

Visiting Scholar Rev. Dr. Serene Jones Rescheduled Dates March 9-10, 2018

By Rev. Jenny McDevitt

A highly respected scholar and public intellectual, the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones is the 2018 Presbyterian Women's Visiting Scholar. She will be at Village the weekend of March 9-10, speaking both Friday evening and Saturday morning. This is a rescheduled date from the original March 2-3, due to a memorial service Dr. Jones is participating in that weekend.

Dr. Jones is the 16th president of Union Theological Seminary in New York City. The first woman to head the 180-year-old institution, she also occupies the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy. She has also served as the president of the American Academy of Religion. Before her tenure at Union, Dr. Jones was the Titus Street Professor of Theology and Chair of the University's Program in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University.



In addition to her academic accomplishments, Dr. Jones is ordained by the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Much of Dr. Jones' past work has focused on the impact of violence on the human psyche, and how the Church has the capacity to both help and hinder the healing process. Some of her most recent work explored the intersection of trauma and grace. Most recently, however, she has dedicated herself to a theological response to some of our country's biggest questions and most heated debates.

She recently wrote in *Time Magazine*, "As Americans, we have a 'theological' national story we tell about our country. It begins with the Constitution and typically describes the constant progress that good people have made since the start. It is a relentlessly positive story. From a spiritual perspective, the problem is that this story has not incorporated a

serious account of our wrongs ... There is no religious or spiritual tradition, at least any worth their salt, that does not begin with a serious account of both the good and bad that people can do. If we do not existentially reckon with the ugly side of our beliefs and actions, we will not have healthy communities. Egregious harms will continue to unfold and profound despair and alienation inevitably set in. Why? Because deep down, we are living a spiritual lie."

Come hear Dr. Jones reflect on all this and more this March. Her lecture series,

titled "What Is True?: Theology and the American Story," is divided into three sessions. At 7 p.m. Friday, March 9, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary, she will speak on the topic of sin; at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 10, in Friendship Hall, she will speak first about grace and then about redemption.

Tickets are available at www.villagepres.org/visiting-scholar. Don't miss this chance to engage in reflection and conversation about our country, our theology, and what we ought to expect from our leaders and ourselves.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is so thankful for the donations of soup and crackers on Souper Bowl Sunday. Results of the food drive were not available at press time. They will be announced later.

The Food Pantry now has a need for breakfast cereal. Every shopping unit gets at least one box of cereal, larger families receive two or three boxes of cereal. The demand is great, and the Pantry has a lot of shelf space for a large variety of cereals. So, cut those coupons and bring breakfast cereal to church with you. The clients, like you, love to start out the day with a big bowl of cereal - hot or cold.

The Clothes Closet is asking for umbrellas, gloves, warm scarves and hats of all kinds. Check the back of your closet shelves or the corners of your closets and share those items you might not be using.

Village Church Cooks A Meal At Cross-Lines

On Friday, March 9, Village will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kan. We need four to five volunteers to help cook from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and three to four more to help serve from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cookie donations can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 8. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Village Pipe Organ Dedicatory Concert with The Bach Aria Soloists • 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10

Experience the splendor of chamber music with organ through the centuries with the magnificent new Opus 22 organ at Village Presbyterian Church!

"Opus 22 can whisper the gentlest of melodies, and roar in triumph — and everything in-between!" says Elisa Williams Bickers, DMA, FAGO, principal organist at Village Presbyterian Church and member of the Bach Aria Soloists. "We are continually amazed by its range and look forward to many seasons of music. I'm especially glad to be presenting its capabilities with my friends in Bach Aria Soloists."

The program will include instrumental works by J.S. Bach, Vaughan Williams and Handel-Halvorsen; vocal arias by Handel and J.S. Bach. Guest cellist Hannah Collins, assistant professor of cello at the University of Kansas, will perform the intriguing "Mystery Variations for Anssi Karttunen."

