

VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN

NEWS

A NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLICATION SPONSORED BY VECA, THE VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION / VECA.ORG / VECA@VECA.ORG

OCTOBER 2014



Musical Public Art

By Sara Babcox First

A crowd of Midtown residents braved the heat on Sunday, August 24, for the unveiling of the new Zylotable and Zylobench in the Stationhouse section of the V&E Greenline, at Avalon and Tutwiler. They were rewarded with cold beverages and popsicles, courtesy of Crosstown Arts, and impromptu concerts, provided by several of their neighbors. Children played happily in the shade of the arbor area while adults chatted and tried to avoid stepping on them. Most attendees wandered over at some point to try their hand at the instruments. Almost everyone stayed the full two hours despite the nearly 100 degree temperature.

Artists Sean Murphy and Anne Froning made the instruments (actually marimbas) out of Brazilian walnut, a material often described as “hard as nails” or one of the world’s toughest woods. Neighborhood volunteers helped tune the keys at a workshop earlier this summer. The wood will stand up to harsh weather without losing the correct pitch. The pieces are built to playground safety standards, and include several features to prevent theft and vandalism.

The funders for the project, Lynne and Henry Turley, were among the audience. Mrs. Turley, former chairwoman of the Memphis City School’s Orff music program, and Mr. Turley, a retired real estate developer, live in South Bluffs but they “admire the spirit of VECA.” Mr. Turley emphasized his admiration in particular for Dr. Mike Kirby, retired Rhodes professor and longtime neighborhood advocate and member of the Greenline committee. The musical playspace, the Turleys believed, would encourage residents to experiment with music as well as to explore our extraordinary urban forest area.

VECA resident, Leslie Blakeburn, a retired school teacher, lives near the musical playspace and attended the unveiling. “I love having it there! I look forward to the day I hear the girl who plays bagpipes down the street and someone playing the Zylotable at the same time. They add to the Midtown ambience.”

(continued on page 3)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amazon Smile Supports VECA and the V&E Greenline When You Shop

Everyone can now shop at Amazon and simultaneously make a donation to the Vollintine Evergreen Community Association of 0.5 percent of the purchase price. This donation is made by Amazon, with no charge to the customer. The funds will be equally split between VECA's most visible projects: The V&E Greenline and the VECA Welcome Center. If you shop at Amazon, please sign up to have a donation made to VECA. You will be shopping at AmazonSmile.com, which is the same as regular Amazon with a different screen. Here's how you sign up for the donation:

- Go to the website: smile.amazon.com and sign in to Amazon
- In the box that says "pick your own charitable organization," type in Vollintine Evergreen Community Association and search.
- Next, select Vollintine Evergreen Community Association.

You can now shop at Amazon Smile.

Leadership Conference

Saturday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., VECA Welcome Center, 1680 Jackson Avenue

Speakers and Topics Include:

- District Attorney General, Amy Weirich: Domestic Abuse, Teen Violence, Drug Convictions
- Judge Larry Potter: Code Enforcement and how the environmental court works
- Toni Hayes, City of Memphis, Office of Community Affairs: Resources provided by the Office of Community Affairs

VECA Holiday Party

Saturday, December 6, 4:00-6:00 p.m.,
VECA Welcome Center, 1680 Jackson Avenue

Rental Office Space for Nonprofits \$300/Month

At VECA Welcome Center

Office shared by three small nonprofits
Plenty of parking • Located on a visible street
Building has security system • Nonprofit use must be compatible with VECA use

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The Welcome Center is a multi-use facility serving the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood • VECA is a neighborhood organization. For more information about VECA, see veca.org

1680 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38107
For more information, call 901-276-1782 or email: veca@veca.org



VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS

OCTOBER 2014

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DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT
VOLLINTINE EVERGREEN NEWS
ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS OCTOBER 15
ADS OCTOBER 15
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Communications Marci Hendrix

VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The newsletter, VECA mail, annual meeting, and committee activities are ways in which VECA communicates with its residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

The VECA area is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Springdale on the East, and North Parkway on the South.

