

“Having a Willing Heart”

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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Ten years ago, I thought that I would no longer be actively involved in ministry due to a history of congestive heart failure. The condition caused me to receive a new pacemaker and defibrillator nearly every four to five years. People looking at me from the outside viewed me as in excellent health, never realizing my critical ongoing condition.

I could not see myself leading in any church, and when I received a call to serve in my community in the Villages, I was even more reluctant. After several months of giving the Lord all the reasons I felt I couldn't serve, I said, “If you help me... I will.”

Well, nine years later and with a new heart in 2019, who says God can't use broken people to glorify Him and be a blessing to others?

When I think about our Villages Community Chapel and what it offers to the community, it brings a warm smile to me. I never thought I would want to be a part of many different Christian groups. There were Presbyterians, Methodists, Former Catholics, Baptists, Calvinists, Lutherans, and Pentecostals worshipping together, and the list goes on. Today, I'm so glad I said yes to the Lord because I could not have asked for a more welcoming, loving, and encouraging group of people to be around.

I was concerned about fitting in with such a diverse group because I envisioned many fundamental faith issues. I'm sure many people were apprehensive when they observed the dynamics of all the people with different religious views worshipping in one place seamlessly. It is fantastic because everybody wants to experience the same things (God's presence, love, acceptance, forgiveness, and encouragement from His word).

Regardless of how and where people came to faith in Christ, caring for and loving one another is never an issue or a challenge. We all have different life experiences, but faith alone in God's infallible word in Christ Jesus is enough.

The Villages Chapel is the **‘perfect church for imperfect people’** to experience God's amazing grace, His word, praise songs, care, and love for one another.

Matthew 19:26 NIV Jesus looked at them and said, “With man, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.”

Please celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club