



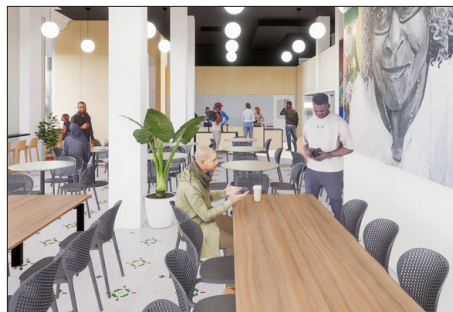
**VILLAGE
CHURCH**
Presbyterian (USA)

GOOD NEWS

The Village Church Good News is published monthly (September-May) for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to The Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, or call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work; Reconciliation Services Therapy and Case Management Expansion

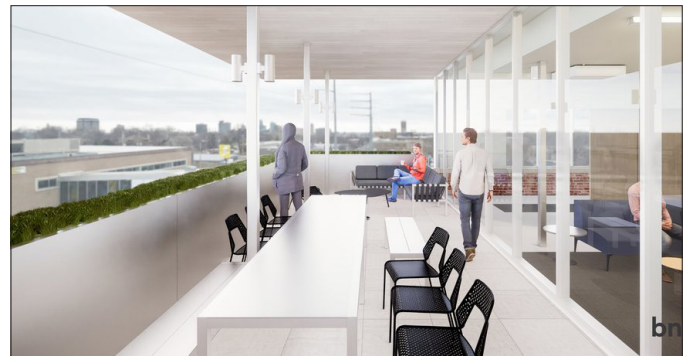
Every year, the Village Church Mission Committee invites selected nonprofit organizations to apply for Signature Mission funds. This fund, which is generally combined with the Least of These Fund and Mission Legacy Fund from Endowment, provides the monies for a larger than customary gift from Village Church to a community nonprofit. These funds may help start new programs, expand infrastructure and/or serve new clientele. In general, Signature Mission provides funds to help a local organization grow. It offers an authentic opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through service work and an identifiable place to grow in relationship with God. The Mission Committee has selected Reconciliation Services (RS) Reveal Strength Campaign for this coming year's Signature Mission. Seventy-five thousand dollars from Village Church will support the



renovation of a new therapy office and case managers' space on the second floor of Reconciliation Services' building at 31st and Troost.

Village Church's contribution will help RS double its capacity for providing therapy and social services to the community.

For more than 30 years, Reconciliation Services has made the urban core of Kansas City, Missouri, along the Troost Avenue corridor, a focal point for addressing the root causes of systemic poverty and economic inequities. RS serves 4,000+ of their neighbors annually across all its core programs including social and mental health services, foster grandparents program and Thelma's Kitchen (which Village Church helped fund in 2018). The building housing RS was originally built in the 1900s and needs extensive



renovation to address grandfathered accessibility challenges, life-safety concerns, a manual elevator, discontinuous vertical circulation, deteriorating ceilings and floors, labyrinth-like space configuration and a lack of acoustical separation needed in therapy programs. Furthermore, the staff of RS is currently dispersed among multiple, closed-off levels limiting collaboration and camaraderie.



Renovation of the building to address their infrastructure needs has begun and Village Church is delighted to contribute to this major turning point for RS. With \$75,000 from Village Church Endowment and the Mission operating budget, along with donations from corporations, Kansas City foundations and individual donations, RS hopes to complete its renovation in 18 months.

To learn more about RS and details about the renovation, visit www.villagepres.org/signature-mission.

Front Porch Alliance PAL Program Invites You to Join the Team

For more than 20 years, Village Church has partnered with Front Porch Alliance to offer the PAL (Partners in Active Learning) Program, a tutoring program with Faxon Elementary School, 1320 E. 32nd Street in Kansas City, Missouri.

PALS and students read together, practice math facts, work on homework or just chat as friends do. PALS with foreign language skills work with Spanish speaking learners and African refugees. It's the relationships that make the program successful, giving the students focused attention and drawing in the volunteers. Typically, PALS work with two students for half an hour each, once a week.

