



The Village Church *Good News* is published twice a month (printed once a month, online only mid-month) 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, call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

MARCH 17, 2015

Faith Meets Daily Life

By Rev. Diane Quaintance

In Room 132 every Sunday morning, September through May, a group of Village Church members, both couples and singles, gather as the Growing Together class. Some of them have been participating for a long time, others for just a few years. Their ages range from the 40s-50s, most have children, though their children's ages are from middle school to college and beyond.



Over the years, the format and topics have been flexible. This year, their focus is on sermon conversations. Each week the "leader of the day" shows a video of a recent Sunday sermon and initiates a discussion bringing the scripture and sermon theme face-to-face with their daily lives and experiences. Class always closes with the ritual of holding hands in a circle and praying together.

The group's strength is found in their name itself — they are "growing together": growing in life experiences, and growing in faith, — being intentional about weaving those two things together.



"Even if the lively discussion has presented views of opposing thought and divergent opinions, I always feel energized and uplifted by the fellowship encountered in our circle," says one participant.

"It's a powerful thing to have a group of friends with whom to share the ups and downs of daily living, who help you clarify your faith and re-orient your values. We bring different perspectives, as bankers, teachers, lawyers, nurses, small business owners, parents, and spouses; a diversity of views are welcomed and accepted," said one Growing Together class member.

"We are so fortunate to have a warm faith community where we can share our journey... For some, the journey is just beginning; for others it has included marriage, parenting, divorce, the empty nest and grief. We are grateful to Village Church for nurturing and encouraging us along the way!"

Sometimes people cycle in and out, due to other Sunday commitments (ushering, teaching Sunday School, choir, business travel) and still feel welcome to participate in the ongoing fellowship when they are able.

We invite you to visit the Growing Together class any Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 132.



This Isn't What I Expected

We dream. We make our plans. We prepare. We check our GPS and chart our course. But sometimes life throws us a curve. Sometimes our work fails to provide the fulfillment we expected. Sometimes our dreams reach beyond that which is realistically possible. Sometimes God proves to be different than we expected. Every one of us knows disappointment like this. Christian faith provides no sanctuary from life's disappointments. But it does offer strength and direction — and most importantly, hope — when our life proves to be not what we expected.

- March 22 When Jesus Was Disappointed
- March 29 Starting Over: A New Temple
- April 5 Easter - Starting Over: A New World

One Great Hour of Sharing

On Palm Sunday (March 29), Village will collect offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing. Gifts collected from this offering are distributed among Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Envelopes for this offering will reside in the pew in front of you on March 22 and 29.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

7 p.m. Thursday, April 2

Good Friday Worship Service

7 p.m. Friday, April 3

Easter Services

8, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary
with Rev. Tom Are, Jr.
9:30 and 11:15 a.m. in Friendship Hall
with Rev. Zach Walker

Easter Morning Shuttle Bus Schedule

8:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. from Blue Moose/
Missouri Bank parking lot to
Village Church and back

Please note that there will be no Adult or Children Sunday classes on Easter Sunday, April 5. The Village Cup will also be closed Easter Sunday and the church will be closed Monday, April 6.

MISSION

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, April 24 Furnish to Finish

This year's Thwake Village Partnership fundraiser is to collect money to finish the Childrens' Home. The building is almost complete – now we need to provide beds, tables, desks, and more to truly make it a home. Enjoy dessert while finding out about our mission work in Thwake, Kenya, including the next steps and the latest upcoming trip.

The event is free. There will be a Free Will Offering taken to help our continuing mission work.

Join us at 7 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Neema Community Church, 9898 W. 95th Street in Overland Park .

Contact the Rev. Dr. David Nzioka at 913-271-3549 or Linda Alley at 913-636-2020 for more information.

Food Pantry

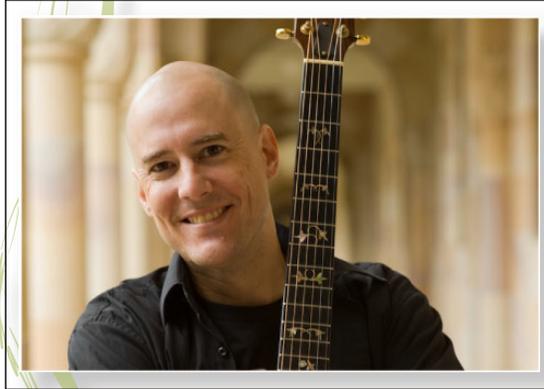
Spring is coming! The Clothes Closet is now accepting Spring Clothing – clean and gently used, in all sizes for children and adults. The hours for drop-off can be found on the back page of the *Good News*.

The Food Pantry continues to request donations of canned tomatoes and canned spinach, popular items with the Pantry's clients. Your generous donations help to keep this important mission successful. Thank you!

David LaMotte

“Charm, stories, humour, insightful songs, sweet voice and dazzling guitar ability.”

- BBC Radio Belfast



Worldchanging Weekend

with David LaMotte

April 10 & 11, 2015
Friendship Hall - Village Church

Concert • 7 p.m. April 10
Worldchanging 101 Workshop
9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 11

David LaMotte, an award-winning singer/songwriter, activist and advisor to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, will perform a free concert at 7 p.m. Friday, April 10, in Friendship Hall at Village Church. From 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, he'll lead conversation and workshop based on his latest book, *Worldchanging 101: Confronting the Myth of Powerlessness*, and help us explore the ways that all of us can make a difference every day. David is well known around Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina.

