also have our Communications Alcove stocked with various information for you. It's located near the library.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021
THURSDAY MORNING
MEN'S MINISTRY | 7:00 AM



October 8, 15, 22 & 29
Frederic Clarke Putnam, Ph.D. | Eastern University
Associate Professor of Biblical Studies
Topic to be announced

Thursday Morning Men's Ministry is an informal group of Wayne Presbyterian Church that meets at 7:00 am each Thursday. It is a wonderful opportunity for relationships, prayer, and learning. The program year runs from September through June.

The morning begins with prayer & fellowship. This is followed by learning time: a 30-minute presentation typically from professors from Eastern University. We usually wrap up at 8 am, although the speakers often stay for a while to answer questions and chat.

Are you looking to explore the world of history, bible study, astronomy, philosophy, theology, and a host of Bible-related topics? This might be just what you are looking for. The lineup of speakers will challenge your mind and fill your spirit. Join in for a morning or two or the entire series. You will be glad you did.

Please note: Starting with Dr. Pearson on September 9th we are offering a hybrid-format meeting including live in the Fireside Room as well as access via Zoom. Please see the WPC weekly News & Views email blast to stay up to date on details.

For more information or to get on the email Zoom invite list please contact Tim Pretz at tpretz@eastern.edu or Sal Ambrosio at sambrosio55@gmail.com

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Where is God in difficult times?



Marie Monville, author of
"One Light Still Shines"
will speak about redemption
through forgiveness.



OCTOBER 23rd
9:00-10:30 a.m.

Sign up by calling the church office
at 610.688.8700
or by registering online:
waynepres.org

A registration table will also be in the
connector on
October 3, 10, & 17

MONDAY MORNING

Bible Study

with Rev. Casey Thompson

9:30 - 11:00 AM

in the Fireside Room

A Study Through Jeremiah



LIFE EVENTS

Weddings

We celebrate the weddings of...

Katherine Kline & Erik Schroeder
August 21, 2021

Deaths

We give thanks for the life and the
ministry of...

Sheila Molloy
August 26, 2021



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If you are receiving the Wayne Presbyterian newsletter by surface mail and would prefer to receive it by email instead, please email ruthw@waynepres.org. It is also available online at waynepres.org/publications.

October 2021