Principal Kathleen Snipes often says that the PAL program is part of what makes Faxon what it is, "encouraging growth inspired by love through leadership and community partnerships." During an exceptionally stressful time, the PALS lifted up the teachers and staff all year long, not just Teacher Appreciation Week.

It's more critical than ever that PALS serve more students. If you would like to learn more about the Faxon PAL program and being a caring adult and mentor in a child's life, please contact Charlotte Davison at charlotteSdavison@gmail.com.

Composting Comes to the Village Church Food Pantry

Composting at the Village Food Pantry gives you the opportunity to compost at home while benefiting the Pantry. Food Pantry director Dennis Cobb shares, "Our composting vendor [KC Can Compost] runs a 'Waste to Work' program. When you subscribe to that program, you can collect compostable materials in buckets at home and bring them to the Village Food Pantry to empty into the large containers we have on site. The Food Pantry receives a discount on our monthly cost of composting depending on how many people participate."

Here are the details:

You receive: one five-gallon bucket with a tight-fitting lid, or a one-gallon bucket, or both.

Your cost: \$10-\$30 start-up fee (depending on your choice of container(s)); \$12.99 per month for a subscription. Compostable bucket liners are available at the Food Pantry.

Your benefit: Bring your bucket to the Pantry each week to empty it and have the satisfaction of knowing you're helping the environment by keeping organic matter out of the waste stream and contributing to the discount received by the Pantry for its composting needs.

To sign up: Go to www.kccancompost.org/individuals. Click "Register." Complete the information and in the "Referral" field, type: VCFP. Pick up your container(s) at the Pantry. Email dennis.cobb@villagepres.org if you have any questions.



September Peanut Butter Drive

The Village Church Food Pantry is asking for jars of peanut butter during the month of September. You may leave plastic, 18-ounce jars of peanut butter in the Food Pantry bins at the entrances of either church campus. Please be generous with your donations, as peanut butter is a staple in our clients' diet.



Blessed Conversations: A Gift for the Future

Rev. Sally S. Wright

As a pastoral care giver, as a daughter and mother, I invite you to explore your values at end of life and how best to communicate those values to your family. As a way of prompting us to begin intentionally having these conversations, Village Church is planning "Blessed Conversations," an event that will be held from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 15. The goal is for all of us to leave with a better understanding of the importance of discussing our values at end of life as well as some practical tools that will help you and your family start this important process.

As a way to illustrate the need to have these conversations, I want to share with you the contrasting stories of Dan and Ruth. Both were members of my home church in Texas. Dan and Ruth were both long-time members and very involved. It was not uncommon to see Ruth in the children's wing teaching or holding all the babies. Dan had multiple terms on the Session and loved being the "head guy" of the weekly widowers group. Dan had no children and Ruth had two sons.

Dan died alone, in his home. Dan's friends could not find any wills, plans, or notes about funeral wishes in his home or office. Dan's lawyer had no information. The pastors had no family to reach out to and did not have any notes about his plans. The funeral was sweet and tender but not very personal.

Ruth, on the other hand, had talked to the previous pastor about 10 years before her death. She left a folder with hymn suggestions, scripture passages and even her burial wishes. She had worked with an estate lawyer to make a will and sign advanced directives. She had even prepaid her funeral. When the pastor met with her sons, the pastor could spend more time talking about this amazing woman and mother. There was less time spent on planning the logistics of the service or which funeral home to call. The pastor could focus on being the pastor to her grieving children.

End-of-life conversations do not have to be morbid or complicated. They can be as simple as, "I want to be as pain free as possible," or "I want to know that everything will be done until the very end." Or you might be the person who wants to plan every detail, in which case, I invite you to share those details with your pastors and your close family. I invite you to come to Blessed Conversations on Oct. 15 at Village's Mission Campus.

A Big Leap Forward for the Kansas Missouri Mental Health Collaborative

Jen Wewers began work on July 11 as executive director of the Kansas Missouri Mental Health Collaborative (KMMHC). Her office is located at the Village Church Antioch Campus. The goal of the collaborative is to make professional counseling services more accessible in the KC metro area through shared office space with partner



congregations and community organizations, as well as making it more affordable by offering reduced counseling fees when needed. Jen will be the connector with the community, building bridges to secure mental health services.