Tickets are \$35 a person and available at www.bachariasoloists.com.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert - "Resurrection & Rejuvenation" 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, Village on Mission Sanctuary

Village Church Music Ministry and the Kansas City Wind Symphony will present a free concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11, in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. Entitled "Resurrection & Rejuvenation," this concert is full of original works for winds by Mendelssohn, Brahms and Mahler. Featured guests include the Village Chamber Choir directed by Matthew Shepard, soprano Alice Anne Light and guest conductor Curran Prendergast. Call 913-671-2344 for more information.



Photo: Dan White

About Bach Aria Soloists

BAS is led by artistic director/founder-violinist Elizabeth Suh Lane. The ensemble also includes Sarah Tannehill Anderson, soprano; Elisa Williams Bickers, harpsichord, organ and piano; and Beau Bledsoe, guitar.

Welcome Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick - New Site Pastor at Village on Antioch

Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick began work as the new site pastor at Village on Antioch on Jan. 29. His first Sunday leading worship at VOA was Sunday, Feb. 4. It was almost exactly one year ago to the day that we held our first worship service as Village on Antioch on Feb. 5, 2017.

Dr. Frick's wife Aaryn, son Nathan (4) and son Levi (18 months) joined him at their new home in Olathe on Jan. 20. He arrived in advance of the moving van on Jan. 11, making the long trek from Maryland to KC to get the house ready before the whole family arrived.

Dr. Frick came to us from Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, Maryland where he served as an associate pastor for adult education, small groups and young adults. Prior to that, he was an interim director for youth and families at Palms Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Fla. He also served as a religious educator at Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. Rev. Frick graduated from Presbyterian College. He received his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and his PhD. in Theology and Ethics from Baylor University.



"I am delighted that God has called me to join Village as site pastor for Village on Antioch," said Rev. Frick. "I see in Village and in the Kansas City area an incredible opportunity to witness the good things God is doing and to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ."

"We find ourselves today, in the 21st century, on the eve of what I believe is another great Reformation—a time for the church to change. A time for the church to grow. But also, a time for the church to hold onto the traditions of worship, caring and mission out in the world. I'm excited to be here to serve as your pastor. To worship alongside of you, to care for and with you, and to do outreach in the world to our neighbors in the world and to learn from one another. Friends, this is God's time. A time when great things can and will happen. And I believe that Village is a part of God's story to weave redemption throughout the ends of creation."

"Brandon brings deep experience in organizational leadership, teaching and pastoral ministry," said Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor of Village Church. "He is charismatic and demonstrates a great sense of humor. I am thrilled to have him join the Village team in this unique and very exciting new ministry."

Dr. Frick will be preaching during all morning worship services at Village on Mission on Sunday, March 4.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRY

Wednesday Night Dinner

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 and dessert is \$7. Salad bar and dessert is \$6. Children ages 4-10 are \$3 and children age 3 and under are no charge. Contact Liz Middleton 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon Monday.

NEW: Standing reservations are available on a pre-pay basis only. Contact Liz Middleton at liz.middleton@villagepres.org if you are interested in paying ahead for a month or more of your meals.

Menu:

- Feb. 14** – Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday – Teriyaki salmon fillets, veggie fried rice, mac & cheese, strawberry shortcake.
- Feb. 21** – Presidents' Day Dinner – Beef pot roast, roasted potatoes & veggie roots, vegetarian entrée, cherry cobbler a la mode
- Feb. 28** – baked tilapia with caper sauce, baked boneless chicken breast with corn and tomato relish, rice pilaf



Five Ways to Volunteer at Village Church

1. Church Receptionist

What: Being the welcoming face and voice for Village Church. Answer incoming calls and greet visitors at the south entrance reception desk.

When: Weekday afternoons. Noon-4:30 p.m. Serve one afternoon a week or one afternoon every other week or be ready to help when another volunteer cannot be present.

Where: Village on Mission south entrance reception desk.

Skills needed: Phone skills. Training and onsite support provided.

Contact: Mary Cashin, facilities coordinator, at mary.cashin@villagepres.org or 913-671-2342.



