On June 7, 2015, we gathered in the parking lot at 99th and Mission Road for the groundbreaking for the new Village Church Child & Family Development Center. Two years later, on June 11, 2017, we will gather there once more to celebrate its completion with a Community Open House and Dedication.

Center Director Rosemary Marshall notes, “Some of the babies we have now weren’t even born or even thought of in June of 2015, and now they’re using our Center.”

Thanks to your generous support, Village Church has now fulfilled its commitment to the community by completing Phase 2 of the Reverend Robert and Shirley Meneilly Center for Mission at 99th and Mission Road.

The Meneilly Center Committee set the following goals for this Now & Tomorrow, Village Church construction project: 1) to provide a completed Center for Mission that enhances the Village Church Child & Family Development Center staff’s ability to nurture the physical, social, emotional and spiritual development of the children and families it serves there; 2) to provide a multi-purpose community space for events and activities; 3) to provide storage for Boy Scout Troop 91; and 4) to configure a sustainable campus that connects the children, families and visitors with nature.

The Child & Family Development Center has been operating in the new facility since last August.

“Things are going really well,” said Rosemary. “Everybody loves the space. The children love their own little door. The sun coming in from the skylights and large windows is very healthy for everyone. It’s good to have sunlight, especially in the wintertime.”

“We now have a family bathroom and a Mothers Room where our mothers can nurse or pump with some privacy. We have two new classrooms, and they’re already full. We’re trying to get people in who have been on the waiting list since last July, and the calls keep coming!”

The classroom entrance is now through a secured area. Other safety improvements include two tornado safe rooms designed per FEMA storm protection guidelines. According to Rosemary, “When we have fire drills, the alarm is much more pleasant and calming to the children. It’s a woman’s voice guiding you out. That’s a big improvement.”

In recent months, crews have been finishing the Center’s two playground areas designed as outdoor classrooms that allow children at each developmental level to experience and interact with nature.

New plantings were installed this spring. “We’re trying to help the children keep the new plantings on the ground because they’re very curious about what’s being planted,” Rosemary said with a smile. “We have flagstones as a base of a play area. We have a sand area.

Continued
And we just got our water in for our hand washing sinks outside. We have to teach the children how to be ‘limited’ with the water. “Another thing that is night and day at the Center is having a bathroom on the playground. We must always be conscious of our licensing ratio of a teacher to the number of children that you’re supervising. With an outdoor bathroom for the children, now we just have to stand outside the door and wait for them without disrupting how many children we’re going to have to take with us to stay in ratio. That’s been a gift.”

Roadways for trikes and wagons were installed. “When children got their trikes out of storage in January, they were so happy. They would wear themselves out going around the bike tracks. We now have cement sidewalks so staff and parents can walk around the playground more easily, especially for people with disabilities and mothers in heels.”

On the east side of the building, Village U is using the large community room for senior exercise classes Monday mornings. The space is also being used for our Taizé worship service held the second Sunday of the month. This side of the building is accessible from the main entry but separate from the secured day care center. It also includes a warming kitchen, two conference rooms and the Boy Scout storage area.

LED lighting has been used throughout the building and the parking lot. You’ll now notice an addition to the parking lot. KCP&L has partnered with Village to install an electrical charging station on the Meneilly Center grounds.

The Linwood Memorial wall is located on the north side of the building along 99th Street. Jim Gibson, a member of the Meneilly Center Committee, explains, “The wall includes the limestone header from the old Linwood School that formerly occupied this site, thereby creating a permanent reminder of the learning community that has existed at this site for almost a century.”

You are invited to come see it all for yourself at our VCCFDC Open House and Dedication from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, June 11, at 9900 Mission Road. We’ll have a short program led by Rev. Tom Are. Dr. Bob Meneilly will be there, too. “We’ll be giving tours and some of our staff will be there,” said Rosemary. “We’ll have fun activities for the children. It’s for anyone interested in the Center—the church, families and the community.”

