Visiting Scholar 2017 – A Closer Look at Dr. Beverly Roberts Gaventa

By Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Daily trips to the public library as a young girl. The traumatic loss of a beloved grandmother. The annual serving of runny eggs at the fellowship breakfast following the Easter sunrise service in a small west Tennessee congregation. The mystery around being the first in her family to attend college, and her quick conviction that college campuses are some of the most amazing places on earth. A course in New Testament studies that she attended begrudgingly, and only because it was required of her.

Ask the 2017 Village Church Visiting Scholar Beverly Roberts Gaventa how she came to be a professor of biblical studies and a leading expert on the Apostle Paul, and all those pieces of the story become woven together, held tightly, she says, by a persistent sense of joy. Gaventa now delights in her study of the New Testament, always finding new ways to understand scripture, or new questions to ask of it. She only becomes weary or disheartened, she says, “when [she] sees the Bible hijacked and turned into a sword of hatred instead of a ploughshare of love.” That wasn’t always the case, however. Growing up in a family with roots in the Pentecostal tradition and a literal interpretation of the Bible, Gaventa’s research interests were much more aligned with Reformation studies or theology and literature. When the required New Testament course came around, she anticipated simply enduring it.

Instead, it changed the entire direction of her vocation. In the midst of that course on Paul’s letter to the Romans, Gaventa was captivated and hasn’t yet lost interest. In her own words: “Like tee-totaling Liza Hamilton in John Steinbeck’s East of Eden, who is never again entirely sober after her doctor orders a sip of whiskey at bedtime, I never walked away.”

After earning her Masters of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in New York, she attended Duke University, completing her Ph.D., before going on to teach at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary. She currently holds the post of Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Baylor University. She has served as president of the Society of Biblical Literature and has been published widely.

What guides her ongoing study of Romans, she says, is reading it as a real letter written to real people. To keep herself and her students ever mindful of that, she begins all of her classes with the greeting found in Romans 16. Real letters to real people, she believes, means this ancient letter will always offer real truth.

As the 2017 Visiting Scholar, Gaventa will be at Village Church Feb. 24-25. Her theme is “Reopening the Letters of Paul.” Join us at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, for Session 1: Giving Paul Another Chance, and/or 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, for Session 2: When in Romans…Look to the Horizon and Session 3: When in Romans…Pay Attention to the Road. All sessions will be in the Village Sanctuary.

Tickets are available at http://www.villagepres.org/visiting-scholar.html. Visiting Scholar is sponsored by Presbyterian Women of Village Presbyterian Church.
Food Pantry
This Sunday is SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! The Food Pantry is asking for hearty soups and crackers - and is hoping that your generous donations will stock the storage area at the Meneilly Center Mission for months. Each household takes home at least two cans of soup and crackers with each monthly visit and with over 500 households shopping each month, there is a great need for your donations. Hearty soups are nourishing, easy for adults and children to prepare and wonderfully comforting on a cold winter day. What goes better with hot soup but crackers. If you are not able to shop before Sunday, cash and check donations are gratefully accepted. During these cold months the Clothes Closet continues to ask for blankets, warm winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves. These items go out as soon as they come in. Thank you.

Haitian Christian Mission Receives Tidings of Joy Retiring Offering
Last month Ryan Main presented Dr. Ted Higgins with a check for $8,811 from the retiring offering collected at last month’s 16th Annual Tidings of Joy Concerts. The Haitian Christian Mission currently supports 57 churches and 16 schools throughout Haiti, feeds more than 3,700 students each day, sees 40,000 patients annually in their medical ministry and employs more than 450 Haitians. After the 2010 earthquake, the main campus shifted from Port-Au-Prince to the growing Fonds-Parisien location. HCM’s medical ministry is thriving. In 2015, its maternity clinic delivered 1,230 babies; and the hospital performed 152 surgeries. The mobile clinics reach nearly 9,000 people in outlying villages. Last year, HCM expanded its surgical facility; and Village Church Session member, Dr. Ted Higgins, who regularly travels to Haiti to perform surgeries, helped open the new Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope.

DRMP Valentine Gifts of Chocolate and Coffee
The Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church is offering Santo Domingo Coffee and Equal Exchange dark chocolate bars in Friendship Hall on Sunday, Feb. 12. Proceeds benefit DRMP Child Health Promotion, an empowering program to help children living in poor sugar cane communities of the DR have healthier lives and brighter futures. For a $10 donation, you may receive two dark chocolate bars in flavors of your choice or a 1 lb. bag of Dominican coffee.