David's appearance at Village Church is a joint effort of Connectional Ministries, Mission, Music Ministry, Young Adult and Adult Educational Ministries. Tickets are FREE and can be picked up at the Receptionist's Desk at the south entrance or in the Adult Educational Ministries Office.

Call 913-671-2333 or visit villagepres.org for more information.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Rob Fohr To Speak on “Young Adult Involvement in the Church” March 31

Rob Fohr is the mission catalyst for the Presbyterian Mission Agency. One of his primary responsibilities is providing leadership for the agency-wide goal of connecting with young adults.

Please join us for dinner and Rob's presentation, “Young Adult Involvement in the Church,” starting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, in Friendship Hall. Dinner is from 6:30-7 p.m. Rob will speak immediately following dinner. Admission is free. Contact Elizabeth Nolen to make your reservation at elizabeth.nolen@villagepres.org.



Rob also oversees the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Research Services department. Included in his other responsibilities is helping to implement the 221st General Assembly's “Living Missionally” initiative that focuses on equipping churches for mission engagement in their local communities. He served in the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program in Buenos Aires, Argentina ('05-'06), and met his spouse, Christine Coy Fohr, through the YAV

program. Rob is a ruling elder, currently serving on the session of Highland Presbyterian Church (Louisville).



**VILLAGE
IN THE CITY**

INSPIRING MUSIC FOR AN APRIL EVENING

7 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
4.26.15

**KAUFFMAN CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**
— Helzberg Hall

FREE ADMISSION*

Featuring:
Dona Nobis Pacem – Ralph Vaughan Williams
Organ Concerto no.2 – Josef Rheinberger
Festina Lente – Arvo Pärt

Performed by:
The Village Chamber Choir & Orchestra
The Choir of Baker University
The Choir of Benedictine College
Matthew Christopher Shepard, Conductor
Elisa Williams Bickers, Organist

*There is no admission charge, but **TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.**
Get your free ticket at kauffmancenter.org or by calling **816-994-7222.**
A Retiring Offering will benefit the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE! We expect every seat will be filled. Please reserve your tickets thoughtfully. We ask that you return any unneeded tickets as soon as possible.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert

The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present a free concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, at Village Presbyterian Church. This concert program celebrates spring. Principal trumpeter, Erik Hulse, will perform *Fantasy for Trumpet* by Claude T. Smith. Other selections on the program include *Overture: The Hounds of Spring* by Alfred Reed and *Casey at the Bat* by Randol Alan Bass. This musical selection will be dedicated to the Kansas City Royals. The Kansas City Wind Symphony is sponsored by the Music Ministry Department of Village Church. For more information, call 913-671-2344.

Te Deum Concert at Village

The works of contemporary composers David Lang and Eriks Esenvalds will offer intensely emotional reflections on the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection when Te Deum presents "Passion" at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at Village Church. A \$10 suggested donation is requested. Lang's *Little Match Girl Passion*, which won a Pulitzer Prize for music in 2008, interprets the Hans Christian Andersen tale of a poor street girl's hopes and dreams as a metaphor to understand the Passion story. Grammy-winning soprano soloist Esteli Gomez will join Te Deum for *Passion and Resurrection* by Eriks Esenvalds. Te Deum was founded by Matthew Shepard in 2008. Learn more at www.te-deum.org.

Wednesday Nights @ Village



Weekly Wednesday Dinners

Dine before or after your Wednesday class. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m., and the hot food buffet is open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. A full meal with salad bar & dessert is \$7. Salad bar/dessert only is \$6. Cost for children age 3-10 is \$3 and children under age 3 eat for free.

March 18—Spring Break Week/St. Patrick’s Day—New England clam chowder, vegetarian soup

March 25—meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy

April 1 – Breakfast for Dinner - pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, link sausage

April 8 – There will be **NO Wednesday Night Dinner April 8** because of construction traffic through Friendship Hall removing Sanctuary pews and organ pipes through the south entrance. (See article on page 17)

Village University Classes

Repentance and the Psalms - In this session we will examine ways of understanding repentance through the lenses provided by the psalms in general as well as by specific psalms. Class participants are encouraged to bring their own Bibles because a diversity of translation will enrich our study. Taught by Dr. Kris Kvam, professor at St. Paul School of Theology, from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, in Room 132.

Village Talk - Please join us in Friendship Hall from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, when Rev. Brian Ellison’s guest is Bernadette Gray-Little, chancellor of the University of Kansas system, who will speak about “Education in the 21st Century.”



Since arriving at KU in 2009, Bernadette Gray-Little has focused on advancing KU’s mission of lifting students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world. In fall 2013, Gray-Little was named to the executive committees of the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

School of Theology – Religions of the World, Part II - Continuing to explore the major religions of the world, Part II will focus on the eastern religions—Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism—plus several lesser known religions and the phenomena of cults. We will look at the question of where God is in each. Taught by Rev. Dr. John P. Borden from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 15-May 13, in Room 132.

Leaving a Spiritual Will or Spiritual Legacy - This course has been rescheduled from an earlier date! Journalist and Presbyterian Elder Bill Tammeus will help participants understand the difference between a spiritual will and a spiritual legacy and help them begin to create a spiritual will. Bill will also share various ways he’s seeking to leave a spiritual legacy, including his latest book, *Woodstock: A Story of Middle Americans*. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 22, 29 and May 6, in Room 126.

