

VALPO VISIONS

Summer 2010



News from Valparaiso University's Office of Institutional Advancement

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Effort Designed to Renew Chapel

An effort is under way to renew and enhance the Chapel of the Resurrection, which for half a century has stood as a central symbol of Lutheran character and mission at Valparaiso University.

The Chapel of the Resurrection Fundraising Initiative: Our Future in Faith is an undertaking designed to prepare the chapel for dynamic ministry in the years ahead. According to President Mark A. Heckler, the Chapel of the Resurrection stands "as the centerpiece of campus and the heart of worship, service, leadership, and reconciliation for the campus community."

The initiative, which is intended to raise \$3.5 million to \$5 million, is organized under three broad themes: Care for Creation, Care for the Worshipping Community, and Care for Preservation.

Under the theme of Care for Creation, window improvement and replacement will enhance a

central element of the chapel experience. Landscaping and exterior lighting improvements will further efforts to make the chapel a welcoming place for all.

Under Care for the Worshipping Community, replacing the chapel's pews with new, modern seating will preserve that space for decades to come. Improvements to the Gloria Christi Chapel will make that space more welcoming and comfortable for worshipers.

Under Care for Preservation, establishing an operating endowment for the building will allow the University to continue to provide a home for thriving ministry.

Worshippers take part in Holy Communion during a special worship service celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of the Resurrection on Sept. 27, 2009.

Three Generations Relish Chapel Memories

The history of the Preuss family is inextricably entwined with that of the Chapel of the Resurrection.

For three generations, the chapel has played a role in family members' lives, from being on campus when the old chapel burned down in 1957 — just weeks after ground was broken for the new building — to performing or working behind the scenes in the structure, which is the spiritual center of campus.

Rollie Preuss '57, a Michigan City, Ind., native now living in Kalamazoo, Mich., recalled the November 1957 fire that destroyed the old building, at the corner of Mound and College streets and constructed in 1892.

The roof was gone, he said, but the walls were still there.

"It was devastating," Preuss said.

His future wife, Sharon, who also attended Valpo, was on campus at the time. "It was sad," she said.

The Chapel of the Resurrection was dedicated in 1959, and the campus has been marking its 50th anniversary.

Daughter Lisa (Preuss '88) Walton, who now lives in Allentown, Pa., sang during services with Kantorei and was a member of the altar guild, making sure everything was ready for services.

"To have [the chapel] there on Sunday, and for it to be right there, for me, that was amazing," she said.

Matt Preuss, Rollie and Sharon's grandson — his father Eric '84 and mother Deborah (Strable '85) Preuss are Valpo graduates — also was active in the chapel when he attended the University off and on through 2006.

Matt, now living in Westville, Ind., played trombone in Valpo's concert band, in the chapel, and provided sound production for an assortment of services and programs there.

"It's gorgeous," Matt said.



A Message From Valpo President Mark Heckler

As we reflect upon the 50th anniversary of the Chapel of the Resurrection, we look forward as a University community to the future. Fall 2009 enrollment was the highest at Valparaiso University since 1983. With continued support from our many generous alumni and friends, our endowment is recovering after, like all other institutions, suffering in

the economic downturn. Our ongoing strategic planning process, which includes a commitment to economic vitality, will shape our commitment to prepare graduates known for knowledge, leadership and service to others. I ask and thank you for your support as we prepare for an exciting future.



Honoring Chapel Memories

When Midge (Michael '60) and Chuck Rivers '60 were married May 31, 1959, in the Chapel of the Resurrection, the building practically was a shell.

The Christus Rex had yet to be designed. The Munderloh Windows wouldn't arrive for some years. The Redell Organ had yet to be installed.

When the Rivers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the chapel earlier last year, all of the above, of course, were in place.

Four children, nine grandchildren and many other relatives and friends were there to share in the anniversary celebration.

The Rivers were the third couple married at the Chapel of the Resurrection.

"We weren't thinking in terms of history," Midge says. "It was just the best place to have our wedding."

After graduation, they moved to Indianapolis, later returning to Valparaiso.

In 1971, Chuck joined the faculty at VU and served as a professor of social work until 1986. Midge served as CEO of Pines Village Retirement Community in Valparaiso from 1983 until her retirement in 2001.

All four of the Rivers' children have earned VU degrees. Daughter Rachel (Rivers '85, '90 M.Ed.) Parroquin followed in her father's footsteps and is a lecturer in foreign languages and literatures at Valpo.

The Rivers point to many shared memories at the chapel since their wedding day. Among them are the chapel graduation ceremonies of three of their four children, in addition to countless other events.

And then there was the Rivers' own anniversary celebration in June, 50 years and two weeks to the day they were united at the chapel.

Campus Update

- Construction is under way on the \$13 million Donald V. Fites Engineering Innovation Center, which will be adjacent to the south side of the Gellersen Center, home to Valparaiso University's College of Engineering and Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.
- A \$9 million makeover to Heritage Hall, the oldest building on campus, will provide students at the Valparaiso University School of Law with a new Lawyering Skills Center, which will enhance the ability of the Valparaiso Law Clinic to assist underserved residents of Northwest Indiana. Heritage Hall will house a teaching courtroom, interview rooms, and other spaces designed to enhance pretrial skills, trial practice, and other areas of legal study.



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Wests Give Back Through VALPOfund

For Doug '80 and Ann (Holmquist '80) West, Valparaiso University started out as the "right combination" of offerings and has since become an integral part of their life.

The Wests met at Valpo in the late 1970s while pursuing their education in engineering and pre-medicine.

"Valpo offered the right size, personal relationships with professors and the opportunity for extracurricular activities," Doug said.

Ann also notes that they were inspired by early visits to Valpo where a Christian worldview was evident in the daily life and culture of the University.

"We have so many wonderful memories from our time at Valpo," Ann said, adding that Valpo uniquely prepared them for their life and careers. "VU has professors who care. They also took great care to present a curriculum with faith in mind."

"Both Ann and I had a very positive experience at VU," Doug said.

As a result, for both he and Ann, giving back to Valpo through the VALPOfund has become a priority.

"I believe that God has given us many blessings in our lives — faith, family and finances," Doug said. "It is important to us that we give back from those blessings."

Through their generosity to the VALPOfund, the Wests play a role in ensuring that their Valpo experience is made possible for today's generation of students.



Photo Provided

VALPOfund

2010 Fiscal Year Goal: \$2.1

Raised Fiscal Year
to Date: \$1.5

\$.5 \$ 1.0 \$ 1.5 \$ 2.0
Millions of Dollars