VECA
1680 Jackson Avenue
901.276.1782
Website / Calendar: veca.org
Email: veca@veca.org

VECA Annual Membership Form – Become a Member

Join your neighbors in helping Vollintine Evergreen continue to be the great neighborhood it is! Dues are tax deductible.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Be one of the following types of team members:

Member \$20 • Neighbor \$30 • Supporter \$50 • Leader \$100 • Champion \$500 • Benefactor \$1000

\$50 or more: Historic Plaque _____ or Poster _____



Musical Public Art (cont.)

The musical playspace, a product of Froning and Murphy's outdoor design studio Being:Art, sits just north of the Greenline adjacent to the Woodland Memory Path. The committee chose its location to draw the spaces together, hoping to attract musicians of varying talents from the street and the Greenline. The Zylotable faces the line of trees and players can enjoy the gorgeous view of the arbor. Several members of the crowd said attending the event made them realize that the bench and small memorial tiles were in the group of trees.

The musical playspace is one of several improvements to the Greenline already completed or in process. Jeannie Tomlinson-Saltmarsh's sculpture series, "Are There Fish in Lick Creek?" will celebrate its first anniversary in November. Plans for improved street crossings along the Greenline as well as for the installation of a water fountain near the Stationhouse are underway. 🐦



ABOVE : Musical playspace unveiling held August 24, 2014.

My Experience with the Math Is Art Summer Camp

By Carolyn Asselin

This summer's Math Is Art camp was a brainchild born out of a partnership between an art student and a mathematics professor. I am a graphic design student at the University of Memphis, and I also work with Dr. Angiline Powell, associate professor of mathematics education at the University of Memphis and a VECA Board member. When the opportunity to apply for an Honors Research Fellowship in graphic design popped up in my inbox, we saw it as an opportunity to bring something new to the community in partnership with VECA Youth. This seemed like the perfect opportunity to support the VECA Afterschool program and learn valuable things about mathematics and arts integration.

Our goal was to combine our areas of expertise: art, math and education. Math is a core subject, and as art funding in schools is diminishing every year, there has been more and more reason to bring art into the other subjects. This way, students get to experience more art while learning skills in other areas. I wanted to bring this to the after-school camp, and maybe show some children that math isn't as scary or difficult as it sometimes seems.

After months of planning, the camp began. Little Flower Primary School graciously provided us with space and support for our class. We were excited to have 14 children, between second and seventh grade. I had never taught before and was nervous. Scared as I was, Dr. Powell did a wonderful job helping me through the assignments and lending her expertise in the lessons. We also had volunteers Sara First, Steve Gadbois, Arielle Jamison, and Natasha Strong. We could not have done it without their hard work and dedication. With their assistance we were able to show the children some things they hadn't encountered before.

By the end of day one, our youngest students were using math vocabulary instead of general words. It was so rewarding to hear a little girl say "rhombi" instead of "diamond." Another sign of progress was when the young ones came back from their bathroom break with a couple of sheets of paper towel. "It's a tessellation!" she said, which was the pattern topic we had covered earlier in the morning. She was so excited she saved it to show to her mother. Moments like that made all the hard work and stress worth it.

The rest of the camp proceeded as we thought it would. The children were excited to use paints and other materials that "real" artists use. I introduced them to graphic design terms and famous artists such as Georges Seurat and Piet Mondrian. They latched on to things they knew and drew parallels between video games, pixels, and mathematical units. The children that participated were wonderful. They asked questions and tried new things, and many of them had different opinions on math and art when they left. That was the goal, to show children that math and art are not quite so distant, and that if art is fun, then math can be too.

Teaching was scary, but I realized how much I had enjoyed it when I was sad to see our class go. Forgetting names is my fatal flaw, but I can still remember every child's name and the work they did in our class. So I like to think that my summer was successful, not only for me and Dr. Powell, but for the children that came to learn. 🐦

(photos on page 6/7)



From Left to Right: Carolyn Asselin, Sara Babcox First, and Angie Powell along with neighborhood children, taking registrations at the Ice Cream Social for the Math Is Art camp.

Goodwill Bookstore Opens

Memphis Goodwill has recently opened a bookstore and attended donation center in the heart of our neighborhood district. It's at 651 N. McLean, in the shopping area near Café Eclectic and next door to Dino's. The south side of the space is a donation center that will accept all of your gently used clothing and household items; the north side is a bookstore offering hardback and paperback editions in a variety of categories. The Goodwill location opened in early September.