2. Wednesday Night Dinner Host

What: Setting placemats, silverware and napkins and collecting plates and cleaning tables for the Wednesday night church suppers. Free dinner provided.

When: Wednesday evenings. Early shift volunteers (3:50-5:30 p.m.) put out place settings and place salt and pepper shakers on each table. Late shift volunteers (5:30-7 p.m.) bus plates and wipe down tables. You choose how often you serve. Families are welcome!

Where: Village on Mission, Friendship Hall.

Skills needed: Setting places at tables, cleaning, light lifting.

Contact: Cindy Wilcox, director of connectional ministries, at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331.



3. Memorial Service/Reception Usher

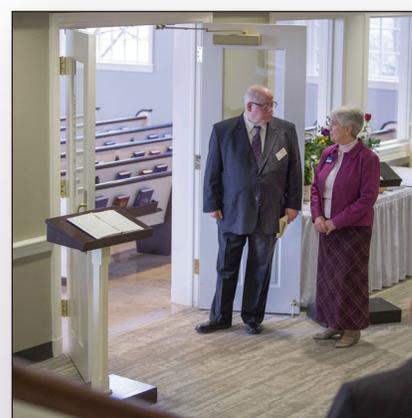
What: Help a family as they grieve the loss of a loved one. Volunteers are needed to usher for memorial services, greeting persons as they arrive and distributing programs and helping with seating. Volunteers are also needed to serve during a reception following the memorial service, helping to serve punch and various snacks.

When: Days and times vary but most services are during the late morning or afternoon. Ushers arrive early, stay through the service, and then leave (90 mins.). Reception helpers serve for a total of two hours. Training and support provided. Families are so grateful for this kindness.

Where: Sanctuary or Chapel. Friendship Hall for most receptions.

Skills needed: Welcoming, kind spirit. Some light set up and clean up for receptions.

Contact: Linda Alley, pastoral care coordinator, at linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

4. Transport Corrugated Cardboard Boxes for Recycling

What: Care for God's creation by recycling corrugated cardboard boxes. Pick up flattened cardboard boxes at Village Church on Mission and take them to the "green" cardboard recycling bin next to the Food Pantry at the Meneilly Center at 99th Street and Mission Road.

When: Once a week, usually on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Currently a team of four volunteers rotates this task, each doing this once a month. Most weeks, an average size car can accommodate all the cardboard in one trip taking about 45 minutes for the whole task.

Where: Village on Mission to the Meneilly Center.

Skills needed: Must be able to carry flattened cardboard to your vehicle then deliver them down to the Meneilly Center at 99th and Mission Road and unload them at the cardboard recycle bin near the Food Pantry.

Contact: Jerry Rees from Village Church's Environmental Action Committee at reesveenstra@aol.com or 913-568-4250.



5. Children's Church School Teacher

What: Help our children grow in their faith in Jesus Christ by serving as a Sunday morning church school teacher. Teams of adults teach school-age children using provided curriculum and training.

When: Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Teaching schedules are flexible. Some teach every Sunday and others rotate every other week or once a month.

Where: Village on Mission church school classrooms.

Skills needed: Training and support provided. Love for Jesus Christ and love for all God's children. Background check is required.

Contact: Ellen Wootton, interim director of children and family ministry, at ellen.wootton@villagepres.org or 913-671-2355.



SAVE THE DATE

Brent Isom Concert with the More Love Chorale 7 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the Sanctuary

Guitarist Brent Isom of St. Joseph, Mo. is music director at New Harvest Baptist Church in Agency, Mo. He's a song-writer, singer, plays the guitar and teaches guitar lessons in St. Joseph. Brent will be joining with the Village Church More Love Chorale for a concert at 7 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the Sanctuary. This is a concert of sacred music. Brent will bring Ben Howe (keyboard player) and vocalist Angela Voga to accompany him. The audience will also be invited to sing along on a few pieces. Admission is free. The concert is sponsored by Connectional Ministries.