Go to www.villagepres.org for more details about Wednesday Nights @ Village.

Village Church Environmentally Friendly Grocery Bags

This is the answer to the question in the grocery store, “paper or plastic.” We expect these bags to arrive in mid-March and Connectional Ministries Committee members will be selling them in Friendship Hall between worship services on Sundays, March 22 & 29. The bags will also be available during the week in Cindy Wilcox’s office. We

purchased the bags for \$2.50 each, but the committee suggested that we sell the bags for \$4 each and with the extra \$1.50 from each bag will go directly to the Village Food Pantry as a donation. We have ordered 500 grocery bags with our Village Church logo on the front.



COMPUTER MINISTRY

Intermediate Classes: 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21 & 28 and 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22 & 29.

Contact Stacy at stacy.fischer@villagepres.org or 913-671-2334 to sign up for classes.

NOMINATING NEW VILLAGE CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2016

Village Church is brimming with leadership and talent! The Village Church Nominating Committee needs your help in matching abilities with responsibilities. They are seeking recommendations for elders, elder trustees and deacons for 2016. There are several ways to submit a nomination.

1. Complete the form below and return it to the Church Reception Desk OR mail it to:
Village Church, (attn: Marsha Hansen) 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208.
2. Go to www.villagepres.org homepage and look under "Featured Events" for event title: NOMINATE NEW OFFICERS FOR 2016; click on the link then complete, print and return to Church Reception Desk.
3. Type this into your browser: <http://villagepres.org/about-us/officers/>. Complete electronically, then "save as" the document and email as an attachment to marsha.hansen@villagepres.org by the deadline, March 29.



Duties of Officers

ELDERS make up the Session and are responsible for the total spiritual welfare of the congregation. They should be persons involved in the life of the church who are enthusiastic about its mission, regularly participate in Sunday morning worship and show a genuine interest in the church.

ELDER/TRUSTEES In addition to performing the elder duties, trustees are the corporate officers functioning under the Session and are responsible for fiscal matters, buildings and grounds and other matters referred by the Session. This board usually needs persons with special expertise in areas such as law, accounting, building construction, insurance and business. Those serving on this board should be persons who demonstrate a sincere concern for the church and its mission.

DEACONS' work encompasses all aspects of "hospitality" at Village Church. This hospitality includes greeting at all entrances for Sunday worship services, serving communion in worship, processing Friendship Folder sheets, sponsoring/welcoming new members when they join, providing refreshments between Sunday worship services and much more. Essentially, it is our deacons who have the privilege of offering the gift of hospitality to all at Village Presbyterian Church.

Provide all information that you can on each individual you recommend — and don't hesitate to recommend yourself!

I recommend: _____

For the office of: Elder Elder/Trustee Deacon

Age group: Youth 20-35 36-50 over 50

Talents/Interests/Spiritual Gifts: _____

Village Church Involvement: _____

Community Involvement: _____

My name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nomination deadline: Sunday, March 29, 2015 for elders, elder/trustees and deacons

CELEBRATION



Mark Your Calendars for “Celebration Dominicana” and the Village Church Golf Classic May 9 and May 11

The Dominican Republic Medical Partnership has been a part of the life of Village Church for over 20 years now— its inceptions rooted in a youth group mission trip in the early 1990s. A nurse attending the trip as an adult sponsor was dismayed at the lack of basic medical care for those living in La Romana, a city in the Dominican Republic. Upon returning home, she contacted medical professionals and convinced them that their skills could be put to great use for the Kingdom of God. She gathered a corps of volunteers and together they embarked on the first medical mission trip. The rest, as they say, is history.

So overwhelming was the need—and so dedicated were the volunteers—that one trip turned into two, and this little experiment soon developed into multiple yearly trips staffed by medical professionals in their various capacities: surgeons, nurse practitioners, cardiologists, and a few non-medical personnel as well. The group became the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership (DRMP) and established itself at the forefront of bringing quality health care to the bateys, the under-served communities around La Romana where Haitian sugar cane cutters live.

Now the DRMP is an institution at Village Church, having been supported with the prayers, finances and participation of so many generous members throughout the years. The scope of the DRMP continues to evolve, and its programming includes nutrition and hygiene stations that accompany the ever-faithful medical care. From humble beginnings to its current vitality, the work of the DRMP has only been possible because of faithful supporters like you.

Please accept this invitation to join the DRMP and the Village Church family as we celebrate our commitment to continuing the work in the Dominican Republic. Gather around the table at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at the Country Club of Leawood for “Celebration Dominicana,” a celebratory dinner and silent auction benefitting the work of the DRMP. Then join us again at the Country Club of Leawood at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 11, for the 11th Annual Village Church Golf Classic. To sign up, please fill out the registration form which is inserted on the opposite page.

Contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, at andrea.huffman@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390 for more information.

Dear Friends,

At Village Church, we believe that access to quality healthcare should not be limited by our nation's borders. In fact, we believe it is only limited by our own sense of justice and compassion. This is why Village Church and the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership have dedicated over 20 years of service to providing medical assistance in the bateyes and barrios of La Romana in the Dominican Republic. It is a partnership based on a mutual desire to love our neighbors, near and far, and to make a real difference in the world around us.