"We are excited about coming to Vollintine Evergreen, and look forward to seeing neighborhood residents coming in to browse in the bookstore," said Trina Jones, marketing vice president. "We also hope neighbors will want to recycle items they are no longer using. Since there is always an attendant on duty at the donation center, donors can get help getting their items into the store, and you can also get a receipt for tax purposes."

Jones noted that computers and accessories such as printers, keyboards, old cables, etc., are also accepted, and are safely recycled through their computer recycling program. 🐦



Bookstore:
Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.;
Sun. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Attended Donation Center:
Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.;
Sun. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mustard Seed Studio Open House

Long-time Vollintine Evergreen residents and volunteers Andree Glenn and Gloria Singleton have a new enterprise, at the corner of Belvedere and Jackson Avenue. After buying 1679 Jackson Avenue from the Bosi family a year ago, Andree and her husband, Steve Gadbois, renovated the building which serves as a sewing and craft studio that offers space for community members to sew, upholster, paint, and socialize while enjoying crafts as a pastime.

An open house and holiday gift market is scheduled for three weekends in November – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 7-9, 14-16, and 21-23. Mustard Seed Studio will open from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. for early gift shopping and to acquaint neighbors with the studio. Handmade items from local crafters and designers will include prints and original art, quilts, soaps, fashion, jewelry and more.

From classic designs to bohemian, Mustard Seed Studio has it all. Fashion designer Gina Von Dee's sequined skirt will be perfect for holiday celebrations. Vivian Hall's beaded pins are wearable art. Her Too, Too Cute dolls pop out at you as you confidently wear your holiday garment or any other clothes. Prints by Atoosie are so colorful you may want to dance just looking at his artwork. Gloria Singleton's collage pillows made with fur, silk, and decorative fabrics make a great gift for that slightly bohemian friend. Unique items that reflect the energy, movement and diversity of Memphis will make your gifts personal and memorable.


For more information, contact Andree at 570-0488 or Gloria at 264-5484. 🐦



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A Note from VECA President Lilly Gilkey

Here we are, well past the half-year mark of 2014, and we have done some great and wonderful things in Vollintine Evergreen. If you have been out and about in the neighborhood, you should have seen the movers and shakers, or perhaps you were even a part of some major activity. Here's some recent examples:



Annual Ice Cream Social. Neighbors and friends came together to enjoy some cool treats on a hot summer day on our beautiful V&E Greenline.

Neighborhood cleanups. There were several major cleanups with VECA volunteers, AmeriCorps teams, LeaderTorks volunteers and the City of Memphis.

The Community Garden. This oasis on Lyndale is a productive use of green space with homegrown veggies, herbs, and beautiful flowers.

Math Is Art. Sponsored by the University of Memphis and the VECA Initiative. This summer camp for our youth taught the kinship between these two disciplines.

National Night Out (NNO). Our night out against crime made the 10 o'clock news. There was something for all ages, including hot dogs done by our terrific grill master Chris Steward.

We still have a lot to do. Crime is increasing and vacant lots and alleys are overgrown. Vollintine Evergreen is not immune to what is happening all around us. If you drive around the city or take note of any other city in the nation, you will see we are not alone.

So where do we go from here? We can be proactive as a neighborhood. Report crime. Report overgrown lots and alleyways (call 311). Better yet, call your neighbors together and spend a Saturday morning doing it yourself. Then crank up the grill, throw back a few, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

We still have two major events:

VECA Leadership Conference, where we gather to hear speakers and take the information back to share with our neighbors (Saturday, October 25)

The Annual Holiday Celebration (Saturday, December 6).

Where will you fit in in the next few months? I hope you will be proactive! I invite you to visit our website at veca.org, call us at 901,265,1672 or attend a VECA committee meeting. Find your niche and join a committee. VECA will be electing new Board members soon. Get involved! I am VECA, you are VECA, we are VECA together. And it's a beautiful day in the neighborhood.

Lilly Gilkey, VECA President

A Letter from Past VECA President Paul Herron

Dear Friends on VECA Board, Managing Committee, and in the community, Twenty-five years ago, while my family and I were living in a small western Massachusetts town and looking for houses in Memphis before our move here, we saw this beautiful house in VECA at 1895 Jackson Avenue. We came down to look for a house and were shown houses all over the city, county, Germantown, etc., but none compared to 1895 Jackson Avenue. And no other neighborhood had the diversity of VECA, the best in Memphis.