Photo: Karen Williams

Baptism

Baptisms are scheduled on the third Sunday of every other month, except for May, when we observe the sacrament of baptism on Mother's Day. Our upcoming baptisms are March 18 and May 13. A baptism education class is offered for those members new to Village baptism. To register, contact Kate Ruecker at 913-671-2350.



2018 Children's Summer Camps

Look for the brochure the last week in February.

Sunday Programs

Child care is available for ages 0-3 at all morning services, plus The Gathering service at 5 p.m. Sunday School classes (ages 2 through 6th grade) are from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Choirs for K-6th are from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Classroom schedules are posted outside Rooms 107, 207 and 307. Please call our office at 913-671-2350 or 913-671-2355 for more information.

Village Kid's Day Out Program

The Child Care Department is pleased to offer our Kid's Day Out program for the 2018/19 school year. This program is for children ages 2 yrs.-3 yrs. (must be 2 yrs. by Dec.1). KDO is offered on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. September-May. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where your child can grow and learn.

Fall enrollment begins Monday, Feb. 12, from 8 a.m.-noon for Village Church members, KDO alumni siblings and Village Preschool families. Enrollment for community members is Monday, Feb. 26, from 8 a.m.-noon. See www.villagpres.org for more information.



FRIENDSHIP HALL
Tickets go on sale | Feb. 4

\$10 per person (\$35 max per family)

ENTER A CHILI (traditional, non-traditional, spicy, vegetarian OR enter a crockpot dessert) and receive 2 FREE TICKETS.

Entrants are also eligible to win prizes!

Celebration of Faithful Women Reservations Open Feb. 25

Presbyterian Women's annual luncheon is on Saturday, March 24, to celebrate the gifts of all women at Village Church. We will be honoring three Village Church members - Margaret Dalke, Vicki Graham and Jennifer Sawyer. Rev. Sarah Brouwer will be the keynote speaker.

Rev. Brouwer is the associate pastor for congregational life at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Sarah oversees communications, hospitality and fellowship, including the young adult group WestConnect.

Reservations will be taken starting Sunday, Feb. 25, in Friendship Hall and online at villagepres.org under Connect>Adult>Presbyterian Women. Cost is \$16 per person. The reservation deadline is March 18.



Join us as we celebrate all women at Village Church. May we all be refreshed and renewed as spring begins to blossom!

WOW Luncheon at Cheesecake Factory in Overland Park

Women of Wisdom (WOW) will gather at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20, for lunch at Cheesecake Factory, 6675 W. 119th St., in Overland Park. Please note the earlier start time which is necessary to reserve a table. All ladies are invited to enjoy good food and warm fellowship at this fun restaurant known for its extensive menu and signature cheesecakes. RSVP to Diane Lee, 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net, by Monday, Feb. 19.

Thank You for Another Record-Breaking Year of Spreading Christmas Cheer!

In less than five years, the yearly delivering of poinsettias has grown tremendously. This past December, 115 volunteers delivered 250 beautiful poinsettias to members across 34 zip codes in the greater Kansas City area. Poinsettias were delivered to 76 private residences and 64 facilities. This is 100 more poinsettias and 50 more volunteers than five years ago, and across nine additional zip codes and 59 more homes and facilities! The one constant in this ministry is the expert coordination by Ruth Kline. We couldn't do this without her or all of you. Thank you to everyone who was a part of this amazing tradition!



**Rev. Jenny McDevitt
Starting a New Chapter,
Making History in New York**

Rev. Jenny McDevitt grew up Catholic in a suburb of Detroit. She joined the Presbyterian Church when she attended Kenyon College in Ohio where she received her Bachelor's degree in English and Creative Writing. "I knew in college I would go to seminary, but I didn't anticipate that I would end up being a pastor. I was initially a very reluctant seminary student at Union Presbyterian Seminary, but grew to love it."