Global Mission Offering
Coming Feb. 5, the Global Mission offering helps support the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership providing health care services to Haitian cane cutters and their families via partnership with the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic. In addition, proceeds also pay for materials for the Village Church youth spring break international mission project. Contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org for more info.
Rev. Tom Are and Rev. Hallie Hottle held a Congregational Meeting with members of Presbyterian Church of Stanley on Sunday, Jan. 22. Our first worship service as Village Church on Antioch will be at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 5.

The sermon will be presented by video from our 8 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission. All other worship aspects will be live.

Rev. Hottle is splitting her time between Village on Antioch and Village on Mission, serving as interim onsite pastor at VOA and continuing her role as pastor of Young Adult Ministry at Village on Mission. We will be conducting a search for a permanent onsite pastor.

A group of members of Village on Mission have committed to worshipping at Village on Antioch for the next year to help establish and build this new congregation.

Molly Ramsey (pictured above right), is a member of Village on Mission and on the Young Adult Ministry leadership team. She told folks gathered at the Congregational Meeting at Presbyterian Church of Stanley that she will be assisting Rev. Hottle a few hours each Sunday at Village on Antioch. Molly’s father was the founding pastor of Presbyterian Church of Stanley and she was baptized there. Many members still remember her growing up at the church.

I know that’s what it says, but that’s not what it means!

Village Church Sermon Series – Now through Feb. 26

The Bible is a complicated book, written over hundreds of years in various context and diverse circumstances. And then, it is read 2,000 years later in a world and culture the Biblical writers could not have imagined. Given all of that, it’s easy to misunderstand the Bible. When it is misunderstood, the good news can often sound like bad news for some folks. When it is misunderstood, it can often make the Bible more difficult to trust. In this sermon series, we will take just a few passages that have often been confusing and see if there is a life-giving word for us.

Feb. 5 “Jesus is the Only Way to Salvation.” This is Not About You. This Is About God.
Feb. 12 “Be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect.” Intimidated Yet?
Feb. 19 The Only Safe Place for Hatred
Feb. 26 Pray Without Ceasing
Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert – “Songs of the Earth and Sea”
7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at Village Church

The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present a free concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, in the Village Church Sanctuary. This program will feature Kaytee Dietrich, principal flutist, performing Chaminade’s Concerto for Flute.

The theme of this concert is “Songs of the Earth and Sea.” The concert will open with a musical work, Clash, composed and directed by Ryan Main who is interim director of Music Ministry at Village Church. Also on the program is an arrangement of Percy Grainger’s Molly on the Shore that will feature four solo marimbas.

The second half of this concert will begin with Fantare for All Ships by Ian Coleman, chair of the Music Department at William Jewell College. Pat Setser, associate conductor of the Kansas City Wind Symphony, will conduct an exciting piece entitled Of Sailors and Whales – Five Scenes from Moby Dick, with passages from the famous novel narrated by Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor of Village Church.

Dr. Phil Posey is the music director and conductor of the Kansas City Wind Symphony. For more information, call 816-605-2810 or the Village Church music office at 913-671-2344.
Women with Spirit’s A Toast to Wine & Cheese

Wine and cheese are two of life’s great culinary pleasures! Join us from 6:30-9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, at the home of Erin and Trevor Gustafson as we experience wine and cheese from around the world (appetizers also included)! Donations will be accepted at the door to cover the costs of this delectable evening. RSVP to Carol Solenberger at carol4977@yahoo.com. To make child care reservations, email pam@villagepres.org by Friday, Feb. 3.

WOW Lunch at Hereford House at Town Center • Tuesday, Feb. 21

Women of Wisdom (WOW) extends a warm invitation to all women to join us for lunch at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Hereford House in Town Center in Leawood (5001 Town Center Dr.).

RSVP to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, or 913-432-4321 by Sunday, Feb. 19. It has been such a pleasure during the past year or so to welcome new ladies to our luncheons. It will be good to see them again and we would love to have other first-time attendees join us during 2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Update on Climate Change: Where Are We? Where Are We Going?
7-9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6, in Room 127

Dr. Chris King, retired Brigadier General, will present an assessment on the current status of climate change, including America’s approach and that of the other signatories to the 2015 Paris Climate Change Summit. Dr. King represents the U.S. on an international military advisory council dealing with security and climate. He is an authority on the impact that climate change, water scarcity and other environmental issues have on national security and international stability.