Indeed, we had to outbid other buyers for our house. Coming from the Northeast, where housing prices were extremely high even then, we knew we were getting good value for the price and in a neighborhood we knew we wanted to live in.

Three years after we moved into our new home I was contacted by someone at VECA about becoming a part of the Board. I immediately said yes and have been very involved ever since (except for a couple of years). Volunteering in VECA fulfilled my passion for neighborhood involvement and commitment to make my community a better place. I have also been inspired by people who helped start VECA and are still going strong. This legacy and the passion of people on the Board and committees have made VECA one of the strongest community associations in the city, and perhaps even the state. It is a pleasure to volunteer and serve with VECA people.

I have absolutely no doubt that VECA is the principal reason for making and keeping the neighborhood a desirable place to live. The many committees of VECA and the V&E Greenline have not only protected our housing and but have also generated an unusual sense of community out of its rich diversity. I have not seen anything quite like it in all the places I have lived or visited.

My wife and I decided to downside last summer. We put our house on the market but it did not sell. We took it off the market a few months, did some things that needed to be done, and put it back on the market in late May. To our surprise, we got an offer and eventual sale the first day.

Where are we moving? We wanted to buy a new home in VECA, but two things – the river and zero lot lines – pulled us to a house in Harbor Town. I love the river! The house also has a small flower garden but no grass, which is what we were looking for. (I will retire next year and intend to be away for long periods of time.)

I hope that you will allow me to continue to be a part of VECA. The youth initiatives are exciting and something I would like to get more involved with, particularly mentoring. My daughter lives in VECA and my son would like to purchase a house here. So I am not saying goodbye, but rather I hope to volunteer with you in a different capacity as VECA continues to lead with grassroots new initiatives and community development.

Best to all,
Paul Herron

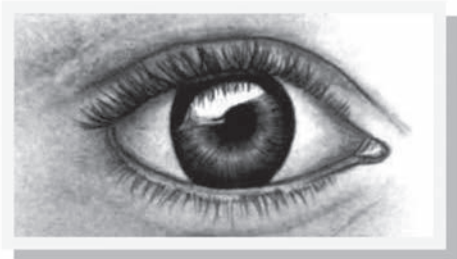
Paul Herron is past president of VECA and we wish him and his family the best in their new chapter of life.



Jared Powelson, O.D.

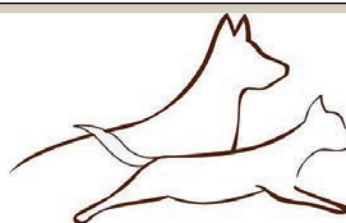
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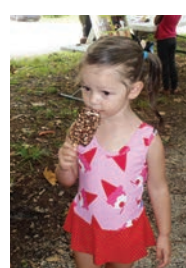
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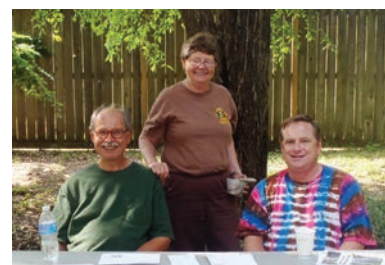
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Math Is Art Camp



Ice Cream Social



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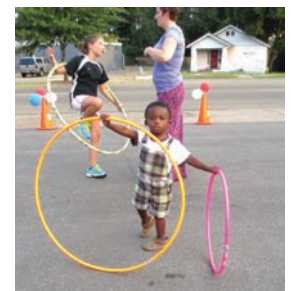
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Learn new recipes and skills this fall with our latest cooking series, featuring some of the best chefs in town!

For more information and to register, visit churchhealthcenter.org or call 901-701-2236.

Church Health Center Nutrition Kitchen:
1115 Union Ave.

National Night Out



What if there were a place—a church—where the people were encouraged to bring their brains with them on Sundays along with their Bibles? What if they regarded intellect as a gift that God intends them to use along their faith journey, and they refused to simply fall in line to be told what they should believe? And what if the people found that by stimulating their minds they actually feed their souls? What if you were to visit Evergreen Presbyterian Church and find just such a place? Sundays at 11, 613 University Street in Midtown.