The term *partnership* also applies to the way we approach our friends in La Romana. We know that the impact of our knowledge and resources can go only so far without the dedication of Dominicans who desire to enrich the lives of their own families and communities. We provide training in the areas of nutrition, disease prevention, and health education, and they in turn utilize those practices and disseminate that knowledge to their families and neighborhoods, ultimately impacting entire communities and fostering sustainable transformation.

Such impact is only possible, though, because of another partnership: yours. Year after year the support of individuals, families, and organizations affords Village Church and the DRMP the ability to sustain our medical provision to those in need in the Dominican Republic. You can partner with us by supporting the 11th annual Village Golf Classic on Monday, May 11, at Country Club of Leawood. You can engage in this partnership by being a donor, sponsor, golfer or silent drive participant.

Our mission is shaped by the gospel that bids us to love our neighbors, and somewhere in La Romana there is an older woman or a young boy, there's a struggling family or an all-but-forgotten child whose life will be made more whole because of your help on May 11. I wish I could tell you her name or his story but, like you, I don't know who they are at the moment. But God does, and that's enough.



We hope you will partner with us by supporting this important fundraiser to love and serve our neighbors in La Romana.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Are
Senior Pastor, Village Presbyterian Church
Honorary Tournament Chair



11th ANNUAL

Village Church Golf Classic

Benefit for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership



Monday, May 11, 2015

Country Club of Leawood, 12700 Overbrook Road, Leawood, KS 66209

Only golf shoes with soft spikes are permitted. Tucked-in collared shirts are required and no denim is allowed.

Honorary Chairperson: Rev. Tom Are

Prizes:

Awards to top teams per flight
Closest to Pin
Longest Drive
Mulligan Drawing

Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration
1 p.m. Shotgun Start on 18 Holes
6-7 p.m. Awards and Tee Party

Questions:

Andrea Huffman
Director of International Mission
andrea.huffman@villagepres.org
913-671-2390

Cost: \$160 per person (\$95 tax deductible), includes boxed lunch, bottled water, cart, snacks, and awards

Flights: Men, Women, Mixed, Seniors (over 65)

**In the event of rain, the tournament will not be rescheduled*

2015 Village Church Golf Classic Registration Form

Name _____

Please Check: Individual (\$160)

Daytime Phone Number _____

Team (\$640)

Address _____

Flight: Men Women Mix

Email _____

Seniors (over 65)

Teammates:

Name	Telephone	Address	Senior	Male/Female
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Sponsors:

I/We would like to become an Underwriting Sponsor for \$5,000

I/We would like to become a Title Sponsor for \$2,500

I/We would like to become a Tournament Sponsor for \$1,000

I/We would like to sponsor a HOLE for \$275

Any Sponsorship can be made in honor/memory of someone special



Program recognition should read: _____

*Make checks payable to Village Church Golf Classic. Return to 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208.
First 120 golfers to submit registration form and entry fee are guaranteed a spot.*

Nothing Can Separate Us From Your Love

God of all truth, we are thankful for your faithful utterance of reality in a world where we are often confused, deceived, or seduced by dishonesty. In your truthfulness you have called the world “very good.” In your truthfulness you have promised to love us with an everlasting love. In your truthfulness you have assured us that Jesus is your beloved son, the way, the truth, the life. In your truthfulness you have repeatedly reminded us not to be afraid, for you are with us. In your truthfulness you have guaranteed that nothing can separate us from your love made real in Jesus Christ.

It is because of your truth that we are here. It is through your truth that we find our way, and it is to your truth that we turn as we seek to make sense of life and death.

When those we love suffer and die and the ground of security and meaning collapses beneath us, enable us to find a solid footing on your claim – *nothing can separate us from your love.*

When we wander in doubt and our life’s purpose fades from view, steady our wobbling steps with your assurance – *nothing can separate us from your love.*

When it feels like the world is going to hell in a hand basket, when wars rage, when races collide, when poverty advances unchecked, when elected officials seem to turn a deaf ear to your call for the creation of a caring community in which the welfare of the least and lost takes precedence, awaken the world to your promise – *nothing can separate us from your love.*

When we, to whom you have entrusted the gospel, confront injustice and oppression and find our voices silenced because of fear or weariness or timidity ... when the world rejects our ministry, strengthen our resolve with the bold truth you tell us – *nothing can separate us from your love.*

When the challenges of parenting, be it with our parents or our children, overwhelm us with doubt, when, try as we might, we just can’t seem to get along with a co-worker or a classmate, encourage us to keep up the effort with the reassuring words – *nothing can separate us or them from your love.*

When the food stamps run out, when the doctors give up, when the imprisoned run out of hope, when the illiterate are left to fend for themselves, shake us into service with the reminder – *nothing can separate us or any in all your creation from your love* as we incorporate that love into our lives and as we then take that love - your love - from this place into all the world.

Thus strengthened through our daily life of service, with our last breath, we will say – *nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Lily Delivery Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to deliver one or more of the Easter lilies that will adorn the chancel area to members unable to attend Easter services on April 5. Contact Sandy in the Pastoral Care Department, 913-671-2327 or sandy.perry@villagepres.org, by Friday, March 27, if interested. You will be contacted the week prior to Easter regarding how to pick up your flower(s) following the last Easter service. A limited number of lilies will be available on Saturday, April 4, for early pick-up/delivery.