Dr. King states, “Climate change poses a threat to U.S. national security. This risk has been identified by the Department of Defense and the National Intelligence Council. U.S. engagement in national security and diplomatic forums on this critical issue remains a paramount concern, and I hope that the new administration carefully considers the scientific and security data in addressing threats posed by climate change.”

In this class, Dr. King will present the science, ways to mitigate future damage caused by climate change and the threats posed by delaying appropriate action.

VILLAGE CARES FOR GOD’S CREATION

Village Earthcare Tip

Where does energy for our power grid come from? About 67% of the electricity generated in the U.S. in 2015 was from fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and petroleum). In 2014, 21% of net electricity generation in Kansas came from wind energy, making wind the state’s second largest power provider, after coal.
Weekly Wednesday Church Dinners
All Are Welcome!

Dine before or after your class. Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a well-balanced, convenient meal. Full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar and dessert is $6. Children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under-no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon Monday.

Menu:
Feb. 8 – BBQ pork & chicken, cheesy corn, vegetarian entree
Feb. 15 – Valentine's Day; beef pot roast, roasted potatoes & root veggies, strawberry shortcake
Feb. 22 – Presidents Day; teriyaki salmon fillets, veggie fried rice, mac & cheese, cherry cobbler a la mode

Wednesday Night Classes- Village U
For questions or registration, call 913-671-2333 or email marianne.weber@villagepres.org. See class descriptions in the Village U Catalog or at www.villagepres.org.

LS.002 - February Computer Tech Nights, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 8-22, Room 316
CL.005 The Jesus Fatwah: Loving Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself, Dr. Gus Breytspraak, instructor, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 8, Room 15
CL.007 - Remember those who are in prison (Hebrews 13:3) – A Journey of Poetry and Relationships, Arlin Buyert, instructor, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 8 & 15, Room 127
CL.008 - Growing at Village: Shifting from a Culture of Hospitality to Invitation, Dr. Rodger Nishioka and Cindy Wilcox, instructors, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 8-22, Rooms 132 & 133
CL.009 - Women of the U.S. Supreme Court, Marlene Katz (womenofhistory34@gmail.com), instructor, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 8-22, Room 230

Save-the-Date • 11th Annual Art & Hors d’oeuvres • Friday, March 31
The Village Church Annual Art & Hors d’oeuvres is a free event for all ages where participants enjoy wonderful food and amazing art. This year's event will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, March 31. The date is earlier this year, so that First Fridays artists in the Crossroads district can participate.

The event coincides with the Village Church Preschool Open House. Featured artists are novice to professional, from age 3 to 103.

Guests will enjoy an amazing display of Hors d’oeuvres prepared by our own Chef Emily (including chocolate fountains). Food and beverages will be in Friendship Hall. We’ll also have live jazz music by the Aaron Linscheid Trio.

Art & Hors d’oeuvres is sponsored by Connectional Ministries of Village Church.
Upcoming Village U classes

**Monday Handworks and E-Works - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 6-May 15, Room 127** - Enjoy community and fellowship among some of us that have so much in common while doing those projects you want to finish but can never seem to find the time to complete. You will see everything from crocheting, to recipe organizing, to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities in a wonderful child care setting.

**Breakfast and Bible with Your Buddies - 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 7-April 11, Room 228**
Join Rev. Tom Are for a morning Bible study. Chef Emily will prepare breakfast, and Rev. Are will offer a reflection on passages from Scripture. There will be time for discussion as well. To make a reservation for breakfast, contact marianne.weber@villagepres.org, $6. Child care is not available.

**Sewing Circle - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 7-May 16, Room 230** - If you are interested in learning to sew or if you are already a pro, this class is for you. You will work on projects of your choice. Sean Margaret Droessler will be available to help with your machine, to give advice, to teach pattern reading, to assist with putting in a zipper, etc. A materials list will be provided prior to the first class.

**Boomerangs - 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays, Feb. 7-May 16, Room 301** - Join the Boomerangs (the Baby Boomers Handworks class) to start or finish any project from knitting, rug hooking, needle pointing, to balancing your checkbook. Field trips to various Kansas City locations are also scheduled with some side trips. Class is designed for Baby Boomers and above. Facilitated by Judy Bliss. Child care is not available.

**Walk/Jog - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 7-May 16** - Go for a group workout (walk or jog) outside in the neighborhoods surrounding the church or stay inside and bring an exercise video to do in Room 204 on cold or rainy days. Please stay within walking (or running) distance of the church. Class will not meet on Feb. 13, March 13, April 11 and May 9.