Jen received her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She has spent the last 20 years working in nonprofits, primarily in fundraising and administrative leadership.

"I have served so many causes close to my heart—hospice, medical care for children, health care for those without insurance, higher education, housing for the homeless," Jen said. "For a few years now, I have felt a pull toward 'something more.' In late 2020, I was hospitalized for COVID. Like many of us, COVID led to deeper soul-searching about how I wanted to live my life more fully. My hospitalization created some urgency around what was next vocationally for me. I have done a fair amount of training related to building resilient, trauma-informed communities. I realized I wanted to bring my talents and gifts to help more people be able to bring a deeper sense of aliveness into their lives. The position for KMMHC opened up and I was beyond excited! Then I met the board of directors and fell in love with the people and community who were committed to bringing affordable and accessible mental health services to more people in Kansas City.

[Continued](#)

I loved the idea of partnering with diverse faith communities, nonprofits and even mental health centers to help more people get the care they need and deserve, regardless of ability to pay. As someone who has lived with depression and anxiety for more than 30 years, I know how important high-quality, affordable mental health care is."

"We are over the moon excited to have Jen's leadership, energy and hope for a healthier community," said Alice Carrott, a Village Church member and president of the KMMHC board. "She is a fundraising genius and that will be a major part of her duties as clients will only pay what they can afford for counseling."

The Plans So Far

"We anticipate working on two tracks simultaneously," said Jen. "We will begin a slow roll out of services with one-two key partners while we are also working on a planning process that will be our road map for the next two-three years. That process will help us focus our efforts on all levels—mission, program, financial and community relations. We will keep the Village community updated. We would not be here without you!"

Keep up-to-date on what's happening with the KMMHC by following their Facebook page @KMMHCollaborative.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNERS

The Return of Wednesday Family Dinners

While curbside dinners were a wonderful gift for our members during the pandemic shutdown and beyond, Chef Andrea is preparing to re-open the doors to Friendship Hall for Wednesday Family Dinners starting at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 5.



Chef Andrea Bradley was hired in March of 2020. It was an unfortunate way to begin her new role as director of food services. All church events came to a halt at that time; no meals needed to be served. How does one offer hospitality at a distance? She and Cindy Wilcox, former director of connective ministries, devised an ingenious plan for curbside pick-up meals. She and Chef Larry Wilcox prepared and served as many as 140 meals on their busiest Wednesdays. Our last curbside meals were offered in May 2022.

It is now time to try a new thing. It won't look exactly like the Wednesday dinners of the past, but Chef Andrea plans to bring back self-serve, buffet-style dining. We will post dinner themes and menus in advance—fiesta, barbecue, Italian—and you will order online by Monday as you did for curbside meals. There will be a few extra

dinners available for walk-ins. The price will be \$9 for adults and \$4 for children.

If you ate with us on Wednesdays before COVID, you may recall that Brooke Brundige's creative ideas and big personality became a highlight for families and the 10 & under crowd. The Children & Family Ministry team plans to jump back in where they left off and set up fun activities for the kids.

Chef Andrea looks forward to meeting many more of you on Wednesday evenings. Make plans to bring your family, your friends or grab a bite to eat before a Village U class. If you'd like to help with light prep work or stocking the buffet, Chef Andrea needs volunteers! Email her at andrea.bradley@villagepres.org.



Village Church Partners with William Jewell College's Center for Faith & Culture

William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, has inaugurated a new Center for Faith & Culture. As one component of the Center's ministry, the college is partnering with four congregations throughout the Kansas City metro area to offer a variety of classes among its four campuses. Village Church will host two classes on our campus this fall. In addition, Village Church and community members are invited to attend six other courses offered at Second Baptist Church in Liberty, Missouri, Country Club Christian Church near the Plaza and Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Kansas City. There is no cost to attend these courses. We are excited about this new partnership!