Thank you, Hyde Family Foundations

By Mike Kirby

The V&E Greenline receives contributions from residents and trail users that pay for maintenance and management costs. The V&E Greenline is a volunteer project and the trail is solely owned by the community.

Because the V&E Greenline does not have the funds to pay for capital improvements, a grant was provided by the Hyde Family Foundations in September 2013. The projects that were funded are having a significant impact on improving trail infrastructure. These projects included the following:

Because of significant weathering, the two bridges (Lick Creek and Keeler bridges) were repainted. A painting contractor cleaned and primed the metal and added two coats of industrial-strength paint on both the top and bottom of the bridges. The decking on the Lick Creek Bridge was reaching the end of its life, so volunteers working with contractors removed and installed new and more attractive decking.

The trail itself was looking a little frayed; heavy use had caused a depressed trail that was especially a problem in wet weather. The grant provided funding for 70 tons of gravel that were spread by two AmeriCorps teams. Trail users tell us this was the most visible and popular improvement.

On the section of the trail between Springdale Street and Jackson Avenue, safety fences were installed over Cypress Bayou, a deep abyss that crosses under the trail. In addition, several areas with trail erosion were stabilized with railroad ties at the edge of the trail.

Trail patrons entering from Barksdale Street used to have to clamber down a worn and rather steep bank. Rustic steps and a handrail were added to make the entrance safer.

Several projects are still in progress. The Stationhouse and the Artwalk grounds will become more accessible after completion of a walkway and stairs from

Tutwiler Avenue. The project will also improve drainage by doing grading, adding two culverts in the ditches, and adding headwalls to the culverts. The project is now being bid.

Although contractors worked on some of these projects, many volunteers supplemented the work and several in-kind projects were involved. Ritchie Smith Associates did the walkway drawings for the Walkway contractor. Keeler Ironwork is donating the handrails for the stairs and handicap accessible sidewalk, and Sean and John Langley did the labor on the Barksdale stairs. AmeriCorps worked on a number of the projects.

These are monumental projects for the small volunteer group that manages the V&E Greenline trail. Everyone can have a role in helping maintain this important neighborhood amenity by making your yearly contribution to the V&E Greenline. Without that support, it could not continue to exist in its current state.

Water Fountain Funding Needed

The V&E Greenline Committee is planning the purchase and installation of a water fountain on the trail near the Stationhouse. It will have a bubbler, bottle refill device, and dog bowl. It will be made of heavy-duty steel to impede vandalism and will be handicapped accessible.

The money, which will include buying the fountain, building a pad and drain-water sump, and installing the fountain, is being raised from users and residents. The total estimated cost is \$4,799. We have applied for a small grant that may fund half of this amount, and several contributors have already donated \$470. Please send your check or donate on the website using PayPal and indicate that your donation is for the water fountain. This important project needs your help. ☺



AmeriCorps projects included new gravel and safety fence..



Many thanks to Sean Langley and John Langley for building the stairs along the Cut between University and McLean (photo above before project)

Thanks to Richie Smith for providing consultation for the walkways along the V&E Greenline



National Night Out

National Night Out is a time when neighbors gather to celebrate community and to make a stand against crime. This year's celebration was held at the VECA Welcome Center on August 5. There was music, games for the children, food, and more. Guests included Mayors A C Wharton and Mark Luttrell, Memphis Police Director Toney Armstrong, officers and Crump station precinct's Colonel Russell Houston. Many thanks to our vendors for taking time out to join us: Urban Farms, Evergreen Community Farmers Market, Streetdog Foundation, TeNNderCARE, and the Green Machine. Thanks also to Debbie Pittman of the Memphis Area Master Gardener Association for presenting a talk on backyard gardens. VECA volunteers and organizers included Lilly Gilkey, Marci Hendrix, Andree Glenn, Gloria Singleton, Sara First, Angela Lamb, Angie Powell, and Tony Steinberg. A special thanks to the team at Mercy Hill Church for all their efforts. They helped set up, clean up, and staff the event. Volunteers included Bill, Ron, Natalie, Tekeshia, Juan, Peter, Whitney, Robert, Sam, Katie, Brad, Lee, Michael, John, Chris, Jamie, Jeff, Angel, and Sydney. 🐾 (photos on page 6/7)

Annual Ice Cream Social

The annual ice cream social was held Sunday, July 20 at the Garden's section of the V&E Greenline. There were wading pools and sprinklers for the children, refreshing baths for the dogs, music and frozen treats for everyone. Lickety Split Ice Cream provided frozen treats ; over \$200 was donated at the event that went to V&E Greenline maintenance.