"While I was there, I received a lot of encouragement to pursue graduate work and I thought I would do that," recalls Jenny. "I applied for one church job as a resident minister at First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, Mich. They offered it to me and I declined. A few months later, I was all set to move to go to graduate school, and realized very belatedly that it was a mistake. I called First Pres back, and it turned out they still had one position open. Sometimes I can be the last to realize where God is calling me. But it was the very best beginning for ministry for which I could have hoped. I learned a tremendous amount, especially in the field of pastoral care. One of my earliest mentors in that regard was the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers. She will be the speaker for this year's PW Spring Retreat. Our Village women will love her!"

Her Road to Village

"When it came time to move on from Ann Arbor, I knew what it was like to work in a large churches and be part of a team. I really liked that. I was interested in focusing on pastoral care. Village had an opening. Meg and Jarrett McLaughlin and I had known each other in seminary. I didn't know anything about Kansas City, but Village is



known throughout the denomination. I knew it was a place where remarkable ministry could happen."

Jenny came to Village in September of 2012.



What She Loves About Pastoral Care

"It's being with people in some of their very worst moments and some of their very best. That is an honor that is beyond words." Jenny has officiated at over 180 funerals during her time at Village. "That means I'm constantly proclaiming resurrection. In life and in death, we belong to God. And you can't say those words many times without being changed by them."

On Serving as Staff Liaison for Presbyterian Women

"It's been a nice thing to balance a lot of the joy that comes from Presbyterian Women with some of the heavier work that comes with pastoral care. Presbyterian Women are some of the most dedicated people with whom I've worked. They really want the best for one another and for Village and for PW."

Jenny the Liturgy Writer

Each week, Jenny writes the liturgy for Sunday worship. "Tom [Are] was really gracious in inviting me to do that after I'd been here about a year. It's been

a way for me to consistently engage in worship planning and scripture in ways that wouldn't otherwise be available to me because I'm not a weekly preacher."

Jenny the Sanctuary Art Creator

Jenny has created many stunning, massive scaled mixed media pieces of art in the Village Sanctuary and Welcome Center to reinforce the sermon message. "My artistic abilities are very much trial and error – find out what doesn't work on your way to figuring out what does. I think putting art in the Sanctuary helps us engage in worship in different ways. It also reminds us in a very direct, tangible way that the world is still a very beautiful place."

Jenny and Her New Call

"I was not looking to go anywhere. I have loved every minute at Village. The search committee at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church reached out to me for their senior pastor and head of staff position. It's always good practice to engage a first conversation. That first phone call sparked some interest in me and in them. My name was shared with them as someone who could bring some creative energy, particularly to worship. The membership is currently around 600. It's on Madison Avenue in Manhattan."

"In more than 100 years of ministry, Madison Avenue has had four senior pastors: William Sloane Coffin, George Buttrick, David H. C. Read and Fred Anderson. My presence among them will be something new for the congregation, and for the city. To pastor Madison Avenue is to stand on the shoulders of giants. But that has been true here at Village, as well. I am well-versed in being surrounded by amazing history and talented colleagues!"



To the People of Village

Speaking in Sunday worship, Jenny shared, "At no step along the way was this a process I took lightly, because to go toward something is to have to leave something else; and that was a very hard decision." With tears in her eyes she said, "Having the chance to be one of your pastors is among the very highest honors of my life. And that is why it has been so hard for me to come to terms with the Spirit calling me toward this new position. I am not being called away from you. The truth is, that could never happen. But I am being called toward New York. I'll carry the people of Village with me. Thank you for everything. I love you so much."

"Jenny has been a faithful and creative colleague," said Rev. Tom Are. "Her gifts with language have instructed us all. Her faith has carried many through the most difficult times. She leaves us to take a big and demanding call, and knowing her the way we do, it certainly seems clear to me why God would want her serving that important congregation."

Jenny will be preaching at all worship services on Sunday, Feb. 18, her last Sunday as a pastor of Village Church. Please join us for a Farewell Reception in Friendship Hall immediately following the 11 a.m. service. We will express our deep gratitude to Jenny and wish her well in her new call making history in New York City.