*To register for the William Jewell Center for Faith & Culture classes listed below that are held outside of Village Church, go to www.jewell.edu/faith-classes and enter the coupon code: Village. The classes are free to members of our congregation by using the coupon code.

Bridge Building Toward a Flourishing Life for All: Deepening Solidarity in the Quest for Social and Racial Justice, taught by Rev. Dr. Vernon Percy Howard, Jr., St. Mark's Church, 7-8:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 20-Oct.11, Country Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Pkwy., Kansas City, Missouri

Power, Tyranny and the Biblical Response, taught by Dr. Brendon Benz, associate professor of history and religion, William Jewell College, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 5-26, Village Church, Room 126-Mission Campus.

Register at www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes

Good Country People: The Importance of Religion in Southern Gothic Literature, taught by Rev. Charles Smith, associate pastor of student ministries, Second Baptist Church, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 6-27, Second Baptist Church, 300 E. Kansas St., Liberty, Missouri

A Life Worth Living, taught by Rev. Dr. Mike Grave, scholar in residence, Country Club Christian Church, 7-8:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 18-Nov. 8, Country Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Pkwy., Kansas City, Missouri

What Is So Special About Earth?, taught by Dr. Maggie Sherer, professor of physics and chair, William Jewell College, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 19-Nov. 9, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 W. 13th St., Kansas City, Missouri

Pneumatology 101: A Guide to the Holy Spirit, taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor and director of adult faith formation, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 (no class Nov. 23), Village Church, Rooms 132 & 133 - Mission Campus. Register at www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes

Fall Village U Classes

Get the full list of classes, course descriptions and register at www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.
Classes below are at the Mission Campus.

ART & LEISURE

Card Kit Class, led by Pam Wood, 10 a.m.-noon
Tuesdays, Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 25, Room 126

Beginning Scrapbooking: Taming Your Photos One Step at a Time, led by Pam Wood, 10 a.m.-noon
Tuesdays, Nov. 15-Dec. 6, Room 126

Mandala Making, led by Jen Wewers and Rev. Melanie Hardison, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, Room 132

Monday Handworks & E-Works, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Mondays, Sept. 19-Dec. 12, Room 127

Boomerangs, 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays, year-round,
Room 307

Wednesday Handworks & E-Works, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, Sept. 21-Dec. 14, Room 133

The Pointer Sisters (Needlepoint), 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, year-round, Room 132;
*From Oct. 5-Nov. 2 only, meeting in Room 232

Continuing Watercolor, led by Ed Harper & Bill Yates,
1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 21-Dec. 14, Rooms 232 & 233

Friday Handworks & E-Works, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays,
Sept. 23-Dec. 16, Room 127

Friday Walk/Jog, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 23-
Dec. 16, Room 127

CHRISTIAN LIFE

The Qur'an and the Bible, taught by Biagio Mazza,
6:30-8 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 12-Oct. 3, Room 233

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Bible Study,
7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, year-round, Room 228
(Friendship Hall East)

Especially for Women, led by Rev. Diane Quaintance,
9:30-11 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 16-Dec. 16, Room 126

The Case for Reparations: A Way Forward in Racial Justice and Reconciliation?, taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 21 & 28,
Rooms 132 & 133

Men's Breakfast and Bible with Tom Are, 8-9 a.m.
Tuesdays, Oct. 4-Nov. 1, Room 228 (Friendship
Hall East)

Power, Tyranny and the Biblical Response, taught
by Dr. Brendon Benz, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
Oct. 5-26, Room 126

Great Religious Figures of the 20th Century: Niebuhr, Heschel, Thurman, Day, taught by Gus Breytspraak,
Ph.D., 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Room 127

Pneumatology 101: A Guide to the Holy Spirit, taught
by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 (no class Nov. 23), Rooms 132 & 133

The Huguenot Diaspora, taught by Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee,
6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 9, 16, 30 and Dec. 7,
Room 127

Who Was Jesus Really? Keeping the Christ in Christmas, taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8
p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14, Rooms 132 & 133

Christmas in Bethlehem: The Palestinian Struggle for Justice, led by Margot Patterson, 6:30-8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 14, Room 126