New this year was the addition of more food selections including Donna's KettleCorn and Dowdy's Dogs who provided hot dogs and burgers.

Many thanks to Nancy Morrow for organizing a jam session led by Mississippi John McDowell and the Camy's All Star Jam Band. Neighbors came by and shared their musical talents in the shade of the trees.

Angela Lamb and Marci Hendrix organized the event with the great help of the V&E Greenline committee: Betsy Kirby, Tom Kirby, Mike Kirby, Jan Kirby, Brian Floyd, Chris Floyd, Greg Lieberman, Joshua First, Mary Gibson, Scott McDermott, Shannon. Other volunteers included Jane Carmon, Hillary Pesson, Mary Wilder, Adrienne West, Sara First, Ryan Knop, Sarah Beth Larson, Angle Powell and Rick Maxwell. 🐾 (photos on page 6/7)

A Business Idea From Recycling

By Maura Angel and Margo Richardson

Dawn Weaver has lived in the VECA neighborhood for five years, along with her husband, who has lived here for fifteen years. She works as an accountant for a trucking company, and she recently embarked on a new adventure through an idea that came about from gallon containers. Through her colleagues at work, she heard how many companies dispose of shipments of jugs because of imperfections. If one item is made below standards, none of the shipment will be sold. Or if the label needs replaced the containers are tossed.

Instead of letting them all end up in the landfill, Dawn determined to be resourceful. She had to figure out how to reuse the containers and started looking for ideas. After learning about a soap company in North Carolina, she saw the perfect opportunity to use the containers and her cleaning products adventure began. Dawn



sells laundry detergent, fabric softener, and dishwasher pods (some of the soaps are dye-free). Reusing the gallon jugs is beneficial to the environment and everyone's wallet. When the customer runs out, Dawn refills the container. Dawn started selling her soap for the first time this spring at the Evergreen Community Farmers Market. Check out her product every Thursday afternoon at the Farmers Market through October from 2:00 to 6:00 or on fb.com/affordablelaundryliquids and squareup.com/market/affordable-laundry-liquids. 🐾

Volunteer Needed for Newsletter Distribution

The VE NEWS team is in need of two volunteers to help with distribution. The first task involves counting and bagging newsletters into stacks and dropping them off at the homes of the distributors. Another process is to drop off newsletters at various businesses and institutions in the area. A team of two or three volunteers to help with this would be idea. Contact news@veca.org with any questions or to sign up!



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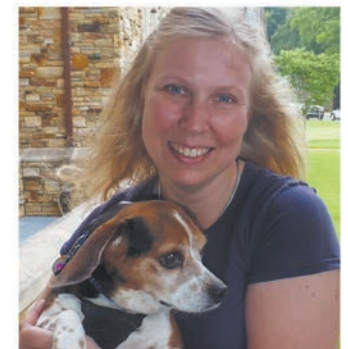
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Transitions: Evergreen, Rhodes and Living Hope

Because so many neighbors have expressed an interest in transitions taking place involving Rhodes College, Evergreen Presbyterian Church, and Living Hope Church, we have asked each to submit a statement to address these transitions.

To our Vollintine Evergreen neighbors-

For decades, Evergreen's outreach programs have been a defining feature of our ministry in Midtown Memphis. Some of you may have grown up on our soccer fields, or you may have children enrolled in our Playschool program even today. Having recently celebrated our 100th anniversary, we look back over our history and have so much gratitude for the opportunities that God has given us to provide these services.

But since the 1950s, like so many other urban churches, we have seen our numbers dwindle, and those of us remaining have struggled to maintain our oversized property and grounds. Feeling spiritually drained by the upkeep of our facilities, we took bold steps this past year to begin a move toward rebirth. Evergreen sold our property to Rhodes in March 2013 and signed an agreement that requires no change in our programs through mid-2015. After that time, the agreement ensures that Rhodes will continue to provide us space on the campus for worship and educational programs at no cost to Evergreen.