**The Pointer Sisters (Needlepoint) - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 8-May 17, Room 133** - Learn basic stitches and peruse materials that will enable you to make beautiful and creative projects for you and your family. Sewing and fellowship will be top priorities. Facilitated by Linda Pierpoint.

**Wednesday Handworks & E-Works - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 8-May 17, Room 230** - Enjoy community and fellowship while doing those projects you want to finish but can never seem to find the time to complete. You will see everything from crocheting, to recipe organizing, to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities in a wonderful child care setting.

**Yarnworks Circle - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, February 8-May 17, in Room 206** - Join us with your own knitting or crochet project and enjoy the camaraderie and friendships that grow through the circle. Taught by Rebecca Runquist.

**Continuing Watercolor - 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 8-May 17, Rooms 232 & 233** - Enjoy the company of other watercolor artists of all levels…beginner to master. Child care is not available. Taught by Ed Harper, Bill Yates and Vesta York. Class will meet in Rooms 132 and 133 on March 1 and March 8.

**Remember Those Who Are in Prison (Hebrews 13:3) – A Journey of Poetry and Relationships - Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 8 & 15, Room 127** - For over four years, published poet and Village Church member Arlin Buyert has been working with the Arts in Prison poetry program at the Lansing Correctional Facility. During that time, he has worked with individuals helping them to give voice to their life experiences. In this two-session course, participants will start by viewing life in prison “from the outside” looking through the lens of scripture to discuss mass incarceration, the war on drugs, for-profit prisons, the death penalty and justice. The second session will look at prison “from the inside” hearing poems and perspectives from former inmates followed by a question and answer session. The course will conclude with an optional visit to the Lansing Correctional Facility on Thursday, Feb. 16. Taught by Arlin Buyert.
Growing at Village: Shifting from a Culture of Hospitality to Invitation - Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 8-22, Rooms 132 & 133 - Church growth specialists agree that a crucial factor in attracting new persons to a congregation is hospitality. Consistently, visitors to Village tell us that they are greeted and welcomed warmly. That is important. But waiting to greet those who come to us still puts us in a largely passive role. We wait for others to come to us. What would it mean if we moved beyond hospitality to invitation? Cindy Wilcox, director of Connectional Ministries; and Dr. Rodger Nishioka, director of Adult Educational Ministries, will co-teach this three-session course that begins to shift our emphasis from passively greeting people who come to us to actively inviting persons to join us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Women of the U.S. Supreme Court - Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 8-22, Room 230 - The first woman to be appointed to the United Supreme Court was Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981, 190 years after the court was organized in 1790. Since Associate Justice O'Connor, three other women have joined this exclusive group: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. With the election of President Donald Trump, much attention is now focused on the court and its future composition. Instructor Marlene Katz has nearly 30 years of teaching experience and has lectured and taught about the role of women on the U.S. Supreme Court. Participants in this course will explore each of these remarkable women and what they have brought and continue to bring to the work of the highest court in the land.

Friday Handworks & E-Works - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 10-May 19, Room 126 - Enjoy community and fellowship amongst some of us that have so much in common while doing those projects you want to finish but can never seem to find the time to complete. You will see everything from crocheting, to recipe organizing, to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities in a wonderful child care setting. Class will meet in Room 126 on April 27.

Knife Skills - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, Room 126 - Do you want to make dinnertime easier? Chefs know proper knife skills make all the difference, and this class can show you how. You’ll learn how to pick the right tools, explore sharpening and storage and get some all-important, hands-on experience in cutting vegetables the right way. Participants should bring a cutting board, chef knife, three onions, one head cabbage, four carrots, 1 lb. potatoes and two bell peppers. Students will go home with the makings of a great vegetable soup. Taught by Rachel Ciordas.

Intermediate Computer and Internet - 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 21- March 7, Room 316 - The Intermediate Computer Class allows students with basic knowledge of computers to improve their skills in Microsoft Word and the internet. With the assistance of teachers and teacher assistants (chimes), students will explore topics including: inserting pictures into documents; using margins, indents, and tabs; using the Help feature in Microsoft Word; and using the Internet to locate specific information.

Game Night - 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 23, March 30 and April 27, Room 233 - Are you looking for a fun night out? Come to Game Night! Hosted by Kyle and Sandra Stephens. Bring your favorite board game or play one provided. Come learn a new game, and meet new friends.