Easter Lily Memorials

You may purchase a potted lily in memory or honor of a loved one by sending a check for \$10 payable to Village Church (please include the memorial/honoree name with the check). Send your check to the church, Attn: Janice with “Easter Memorial” referenced on both the envelope and the check. Your information must be received by noon on Tuesday, March 31, to be included in the May 5 *Good News* listing of donors.

Divorce Support Group

The next six-week series begins April 23 and runs through May 28 (6:30-8 p.m. every Thursday, in Room 206). The group is facilitated by Village Church member Peg Borden and covers myriad topics including: understanding grief, working with emotions, parenting, self image, conflict resolution and much more. To register, contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or sandy.perry@villagepres.org. Child care is available by reservation only. Contact Marjean Lindquist at 913-671-2322 for child care.

Growing Through Grief – New Series Starts April 15

Following the death of a loved one, it is vital to process the constellation of thoughts and emotions that arise. The Pastoral Care & Counseling Department offers a five-week series called Growing Through Grief, intended to educate participants about the grieving process and to support those who are heartbroken. The series is offered at no cost. Registration is required.

Every effort is made to keep the group to no more than 12 individuals so everyone has a chance to participate and get to know each other, creating a more comfortable, relaxed environment.

April 15-May 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m. every Wednesday in Room 124. Contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or sandy.perry@villagepres.org to register.

**Reservations Still Open for March 28
Celebration of Faithful
Women Luncheon**

We're still taking reservations for the 2015 Celebration of Faithful Women, which will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, in Friendship Hall. Cost is \$15/person. You can make reservations online at <http://villagepres.org/ministries-programs/presbyterian-women/>.

Join us as we treasure the gifts of all women at Village Church and celebrate Carla Bock, Charlotte Hall and Susie Latas, our 2015 PW Honorary Lifetime Members. Elisa Bickers will speak on an engaging theme of "What's in Your Pocketbook? Sifting Through the Chaos."



**Women of Wisdom Luncheon and
Discussion on the Many Changes in the
World of Antiques**

The Antique Mall in Corinth (4101 W. 83rd in Prairie Village), coupled with lunch in the Mall's Bloomsbury Bistro, is the destination for Women of Wisdom on Monday, March 23. All women are warmly invited to this fun and informative get-together.

Betty Crooker has kindly agreed to discuss "New Ways to Look at Antiques in 2015" and will focus on the many changes in the world of antiques, including what's in and what's out, as she leads us through the Antique Mall. We'll meet at the entrance to the Mall at 10:15 a.m. and then go to the Bloomsbury Bistro at 11:30 a.m. where we'll order from a special menu of popular items. All-inclusive price is \$12 (excluding gratuity). Maximum that can be accommodated for lunch is 25.

RSVP by Friday, March 20, to Diane Lee at 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net or to Marvie Sneegas at 913-209-9608 or sneegi@kc.rr.com.

**Operation Breakthrough Reading Program
Making a difference - One child at a time
9:30-11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 25*-April 29**

March 25 through April 29 at Village Church, pick a reading buddy and read to an Operation Breakthrough preschooler (Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11 a.m.).

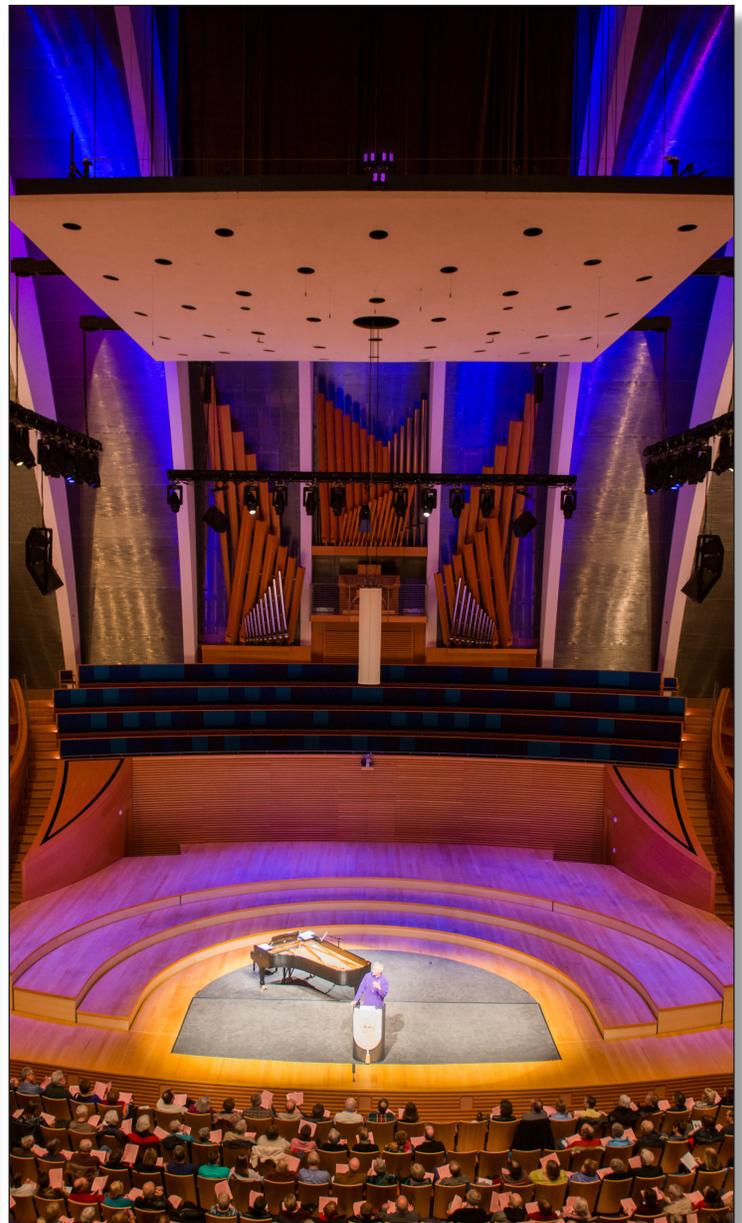
*An orientation meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, before the first reading session. You do not need to be present each week in order to volunteer. Child care is available. Call Pam at 913-671-2352 at least one week in advance to make child care reservations. Questions? Contact Cindy Whitham at ciwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062.