This new arrangement is both frightening and liberating at the same time — frightening in that we give up control of the physical space, but liberating in that we are no longer burdened by the upkeep of our facilities. With these burdens lifted, we plan to devote our energy to exploring a new paradigm of worship, one that is characterized by the spiritual nurturing of our members and our community, built on our history of service and promotion of social justice, and defined by our welcoming and open-hearted faith rather than the building in which we worship.

Releasing our facilities also meant that we had to explore new avenues for the continuity of the outreach programs housed under our roof. We are thrilled that those programs have found a new home at Living Hope and that those important ministries will continue in our community.

As our properties situation continues to evolve, so does our leadership. We recently welcomed a new Co-Pastor, Lucy Waechter Webb, who is a Rhodes graduate and new resident of the Vollintine Evergreen neighborhood. Lucy says of Memphis, "Memphis stole my heart long ago while in school. It is a place full of soul and raw with both the brokenness and beauty of God's creation. I am excited to share together in the faith journey with Evergreen as we live into God's call to demonstrate love and grace in such a place together."

Our pastor of the last 13 years, Ken Letterman, will continue to serve on site full time as Co-Pastor through most of November. After that time, he will be on sabbatical through August when he will retire from ministry. Ken says, "This sabbatical will allow me the opportunity to more actively be involved with the Tennessee Supreme Court Faith and Justice Committee as well as helping develop a Community Mediation Center for the poor in west Tennessee. I am grateful for this opportunity and the ability to step back so Lucy may more fully assume the leadership role at Evergreen."

Though at times these many transitions have weighed on all of us, we have been blessed to witness the movement of God throughout the last year, to see the opportunities that God has presented to us, and to partner with our neighbors at Living Hope and Rhodes. We are dedicated to the Memphis community and passionate about living into our vision for the next 100 years of Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,

The Members of Evergreen

Neighbors-

Living Hope Vollintine Evergreen, located at McLean and Jackson, is now housing the Vollintine Evergreen Neighborhood School, which consists of three programs: an after-school program, a play school, and an athletics program. The school was transferred to us by Evergreen Presbyterian Church, resulting from the sale of the building to Rhodes. They have also graciously supplied us with resources for building renovations, and we are very grateful for their kindness and partnership. Further, almost a year ago, McLean Baptist gave us this building at no cost. I am amazed at the way the church community in Vollintine Evergreen has worked together!

A new nonprofit has been formed to run the school, and a school board is being formed with folks from our church and the community. Our goal for the school will be to continue the excellence that already exists within it. We will also be looking for ways to maintain a diversity that reflects that of Vollintine Evergreen. We will constantly pursue affordability and high standards. We think both are attainable because of our nonprofit status.

If you have any questions about the new school, please send an email to info@venschool.com.

A note on the building: Our church's desire for the building is that it would be filled with Vollintine Evergreen folks and organizations that better our neighborhood and city, and we invite your suggestions and ideas. Our church structure does not necessitate a building. In fact, we regularly use the building only on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for our worship gathering. Our church size and makeup do not adequately match the needs of the building, so in addition to the school we are constantly looking for new and creative ways to maintain the building and serve our neighborhood at the same time. In the future, if you have any ideas or questions about our building, please contact us by email (contactve@lhchurch.com) or by phone (901-313-0007).

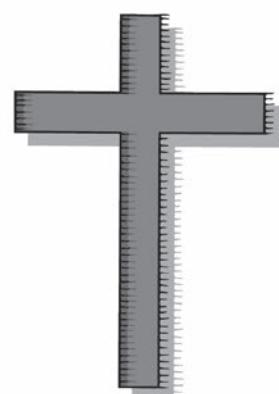
Justin Burkhead

Living Hope Vollintine Evergreen

815 N McLean at the corner McLean and Jackson

(Transitions continued on page 11)

McLean Baptist Church



815 N. McLean Avenue
Memphis, TN 38107
901-274-3766

We are still meeting in the chapel at
10:30am on Sunday mornings.

Transitions (cont.)