Super Saturday Handworks & E-Works - 9:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, Room 132 - Enjoy community and fellowship amongst some of us that have so much in common while doing those projects you want to finish but can never seem to find the time to complete. You will see everything from crocheting, to recipe organizing, to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities.

Infant, Child & Adult CPR Basics-Daytime - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, Room 132 - Join us for this instructor-led course that will teach students critical skills needed to respond and to manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac emergency in the first few minutes until emergency services arrive. Taught by Peggy Tingle. Additional course materials fee: $12/person.
ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

9:30-10:30 a.m.


Foundations of Faith offers challenging discussion of a wide range of topics based on presentations by visiting teachers or video-discussion format. Class members are singles & couples, ages 50+, who enjoy participating in discussion and exploration of new ideas while welcoming a diversity of perspectives. Facilitated by Darryl Bertsch. Room 15.

Growing Together class is for adults in their 40’s and 50’s who are interested in growing together in context of their families. Most participants either have kids at home or are empty nesters. The average attendance is 20-25 participants; some are regulars and others come as their schedule allows. Growing Together welcomes anyone who is looking for opportunities to grow using Christ’s principles as we apply Jesus to our lives today. The format is lively discussion based on a video clip. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre. Room 132.

Village Forum. Have you ever thought of the Apostle Paul as a woman nursing her infant children? The apostle uses this metaphor for himself in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica. In preparation for Dr. Beverly Gaventa, our 2017 Visiting Scholar, on Feb. 12 and 19, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will lead two sessions of the Village Forum based on her book, Our Mother Saint Paul, published in 2007. We will examine the maternal imagery that the Apostle Paul uses and discuss why he would choose this and what it meant for the early church and more importantly, what it might mean for us today. Join us on Feb. 26 when Dr. Gaventa will join us to teach the Forum class. Rooms 126 & 127.

10:45-11:45 a.m.

The Ancient Present Future Church. Beginning Feb. 5 and meeting for a total of twelve Sunday mornings (except Easter) through April 30, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will lead a new adult class in Rooms 126 and 127. The class will study the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. The Acts of the Apostles is the story of the new movement of followers of Jesus that eventually became the Church. Through our reading and discussion, we will explore the challenges and opportunities the early church faced and compare and contrast that with the challenges and opportunities we face today. Together, we will discover how the ancient church has shaped our present church and what this all means for the future church!

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

We are grateful for our troops

Our prayers go out to each military member who so faithfully serves either here in the U.S. or abroad. Thank you to you and your families. If you have a family member or know someone in the service and would like his or her name on the prayer list, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.
Stephen Ministry has been a part of the family of faith at Village for over 20 years. This ministry has served hundreds of people through Christ-centered caring relationships bringing hope. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who are committed to respond to the claim God has placed on their hearts and lives. In January, we added 14 new Stephen Ministers and three newly trained Stephen Ministry leadership participants. This year’s new class of trainees also includes our very first youth member.

It is our fervent belief that Stephen Ministry skills, both learned and practiced, are much more life-long faith practices rather than just learned skills. This is also a testament to how Stephen Ministry is a gift of grace when much of life’s struggles are to move through grief and loss, with newfound hope and faith.

One of the ways we keep in touch with our Stephen Ministers is through a quarterly emailed newsletter. We call it the Caring Compass. The Caring Compass is a Stephen Ministry navigational tool pointing us toward relationships centered on Christ by being trustworthy, compassionate, full of faith and skilled.

Our hope in sharing The Caring Compass with all of you in the Good News is to continue to build upon the strong relationship between the congregation and our Stephen Ministers and their faithful, self-less service. We want you to know that we are here to listen. We are here to be confidential conversation and prayer partners. We are here to offer compassion, empathy and wholehearted caring. We are here, because in many ways, we know what its like to experience brokenness, crisis and sorrow.

Continue to look for us here, where we will feature more information about how you can connect with a Stephen Minister if you are in need of care and compassion. We will also let you know about important dates, training opportunities, continued education speakers, and the words of grace this ministry continues to inspire.

If you feel you would like to talk about having a Stephen Minister, or becoming one, please call the Pastoral Care and Counseling office.

Rev. Len Carrell
913-671-2347
len.carrell@villagepres.org

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Inspiring words from one of your Stephen Ministers…

“Stephen Ministry and the training allowed me to meet so many wonderful people. I’ve had five caring relationships over my many years of involvement. The training I received has helped me with prayer, listening, and asking opened-ended questions. My relationships with my care receivers have been fulfilling. Most have moved on when their catastrophe has abated. I feel comfortable reading scripture, saying prayer, and sharing my stories of my improved relationship with God.”