Page Turners Meeting March 24

Our next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, March 24, in Room 127. All are welcome, and the discussion is interesting even not having read the book. Our book for discussion in March is *The Girls of Atomic City*. This historical novel tells the true story of the incredible women working in Oakridge, Tennessee who helped win WWII.

Everyone Can Sing!

That is the simple, inspiring, uplifting message John Bell brought to Village Church as the 2015 Visiting Scholar. Often the scholars who have been our honored guests have a serious, and even heady message (working on the brain) — John Bell took us on a different journey — a journey of the heart, with song and stories and scripture. His winsome, honest, humorous and deeply humble personality won over the more than 650 participants in the two-day event. Even the “I can’t sing” folks among the audience were gently persuaded to add their voice to the sound filling the room. Bell brought both traditional and new hymns; many of the new ones were his own with words from everyday experience. We found ourselves singing from our deepest faith, words and music that lift us up and hold those who need to hear reminders of God’s love and grace.



VISITING SCHOLAR JOHN BELL



You can't help but notice John Bell's signature red Doc Martens. Rev. Diane Quaintance spoke to him about his infamous "red shoes." He told her he wears them everywhere he goes. The local shoe store in Edinburgh, Scotland even called him when they learned they were being discontinued. He bought all three pairs they had left in his size. You have to admit, the man does have a unique sense of fashion.



AARP 55 Alive Driving Class will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, April 16 and 17, in Room 233. Classes will be taught by veteran instructor Alan Shirling. The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you are an AARP member) per person payable to AARP. Bring a brown bag lunch or eat out. To enroll, please call Marianne, 913-671-2333.

**Breakfast and Bible with Buddies:
A Bible Study for Men with Tom Are**

Join Rev. Tom Are for a six-week morning study from 7-8 a.m. on Fridays, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8 and 15. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast (\$6), Tom will offer a reflection on passages from his favorite Gospel-The Gospel of Mark. There will be time for discussion as well. So, invite a friend and join us Friday mornings after Easter. To make a reservation for breakfast, please contact marianne@villagepres.org.

**Highlights of Sunday Morning Offerings
Village Forum in Rooms 126-127**

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Faith Journey in Room 230 - For the next few months the class is using writings from Phillip Gulley including *Living the Quaker Way* to explore what spiritual practices provide a way of life in our contemporary world to address issues facing us today.

Lenten Study: Heaven and Hell in Room 126/127- The perennial questions of life after death have long captivated Christians and people of other faiths, from arguments Jesus had with the scribes about resurrection to recent evangelical preachers who have been excoriated for rejecting the idea of hell. In this class, we'll examine the history, theology, biblical resources and cultural representations of heaven and hell. Taught by Rev. Brian Ellison through March 29.

The Witness of the Psalms in Room 232

The Psalms have richly informed both the congregational worship and the daily life of Christians. These two sessions will explore ways of "listening" to the psalms as scripture, poetry, and prayer. Careful examination of particular psalms will nourish our study of ways that psalms "speak" to us. Class participants are encouraged to bring their own Bibles because a diversity of translation will enrich our study. Taught by Dr. Kris Kvam, professor at St. Paul School of Theology. April 12 and 19.

Cloud of Witnesses in Room 232

John Knox and the Scottish Reformation - Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee is leading a six-week study on John Knox and the Scottish Reformation. The study covers Knox's early years in exile on the continent of Europe, his

leadership of the church reform movement in Scotland, and the long struggle of the Scots to preserve the Presbyterian form of church government that Knox helped to implement. Dr. Lee will be using slides from his European travels to the places John Knox lived and worked. March 22 and 29. A three-week study, "The Reformation in Germany," will trace the beginnings of European reform under Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon and explore the later stages of German reform inspired by Martin Bucer, John Calvin and the Heidelberg theologians. April 26-May 10.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Inquirers in Room 124 - Now through May 31, the class is studying *A Layman's Guide to Process Theology* by Lindsey Pherigo. Facilitated by Don and Barbara Wilson and class members. The class has returned to the intimate environment of Room 124 for a study series characterized by an in-class reading of the Dr. Pherigo's original guidebook with integrated whole-class discussion.

Upcoming Village University Courses

There's No Place Like Home But What If You Have to Move?

As we age, there are many reasons we may need and want to move from the place we've known as home for many years. Health reasons, family connections, loss of friends, financial reasons, among many others may make the decision to leave our only option. But then what? What do we look for in the way of services? Who pays for what? And above all, how do we prepare psychologically for the adjustment? This 90-minute course will help you explore some of the questions needed to make the best decisions and provide basic answers as well. Taught by Penny Shaffer, RN, BA, MA, program director for Health and Human Services at Johnson County Community College. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, in Room 132.