ENVIRONMENT

Global Warming: God's Gift of the Milankovitch Cycles,
led by Jerry Rees, 7-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, Room 232

Climate Change, Earth Care and Village Church, led by
Chick Keller, 7-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, Room 133

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Adult Exercise, taught by Margaret Tlapek, 9-10 a.m.
daily, Mondays – Fridays, Room 333

Beginner Hula Hooping & Hoop Dancing Fitness Class,
taught by Sirena Beyer, 5:45-6:45 p.m. Third Tuesdays,
and every Thursday, Room 333

Essentrics – Apprentice Exercise Class, taught by
Elizabeth Doyle, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays,
Room 333

Tai Chi, taught by Kimberly Bland, 4-5 p.m. Mondays,
Sept. 19-Dec. 12, Room 333

INFORMATIONAL

First Wednesdays Coffee & Conversation, led by Ginger Rothhaas, and facilitated by Brooke Brundige, 10-11 a.m.
Wednesdays, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Room 309

Starting with Stories, led by Jan Bombeck and Ellie Seeman, and facilitated by Village Church children & family ministry staff, 3:30-5 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 25 (launch event) and Dec. 11 (moving up event), Room 309; 4-5 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 16 and Nov. 13 (parent meetings), Room 309; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 5, Nov. 30 (parent meetings), Room 309; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2 (parent meetings), Room 305. To register for this class, visit www.startingwithstories.org/join.

Make Learning Fun for Young Children, led by Marilyn Pattison, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, Room 230

Reboot for Intentional Living, led by Ginger Rothhaas, and facilitated by Brooke Brundige, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 19-Nov. 2, Room 309

World Politics: When Do You Stand Up For What You Believe In, led by Chick Keller, 7-8 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 7-21, Room 133

Christmas Around the World, led by Barbara Pendleton, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, Room 126

LIFE SKILLS

Connecting a Smart Device to a Smart TV, taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, Room 316

How to Plan a Smart Home, taught by Tony Liu, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, Room 316

How to Set up and Use a Smart Home, taught by Tony Liu, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, Room 316

Locating and Organizing Files, Folders and Pictures on an Apple Computer, taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, Room 316

Intermediate Apple Computer, taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, Room 316

Beginning Video Editing, taught by Rev. Dr. Ron Patton, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 8 & 15, Room 316

LITERATURE

The Shorter Works of Leo Tolstoy, taught by Kelly Fast, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 22-Oct. 27, via Zoom

VILLAGE CONNECT

New Village Connect Group Study Series: Conversations with Jesus in the Gospel of John

Village Connect groups are small groups of adults who meet once a month in homes or at the church usually beginning in September and ending in April or May. The groups gather to share a meal or dessert, to build friendships, and to read a scripture passage and then view and discuss a 10-12 minute video.

This year's theme for the study is "Conversations with Jesus in the Gospel of John." John's gospel is distinct because many of his stories about Jesus only appear here. From a discussion between Jesus and his mother that leads to his turning water to wine at a wedding to a late-night clandestine meeting with a church leader to an out-of-bounds conversation with a Samaritan woman, Jesus engages in conversations that change people's lives.

Rev. Tom Are is featured in each of the videos and Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka has written the small group leader's guide for each of the eight sessions. All are welcome to participate in this study.

If you would like to join a Village Connect group or are interested in leading one, contact Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice, director of mission and engagement, at dionne.boyice@villagepres.org.

Come join with friends to explore "Conversations with Jesus in the Gospel of John" and experience your own life transformed!

Farewell to These Village Staff Members



Jenna Soltys, youth and young adult ministries coordinator - Jenna left her position at Village as youth and young adult ministries coordinator in July to become director of communications at Second Presbyterian Church in Brookside. Jenna served close to six years in youth ministries, five years as associate director and most recently as youth coordinator. "The relationships I've developed with so many students, families and staff over almost six years have brought such joy and meaning to my life," said Jenna.