Neighbors-

As you probably know, Evergreen Presbyterian sold its property to Rhodes College in the spring of 2013. By agreement, the College is leasing the property back to the Church for a two year period ending in June of 2015. During the lease period, the Church will continue its congregational activities including its recreational and day school ministries while exploring new venues for its ministries. The agreement provides for some interim College use of church facilities during the lease period.

Part of what makes Rhodes distinctive is our location in midtown Memphis surrounded by good neighbors. We value it highly and are committed to being a good neighbor ourselves. While there are many ideas and suggestions about what we should do with the Evergreen property floating both on and off campus, no formal proposals are under discussion and no decisions have been made beyond using some of the education building for "swing space" while we renovate science facilities on campus. We understand there are many who are curious about our plans for Evergreen, and we are committed to keeping our neighbors informed as they are determined. We applaud the recent announcement that Evergreen's after school and recreation program will make a move to Living Hope Church on the corner of McLean and Jackson. It is good to have such an important service and ministry stay in the neighborhood.

If you have questions, please email news@rhodes.edu.

Best wishes,

J. Carey Thompson

Rhodes Vice President for Enrollment and Communications

A Westward Journey: Mercy Hill Church

By Brad Dunlap, Pastor, Mercy Hill Church

On August 1, 2011 our family traveled west, an unusual journey for most Nashville families. But there was no mistaking God's calling, he had pointed our hearts and our lives back to Midtown Memphis. I grew up in small town Alabama, married my high school sweetheart, and we made Memphis home beginning in 1999. As the small groups pastor at Highpoint Church in East Memphis, I became familiar with this city and fell in love with its eateries, idiosyncrasies, and most of all its people.

We moved away for a brief period in 2007, just long enough to help start a new church in Nashville and adopt our youngest son from Ethiopia. But the call of God to go westward found us once again. This time it would be to a specific vision - a vision to train people to follow Jesus as a way of life. We felt God's guidance in drawing us back to Memphis. We knew his love and mercy in our lives as well as his love for people - all people - especially the down and out and the widow and orphan. The 2010 census pointed to Memphis as the poorest metroplex in the U.S. (outranking New Orleans and Detroit), providing even more evidence that this city was fertile ground to plant the seeds of the Gospel and allow God to change it one life at a time.

Our plan was much different than in other churches we had helped to start. Instead of attempting to draw a crowd and then figure out how to assemble programs and ministries, we simply began meeting with friends in our living room. Our rental house on Belvedere in Vollintine Evergreen didn't have a steeple, an organ, or pews but it became the place we gathered to worship, eat, play, talk, help, minister, and simply to live.

Programs, buildings, and money can be helpful, but Jesus ministered to people one at a time, life on life, as he walked the earth. He knew them by name, he took time to let the little children come to him, he was often busy but never rushed. We've noticed how easy it is to make Christianity just another appointment throughout the week - almost like going to the gym or the grocery store. Sunday comes and goes, and Christianity often leaves with it. We began to ask the question: What would it look like if we trained every member of Mercy Hill Church to be on mission for Jesus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Our hope was that Christianity would become more than something we do, but truly who we are!

After 6 months we outgrew our home and began two home groups we call "Missional Communities." We also added a weekly gathering on Sunday evenings at Cafe Eclectic at 5pm. This was a place we could meet to hear stories of God's work in our lives and in the lives of others, listen to the preaching of God's word, sing together about Jesus' great love, and of course drink coffee together (thanks Cathy Boulden, owner and operator, for your kindness to us over the last two years)!

On August 17 we moved to Circuit Playhouse (at the corner of Cooper and Union) where we meet at 10am each Sunday. Over the last three years, God has richly blessed as we've had ample opportunities to minister to individuals and families throughout Vollintine Evergreen, Cooper-Young, and Downtown. Even though our location has moved outside Vollintine Evergreen, our heart to serve has not changed! We'll continue to serve our community, hosting the kids' area of the VECA Artwalk, facilitating National Night Out, loving on people who need a bite to eat and a friend to care. Most importantly, we'll keep loving and sharing the story of Jesus, the one who showed us mercy.

If we can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact or call (info@mercyhillmemphis.org or 901.300.0664). Thanks for allowing us to play an active role in knowing and serving our community, the place we live and love!

Mercy Hill Church: www.mercyhillmemphis.org



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