Keeping Kids Safe Online – Rescheduled for April 29

Learn more about possible dangers of internet usage, practical safety tips and tools and the cybercrime reporting process. This presentation covers electronic safety concepts, including gaming systems, music devices and other wireless/internet communication. Presentation designed by Sunflower House, Overland Park Police Department and FBI Cyber Crime Task Force. This program is appropriate for adults only. Training is approved for 2 clock hours, KDHE. Taught by Detective Marcus Fizer. 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in Room 232.

Village University Class Registration

You may register [online](#), by [email](#), or by calling 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119 at Village Church.

**Palm Sunday, March 29
Don't Miss the Palm Parade!**

Everyone loves watching children process into the sanctuary waving palm branches. The echoes of "Hosanna!" can be heard as the Palm Parade recalls the welcoming of Jesus as told in Mark 11. Please have children arrive at their Kids' Kingdom and Preschool classes 20 minutes early!

Once again, the palms used in the Palm Parade are from Eco-Palms. That means the palms are sustainably harvested and fairly traded. The cost of the Eco-Palms directly benefits the communities where the palms are harvested. This means young girls can go to school, women can find work and support their families, communities are strengthened. It is just a small step we are taking toward an environmentally and socially responsible celebration.



REMEMBER THIS

There will be no Kids' Kingdom, Preschool Church School or Club V6 (6th Grade) on Easter Sunday. This gives our volunteer teachers and you a chance to worship with your family.

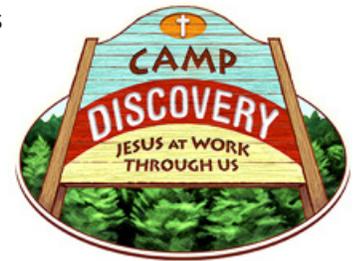
Share the Good News – Volunteer to Teach Next School Year

Make a difference in the life of a child here at Village. Volunteer to teach in Preschool Church School, Kids' Kingdom (grades K -5th) or in Club V6 (6th grade).

Sharing the good news of our faith story by creating ongoing relationships with the children of the church is a rich and rewarding experience.

Vacation Bible School is Coming Soon!

Adult and parent volunteers are crucial to make these very important ministries a success. Volunteer opportunities in all areas. Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.



Honor Someone Special

Tribute gifts are a wonderful way to honor someone by contributing to an organization that means so much to them. Your tribute gift to Village Church through the Endowment Trust Tribute Gift program will be acknowledged with a card, letting the recipient or their family know that a donation has been made in their honor or memory. The amount of the gift is kept confidential and the tax deduction is yours.

You can make a Tribute Gift online by going to Village Church's website, www.villagepres.org, click on Endowment Trust and then Tribute Gifts. Complete the form and click submit. You will then be given the opportunity to pay online or you may send your check to the church. After we receive your donation, we will send a card directly to the person you are honoring.

Rev. Zach Walker Ties the Knot

You could say it was a moment more than 10 years in the making. You could say that, if you like really romantic plot-lines. More than 10 years after meeting on the campus of Princeton Seminary, Rev. Zach Walker and Rev. Dr. Meredith Holladay were married in the Village Church Sanctuary, on Friday, March 6.

Though they met a decade ago, they only kept up in cursory ways via Facebook, until Zach moved back to begin his call as pastor of youth ministries at Village Church. They connected while Meredith was serving a church in Lawrence, Kansas. The rest, as they say, is history – and Meredith is now the minister of spiritual formation at Country Club Christian Church.

For the ceremony, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich returned to Village to officiate the wedding ceremony. Zach and Meredith sought Cynthia out to perform the ceremony



because they both had a relationship with her, and felt she knew them as a couple. Rev. Dorisanne Cooper, senior pastor at Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina, co-officiated. Dorisanne was Meredith's pastor and mentor in Waco, Texas.

Because both Meredith and Zach are ordained ministers, they wanted the first thing they did as a married couple to be communion. Session approved the request to serve communion at the wedding. Both bride and groom presided over the table, and served communion to their family, friends, and guests by intinction. (No juice was spilled on the dress!)

Immediately following the ceremony, guests were invited to a reception in Friendship Hall hosted by the Village Church Youth Committee. Zach and Meredith are grateful for all the love and support from Village Church, especially the youth families.

SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

Gun Violence, Gospel Values- Mobilizing in Response to God's Call

On March 2, the Village Church Session approved a resolution submitted by the Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force to support legislation that will expand background checks on all individuals purchasing firearms either at a gun show or via the internet.

Presently, Kansas only recognizes a federal law requiring such background checks on individuals who purchase a firearm at a retail store. Unlicensed gun sales, which do not require a background check, account for over 40% of all gun sales in the United States.*

The Kansas bill that the Task Force is supporting is Kansas Senate Bill #25. This bill is now in the Federal and State Affairs Committee. It does not interfere with a private citizen's legal right to own a firearm.

The Task Force is encouraging you to contact your legislators and the governor asking for their vote/signature to enact this legislation. On Sunday mornings, March 22 & 29, the Task Force will have a table set up in Friendship Hall where you can sign a pre-printed postcard advocating support for Senate Bill #25. Mailing labels and stamps will also be available.