Village U is now in session! You may register online, by telephone, by fax (913-671-2318) or by email. Upcoming Village U classes include:

Organ 101: Up Close and Personal – You are invited to get “up close and personal” with Village Church on Mission’s amazing new pipe organ. Dr. Elisa Bickers, Village on Mission principal organist, says there is a lot to love about this magnificent instrument. Explore how the organ works, hear the new organ’s varied sounds and peek inside the organ for a closer look. All questions are welcome. 10 a.m.-noon Monday, Feb. 12, Sanctuary.

Haitian Art with Kim Higgins – Haitian art has a rhythm, color and style all its own. We will explore the roots and history of Haitian art, looking at its traditions and various styles. Then each person may create a painting in the Artibonite style. Children 8 and older are welcome to accompany adults. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, Room 15.

Common Good: Interfaith Action in Response to Violence and Injustice – Interfaith Panel Discussion sponsored by American Public Square and Seven Days features a fact-based, civil conversation about how faith communities can work together to respond to the violence and injustice of tragic events such as those in Charlottesville, Sutherland Springs, and in our own backyard of Overland Park and Olathe. 5:30 p.m. Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. Panel discussion. Thursday, Feb. 15, Friendship Hall.

Beginner Excel – Topics include identifying the components of an Excel spreadsheet, entering data into an Excel spreadsheet, formatting information, sorting data and inserting and deleting rows and columns. Students will create a simple spreadsheet during the class to reinforce learning. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, OR 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, Room 316.

Super Saturday Handworks & E-Works - Enjoy 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 fun, creative activities. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, Room 232 and 233. Child care is only available from 9:30 a.m.-noon.

Book Club – Join us for an interesting book discussion while your children enjoy childcare. Facilitated by Katie Montgomery. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 27, March 27 and April 24, Room 133.

Sewing Circle – 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 before the first class. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 27-May 15, Room 230.

Help! My Spouse Makes Me Angry! In this workshop, Village Church members Jen and Lawrence share 10 styles of anger and bring these to life through their relationship. All persons get angry at their spouse. The choice you have is how you respond. Join us for this opportunity to bring more happiness and healthiness to your relationship. Singles and couples welcome. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, Room 132.

Children’s Clothing Swap – A fun and free way to update your children’s wardrobe! Bring your kids’ (newborn to teen) gently worn clothes and shoes that you’d like to swap for the next size up. Please have items laundered prior to the swap. Any items left over will be donated to the Village Church Clothes Closet. Facilitated by Sandra Stephens. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, Room 132.



Jewish Triune Theology from Creation to Shalomization – How does one compare and contrast the triune theology of Judaism and the trinitarian theology of Christianity? Participants in this course will explore triune theology as a way to better understand the complex doctrine of the trinity. Led by Barry Speert, Jewish interfaith educator. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 7-28, Room 230.

On Dying Well – Theologian Amy Plantinga Pauw says death is a frightening prospect because the specter of death “destroys any illusion that we are in full control of our lives or that we are our own makers and keepers.” Yet as Christians we need not fear death because we know that in life and in death we belong to God and in Jesus Christ, even death has been conquered. Led by Rev. Len Carrell and Dr. Rodger Nishioka. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, Rooms 232/233.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Earth Care and Climate Change

Walter Brueggemann (Genesis, 1982) noted that that the success of every life requires balancing freedom, prohibition, and vocation in the presence of God. Such balancing offers a working approach to climate change.

Carbon Reduction (increased prohibition) Possibilities:

Transportation - More walking/ biking—public transportation—electric car hybrid car—planned yearly/monthly/ weekly car use for maximum saving

Food - More vegetarian— more fish/chicken (1 lb. of beef=13 lbs. of CO2, 1 lb. of chicken=2 lbs. of CO2, 1 lb. of grain less than 1 lb. of CO2)

Home - Less heating/cooling increased insulation—efficient appliances/lighting

Influence - Business/political lobbying—\$ for environmental groups—prayer

Every bit of carbon containment increases future freedom!