—Anonymous (of course)
The Stephen Ministry of Village Church commissioned 14 new Stephen Ministers on Jan 22. We were also honored to have a number of participants join our fall training from surrounding area church’s: St. Michael’s All Angels Episcopal, Country Club Christian Church, Colonial Christian Church and Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church. It is a blessing to be in this ministry together.

Our newly commissioned Stephen Ministers of Village Church are: Anne Bayless, Julie Beets, Sharon Borthwick, Barb Brown, Becky Chamberlain, Anna Dierks, Mary Kapka, Susie Latas, Melanie Mann, Jim Miksch, Kathy Palmer, Susan Satterlee, Patsy Shawver and Nancy Westcott. This committed group of individuals has received 50 hours of training. They now step into the real world of listening as Stephen Ministers.
Village Preschool Re-Accredited Another Five Years

Following a comprehensive process of internal self-study and improvement, Village Church Preschool was recently notified that our accreditation status has been renewed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. NAEYC Accreditation is valid for five years. During that period programs make annual reports documenting that they maintain compliance with ten program standards which are based on the latest research on the education and development of young children. For more information about the standards, visit www.rightchoiceforkids.org.

While this is an exciting distinction, it is not a new distinction. In fact, Village Church Preschool first took on the important and daunting task of working toward our initial accreditation status under the leadership of then Preschool director, Patty Zender, and former Children’s Ministry directors, Judy Cooper and Ruth Davidson—receiving the coveted status during the 2001-2002 school year. Fifteen years later, the current Preschool staff is grateful to a church body that recognized the value in pushing toward this status, and especially to the leaders who took on the challenge, setting the standard and paving the way!

Village Kid’s Day Out Program

The Village Church Child Care Department is pleased to offer our Kid’s Day Out program for the 2017/2018 school year. This program is for children ages 2–3 years (may be 2 years by Dec. 1). KDO is offered from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Sept.-May. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where your child can grow and learn. We provide your child with many opportunities to explore and be creative while making new friends. We have a loving, energetic staff that will make your child’s experience a positive one.

Fall enrollment begins Monday, Feb. 6, 8 a.m.-noon for Village Church members, KDO Alumni siblings and Village Preschool families. Enrollment for community members is from 8 a.m.-noon Monday, Feb. 13.

Any questions? Contact Marjean in the Child Care Department at 913-671-2322.

Story Time at Village
9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7
RSVP by calling Cheryl at 913-671-2355 or email cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org.

Upcoming Events for 6th Grade
Village 6th graders are invited to join us on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Advanced Laser Tag in Olathe. We’ll meet at the church at 2 p.m. for a van ride and return before 5 p.m. Look for information in your email Inbox.

Mark Your Calendars
Church-Wide Pancake Breakfast
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5
Join us in Friendship Hall. Cost is $5 per person. Bring your friends and family for pancakes, sausage and the ever entertaining pancake magic of Chris Cakes!

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Thursday Night Small Group

Please join us at 7 p.m. Thursdays upstairs at Village. Faith is a practice. It cannot be something we learn, or search for, or think about. It must be something we do, and do regularly enough that the lines between sacred and secular are blurred by eyes that can’t help but to see the holy. We’ll start reading Barbara Brown Taylor’s *An Altar In The World* and practice having new eyes in this new year, together. Bring $5 for a book! All 20s and 30s invited. Pizza provided.

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6-8 p.m. SUNDAY, FEB. 26
FRIENDSHIP HALL

Tickets go on sale | Feb. 5

$10 per person
($35 max per family)

ENTER A CHILI (traditional, spicy, vegetarian, or other) and receive two FREE TICKETS.

Chili entrants are also eligible to win prizes!

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If weather is predicted to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. service will be cancelled.
Words of Thanks from Kathy Collins

This church family never ceases to amaze me with its generosity. When we are most in need, you deliver. I am honored to be chairing the Commitment Committee in 2017, working alongside Molly Sirridge and a fantastic committee: Jack Foster, Troy Lillebo, Stephanie Strout, Samm Skare and Suzanne Willey. We look forward to continuing the good work of our immediate past chair Lexa Carr and the many other chairs throughout the years, as we carry forward our mission of giving. Thank you for your support and your stewardship – we are grateful!

—Kathy Collins