"These expanded background checks will go a long way in reducing gun violence," said Charlotte Davis, a member of the Village Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force. "Studies show suicides from guns and gun related deaths are decreased by 48% in states with mandatory background checks. ***"

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, multiple surveys by unbiased pollsters show 90% of Americans and 74% of NRA members support background checks for all gun purchases.

To find your state senator and representative in Kansas, visit www.openkansas.org. In Missouri, go to house.mo.gov.

* Source: Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence,

Everytown for Gun Safety and a report from Professors Cook and Jens Ludwig for the National Institute of Justice.

** Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2010, Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and Everytown for Gun Safety (48%).



Make Way for the Parade of Pews and Pipes

Village Church is officially closed the day after Easter, but it will be far from a day of rest for the church. It will be a well-orchestrated dance among workers from Pearce Construction, Fry-Wagoner Moving and Storage, Quimby Pipe Organs and Village Church, as the Sanctuary is cleared for renovations to begin.

Early Monday morning on April 6, Pearce Construction will unbolt all 81 pews from the floor, using a scissor lift to move the pews in the balcony to the floor below as Fry-Wagoner takes the pews out of the back of the Sanctuary and out the south entrance doors. You see, pews don't bend or go around corners, so straight out the back they must go.

Meanwhile, Quimby Pipe Organs out of Warrensburg, Missouri will be disassembling our current pipe organ and taking pipes out of the building too. Media Production Coordinator Dr. Ron Patton and IT Director Tom Walters will simultaneously be relocating the media booth equipment from the balcony. Church volunteers will be on hand to help expedite this whole Sanctuary deconstruction process.

Prior to this, everything else in the Sanctuary must be removed, such as the 650 hymnals and 325 pew Bibles, chancel furniture and the chancel cross, communion wear, music stands and chairs, KC Wind Symphony instruments and more.

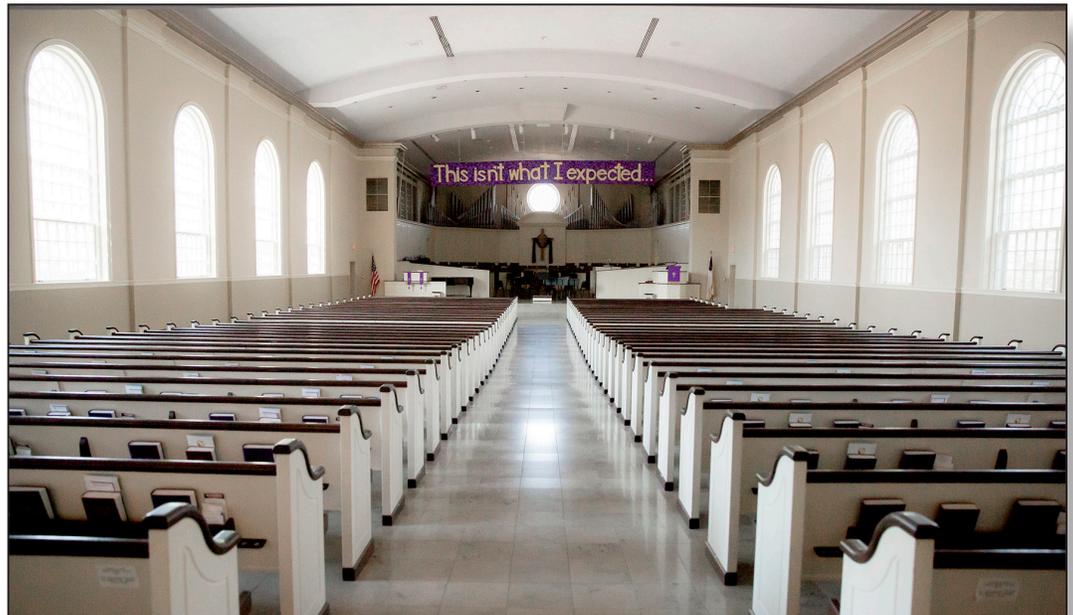
Once the Sanctuary is completely empty (which is expected to be by April 11) Pearce will begin building scaffolding so work can begin on the Sanctuary ceiling.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, April 12, we will begin having our traditional worship services in Friendship Hall at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. The Gathering will move to the Youth Loft for the duration of construction. Live streaming will continue even while worship services are in Friendship Hall.

We will continue this worship schedule of four worship services from April 12 until the Sanctuary renovations are completed in the fall.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of construction. We only have to endure this inconvenience roughly five months, and then we'll have our beautifully renovated Sanctuary and brand new pipe organ. What a day THAT will be to celebrate!

If you have any questions about construction, please contact Kathy Lueckert at 913-671-2365.



GOOD NEWS



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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PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT KC,MO

Village Commitment Corner

Because of your generosity...



... every woman at Village Church is a member of Presbyterian Women (PW). There are numerous activities, events and groups to participate in. Circles, which began in 1948, are groups where women meet for bible study and fellowship. Currently more than 210 women meet monthly in one of nine circles.

VPC Service Times

Traditional — 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
The Gathering — 10:45 a.m.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday
7 p.m. Thursday, April 2

Good Friday
7 p.m. Friday, April 3

Easter

8, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.
in the Sanctuary with
Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

9:30 and 11:15 a.m.
in Friendship Hall
with Rev. Zach Walker

Radio Broadcast
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on
1660 AM KMBZ,
The Business Channel

villagepres.org

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

6–7:30 p.m. Thursday night
9:30–11:30 a.m. Sat. morning