Deborah White, director of mission - Deborah served for eight years as director of mission and was on staff for nine years. Deborah retired at the end of July. On July 21, we gathered to recognize the ministry of Deborah White. Deborah said, "This time at Village has really been a gift. I felt so fortunate to be a part of Village's legacy of supporting community outreach and mission." Rev. Tom Are told Deb and the crowd of well-wishers, "There are people all over this city who, when they think of us, Deb White is the person they think of. We're proud of what you have done. You have made us a better church. Your legacy will live long here at Village."



David Enslow and Deb White

Larry Wilcox, sous chef - Chef Larry served Village for five and a half years in the kitchen. He is now a nutrition specialist at Colonial Oaks Senior Living. "I will be able to put my nutrition education to use in this new position and will be mentored by Chef Emily Berns [former director of food service] to help me advance in my own facility," shared Larry. "Thanks to Village Church, I've had the chance to develop not only my abilities and skills, but also my spirituality." Larry is taking ministry classes focused on correctional ministry at Nazarene Bible College. "I hope to use my gifts to help people battling addiction."



Nancy Gatewood, interim director of connectional ministries - Aug. 7 was Nancy's last Sunday as interim director of connectional ministries. She served in that role since Cindy Wilcox retired in January. "Over these seven months, Nancy has helped our connectional ministries grow and thrive," said Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka. "I am so grateful for her faith and faithfulness." Prior to working in connectional ministries, Nancy worked 11 months on an interim basis at the Food Pantry.

Abbey Johnston, Village Cup lead barista - Abbey started working at Village in January 2020, a couple of months before COVID hit. She left Village in August and moved to Topeka when her partner took a job with Washburn University. There Abbey will continue pursuing her degree in environmental biology. "I loved every busy Wednesday morning with the E-works Moms...every Tuesday lunch rush with the sewing gals, and every Sunday spent getting to know congregants as they grabbed a treat after the service."



George Darrington, buildings & grounds superintendent - George retired on Sept. 1 after 40 years of faithful service. He joined the staff as a custodian in 1982. Three years later, he was promoted to buildings & grounds superintendent, a position he has held for 37 years. For all those years, he has been the first person to arrive every Sunday morning at 4:45 a.m. to make sure all was ready for worship. George was honored during morning worship on Aug. 21 with Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka reading a "Resolution of Gratitude" from the Village Church Session. Here is an excerpt: *Whereas, he has treated the care for these buildings as a ministry, and because of his grace, good cheer, quick laugh, and*



STAFF UPDATES



George and other family members

humble spirit he has made us a better church.

Therefore, be it resolved on this Sunday, August 21, 2022, that the Session of Village Presbyterian Church gives thanks to God for the faithful ministry of George Darrington, Superintendent of Building and Grounds... On behalf of the congregation of The Village Church, we express thanks that George Darrington revered our sanctuary as the house of God and treated all who entered as God's children.

George was modest about being in the spotlight. He later admitted, "It was all very nice and humbling." His wife, Pam, his mother, one sister, son and twin girls were all beaming with pride as George was honored in worship.

Rev. Dr. Ron Patton, media production coordinator - Ron has served Village as media production coordinator since June of 2012. He retired at the end of August. In 2015, Ron asked his son Kirk (who has expertise in sound design and installation) to help him in the AV booth. Kirk has been working alongside him ever since. Kirk admits, "I'm going to miss working with my dad."

Prior to Village, Ron served as pastor at Westport Presbyterian Church for 13+ years followed by 17 years at Christ Presbyterian Church before retiring in 2005. "We are grateful for Ron's faithful service to Village Church," said Rev. Tom Are. "Ron has always been there when we need him, no matter the circumstance (including snowstorms and during lockdown the first year of COVID). Ron plans to serve us as needed in the AV booth. He also hopes, now that his Sunday mornings are freer, to preach around the Presbytery on occasion."



Kirk and Ron Patton

WELCOMES

With several retirements in the last couple of years, Village has reevaluated its staffing needs and structure. As a result, several positions have evolved, and new positions have been created to meet the needs of the church today.