Excerpts from a Brueggemann prayer: “You are the giver of all good things, we are takers. Taking more than we need... Taking because we are driven and so uncaring ... Give us abundance beyond our drivenness...”

Winter Weather Advisory

If the weather forecast is to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission will be cancelled.





GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA monthly 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208-1799 Periodicals Postage paid at Kansas City MO POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208-0050

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VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Awesome Moment #1

Brought to you by Village Commitment Committee.

Thanks to your generosity, we recovered from three floods and one lightning strike.

Thank you for making Village awesome!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS

VILLAGE ON MISSION
Traditional – 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH
Traditional - 9:30 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
14895 Antioch Rd.
Overland Park, KS 66221

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
9:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday

www.villagepres.org

IN MEMORY

Lindy Bates
Marilyn Breidenthal
Mildred "Nadean" Edwards
James "Jim" Foster
Melvin 'Mel' Henderson
Anne Kombrink
Constance "Jean" Ladd
Diana Lee
Jessie Ladewig
Jay McConnell
DeAnn Moore

CARING COMPASS

FEBRUARY 2018

The ministry of Stephen Ministry is the caring of one's heart, and the encouragement of hope in healing times. It is described as one-on-one distinctively Christian caregiving for someone who is journeying through grief or going through any number of crises that life presents us. Stephen ministry is compassionate love rising out of the shadows, and our true heart and self being reflected in the face of another. Stephen Ministry is vital for this congregation because there is no earthly way our pastoral staff could possibly replace the 70 hours a week that our wonderful Stephen Ministers help to serve the people who are hurting in our midst.



Jesus told his disciples, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Stephen Ministry is a calling, and it is a calling to be a friend and a prayer companion to the people we serve. But in doing so we become more than just one who serves another. We become friends to the gospel of Christ, one who is chosen by God to bear lasting fruit by bearing one another's burdens and hurts and loving each other.

In 1975, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, an ordained pastor and clinical psychologist, saw that he alone could not provide for all the needs and caring ministry of his congregation. So, he began equipping and training the members of his church to provide the highest quality of care to the people who needed them. The program was so successful that soon other churches became interested in his dream of being the church to one another. That is when he founded this non-profit ministry called Stephen Ministry, and here at Village we have had a thriving Stephen Ministry program for over 25 years.

Stephen is from the Book of Acts. He was the one chosen when the Apostles knew they too were not going to be able to care for everyone they needed to care for. Stephen is described as a man chosen "full of faith and the Holy Spirit." Becoming a Stephen Minister is not something you sign up for, it is something God has chosen you for. Perhaps, you don't know this right now. But God has chosen you for this caring ministry because of your compassionate heart and commitment in believing there is a hopeful way through these difficult times in life. It is our job as Stephen Ministry leaders to help you to discern your taking that next step in joining this faithful ministry of Village Church.

Maybe the best way to understand Stephen Ministry is to hear from someone whose life has been touched and guided by it. We invite you to please join us in worship on Sunday, March 4, to hear from a Stephen Minister who has both received and given the gift of active empathetic listening, incarnational trust and non-judgement confidentiality.

We are currently seeking new candidates to interview for our annual fall training class of 2018. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve our family of faith in this unique and wonderful way.

Len Carrell and Jane Goss



Welcome our New Stephen Ministers

On Sunday, Jan. 14, we celebrated the commissioning of six new Stephen Ministers: Becky Anderson, Jim Bolton, Diane Johnson, Chris Lewis, Julia Scammahorn and Suzi Shepherd. Sally Huggins and Rachel Ruebner are new trainees and neighbors from Colonial. These faithful individuals have received more than 50 hours of training so that they may walk alongside those who are grieving and facing life's transitions. We are truly grateful for the spirit of grace and truth in these new Stephen Ministers.



Our Wonderful Stephen Ministers!