Creation of Village Church Media Ministry - Rev. Tom Are shares, "In this COVID-influenced world, it has become clear to us that Village needs to expand our online ministries. We have taken fantastic steps in that direction over the past two years, but it is a target that one never actually reaches, we just keep moving forward. Toward that end, we realized the need to hire a full-time director of media ministry. I am happy to announce that Alice Whitson, who has served the past four months as our part-time pastoral care outreach coordinator, has agreed to take this new full-time role, and began her work on Aug. 1. Alice brings a compassionate spirit and a creative mind to this work. She is also a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, where Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka taught. Alice worked in media services at Columbia Seminary and was a co-director of AV at Montreat Conference Center."

"In addition, Greg Hoeven joined our media ministry team in mid-August as senior video producer. Greg came to us from Church of the Resurrection (Leawood) where he served six years as a video producer. We are very excited he has joined the Village team. This is a great step forward for our media ministry and will enrich our capacities to share good news beyond our walls."

Continued

WELCOMES



Alice Whitson - Since graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2021, Alice served as adult faith formation coordinator at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Missouri while also serving as pastoral care outreach coordinator at Village Church. She has experience in various aspects of ministry from hospital chaplaincy to church camp, to running sound at Montreat. Alice is a Mizzou graduate and a native of Jefferson City. Her wife, Julianna, was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at Village Church this spring and works as a hospital chaplain. They live in Overland Park.



Greg Hoeven - Greg is a video storyteller, motion graphics designer and photographer. Prior to his time at Church of the Resurrection, he was a multimedia specialist in Overland Park. He is also a retired captain of the U.S. Army National Guard who served in Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Greg grew up in the Methodist Church in Slater, Iowa. He earned his bachelor's degree in speech communication with an emphasis in radio & television from Iowa State University. Greg has two adult children (Emily and Eric) and lives in the Kansas City Northland.

Creation of a New Position - Director of Mission & Engagement - With the retirements this year of Cindy Wilcox, director of connectional ministries, and Deborah White, director of mission, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka shares, "We began rethinking those two positions. We moved staff leadership of deacons to pastoral care at the request of our pastors in pastoral care. Then we sought to provide administrative support for the ministries of mission and connection. During their years of remarkable, faithful ministry, both Cindy Wilcox and Deborah White served without substantial administrative support. So, we developed a new position titled 'director of mission and engagement' to lead our ministries of building relationships with people inside the church and outside the church with the local and global community. For the first time, the director will have a full-time administrative assistant. It will take some time for us to ease into this transition but the hope is that through deepening the connection between mission and engagement, we will be an even more faithful body of Christ. I am so grateful that God has led us to call Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice to lead us."



Rev. Dr. Dionne T. Boyice, director of mission & engagement - Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice began working for Village on Aug. 15. She was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. She recently graduated from Central Seminary with a Doctorate in Ministry. She is also a social worker, having graduated from Park University with a bachelor's degree in social work. Prior to Village, Dionne was the senior pastor at St. James United Church of Christ in Havertown, Pennsylvania. She and her wife, Minister LeAundra Boyice, whom she met in kindergarten, returned home to Kansas City to be closer to family. Dionne is the oldest of three girls. She loves to travel, "play in the dirt," or what others may call gardening. In her very spare time, she decorates, designs and sings. LeAundra and Dionne have no children but rescued a kitten from under their

lawnmower last year and have claimed him as their own. Dionne says she looks forward to working with each of you in some capacity.



Theo Musick, music coordinator - Theo began his new role as music coordinator on Aug. 15. Theo is no stranger to our music ministry. He has sung in the Alegría Choir and played percussion in worship. He holds percussion performance degrees from the University of Kansas (Master of Music) and Washburn University (Bachelor of Music). Theo is a percussionist by trade and comfortable playing the drums, be it timpani or drum set. He is also quite at home on the vibraphone or bells, though the marimba is his favorite instrument to play. Theo teaches band and drumline at St. James Academy and plays percussion with the Fountain City Brass Band.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 11 – Pastors Tom & Rodger co-preach new sermon series **“Sometimes We Need to Ask for Directions”** - Physical growth happens by nature. We are born. We learn to walk. We outgrow our shoes and the marks on the door frame that track our height reach toward the ceiling. We go to school. We get jobs. We age. Growth is unavoidable. Spiritual growth is different. There are experiences that demand engagement of our faith. The first time you stand at the rim of the Grand Canyon, or the first time you really look at the pictures from the Webb Telescope. The first time you fall in love or hold your own child, or even say the 23rd Psalm for someone you have loved for a long time.

These and other experiences become part of our faith journey. But journey is the point. And for faith to grow as it should, experience alone will not likely provide all that we need or desire. If you desired your faith to grow, what would you do? If you are determined to have a deeper faith a year from now, what would you need to do before September 2023 to enrich your faith? This series will reflect on some practices and possibilities for such a journey. Physical growth just happens, but for a spiritual journey, sometimes you need to ask for directions.

Village Kids Lighthouse Kickoff - See what is new in Lighthouse Kids (aka Sunday School for preschoolers and grades K-6) beginning at 9 a.m. There will be popsicles and more on the south playground.

Sept. 18 – **Congregational Meeting** immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service at the Mission Campus and the 9:30 a.m. worship service at the Antioch Campus. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new church officers for the positions of elder, elder/trustee and deacon. At-large members of the Nominating Committee will also be elected. Ordination of new church officers will take place in early January 2023.

3 p.m. **Te Deum performs Mozart’s Requiem** in the Mission Campus Sanctuary

Sept. 19 – **Fall Village U Classes Begin**

Sept. 22 – 1:30-3 p.m. **Classic Citizens Event** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus

Sept. 25 – 5-7 p.m. **Food Truck Festival** in the Mission Campus North Parking Lot . Bring your family and lawn chairs, enjoy live music and purchase food from gourmet food trucks: Crave of KC, Smashburger, Taste of KC (BBQ) and Fairway Creamery (Homemade Ice Cream).

Sept. 28 – 4:30-7 p.m. **Electric Car Expo** in the Mission Campus South Parking Lot

Sept. 29 – 1-3 p.m. **Walk-In Flu Shot Clinic** in Rooms 132 & 133-Mission Campus. Vaccines are self-pay but can be billed to insurance. Participants need to bring their insurance card. The cost is \$35 for ages 5-64 and \$75 for seniors age 65+.

Sept. 30 – 7:30 p.m. **Trio Recital** in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join violinist Destiny Ann Mermagen alongside her husband, cellist Michael Mermagen and pianist Tatiana Tessman in a must-see recital of piano trio favorites: Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Featuring a Village Players Youth piano trio, as well. Free admission.

OCTOBER

Oct. 1 – 7 p.m. **“Favorite Art Songs” with tenor Brad Howard and pianist Lee Thompson**, Mission Campus Sanctuary

Oct. 2 – **World Communion Sunday, Peace Offering and Global Witness**

Oct. 4 – noon **Faith & Grief Support Gathering** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus

Get more details about upcoming events at www.villagepres.org/upcoming-events.



GOOD NEWS

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VILLAGE GIVING

It's just this simple:

**ALL OF US, TOGETHER, SHARING OUR
TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE –**

WE ARE VILLAGE CHURCH.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MISSION CAMPUS, 6641 Mission Rd. - Traditional - 9 & 11 a.m. In the Sanctuary
The Gathering - 5 p.m. in Friendship Hall

ANTIOCH CAMPUS, 14895 Antioch Rd., Overland Park, Kansas
Traditional - 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Call in to hear the previous Sunday's 9 a.m. Sanctuary worship service
on our phone line **913-203-1301**.

IN MEMORY

Phil Acuff
John Bernard
Horace "Steve" Davis, Sr.
Sandra "Sandy" Eldred
Bluwanda "Blu" Emick
Gilbert "Gil" Emick
Martha Field
Lloyd Frank
Don Freberg
Pat Hartley
Jane K. Hess
Phyllis Hundley
Nina Kanaga
Jim Lear
Herbert "Bart" Lindsley
Rev. Dick Morris
Gertrude Phalp
Nancy Shubat
William 'Bill' Stiegemeier
Janet Wilson
Beth Woolcott