“We look forward to having the entire Village Presbyterian community experience the new space that fulfills our church’s long-term commitment to provide affordable, quality day care in a state of the art building,” said Dianne Stanley, chair of the Meneilly Center Committee. “Our committee was challenged with keeping the community side of the building flexible, and we can’t wait to see how this amazing space will be used.”

Special thanks to Jim Gibson for contributing information for this article.
VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH

Things are beginning to look a little more “Village purple” down on Antioch. With the appellate court upholding a lower court decision in favor of The Presbyterian Church of Stanley, the season of “waiting for the court” has ended. Wheels are now in motion to fully make the transition from Village Church in partnership with The Presbyterian Church of Stanley to Village Presbyterian Church on Antioch.

The Spirit is not waiting for names to become official, and on Easter morning we worshipped with 200 people and welcomed our first new members (seven) at this satellite campus.

Our Ministry Team is hard at work planting new ministry, and visioning for continued growth and transformation. This is a joint team of PCOS and Village Church members. Pray for: Lue Anne Christensen, Jennifer Hart, Phil Hendrickson, Meya Kindred, Robert Koenig, Darin Painter, Susan Pittman and Kelly Thomason and as they continue to plan for new life.

Rev. Hallie Hottle, bridge site pastor, recently wrote, “The walls of this church are vibrating in song again. The nursery is bustling with children again. Calendars are filling with community outreach again. Because resurrection involves transformation, this new thing won’t look like it has before. It is new. And it is beautiful.”

Look for details about next steps in our transition process in the May 17 Good News.

SERMON SERIES

Living Unafraid in a Frightening World

When Easter was over and the world got back to normal, some recognized there was a new normal now. The world today is a place of crosses. Bodies fail and hearts break, systems and structures crush the powerless. There is enough in this world to scare you to death. But Jesus is alive now—there is a new normal. Jesus is alive now, so we can live, even in this world, as a people who are living unafraid in a frightening world.

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<td>July 16</td>
<td>Acts 28:23-30</td>
<td>It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This</td>
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Food Pantry

This Sunday, May 7, is Fruit Sunday at Village Church. Please bring a little sweetness to a Food Pantry family by donating all types of canned fruit at church this Sunday. Peaches, fruit cocktail, pears – bring your favorites to help another family.

The Clothes Closet volunteers are ready to stock the shelves with your gently used, clean summer clothing for men, women and children of all sizes. Shorts, sundresses, sandals, summer towels, hats and sunglasses are always enjoyed and appreciated. All donations may be left in the church drop boxes or brought to the Pantry 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Thank you for your generous support of the Village Church Food Pantry and Clothes Closet.

Village Church Cooks a Meal At Cross-Lines

Friday, May 12, Village will cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. 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. We also need cookie donations. They can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, May 11. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

Let’s Celebrate Dominicana-style!

Please join the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church (DRMP) at our annual fundraiser, Celebration Dominicana, at 7 p.m. Friday, June 9, at the Vox Theatre. This is a festive evening of Caribbean food, drinks, music, dancing and a silent auction.

Celebration Dominicana enables us to provide healthcare and health education to children and adults living in the impoverished bateyes (communities of Haitian sugarcane workers and their families) in the Dominican Republic. The DRMP services include medical care, ongoing hypertension management and life-changing surgeries. Our health education programs focus on topics such as disease prevention and good nutrition.

We also have special guests coming into town from the Dominican Republic just for this event – our Dominican partners who have emerged from the poverty of the bateyes and, with the help of DRMP to receive higher education, are now leaders in their community. They are people who we look up to, people who we are proud to call our friends, and people who are devoting their lives to helping others break the cycle of poverty.

Visit www.drmp2017.eventbrite.com for tickets, sponsorship opportunities and event details.

Event co-chairs are Joe Pattison and Sarah Weekly, R.N. Our DRMP board of directors are Al Biggs, M.D., DRMP chairman emeritus, Amy Christensen, PharmD, Carol Cowden, Maithe Enriquez, PhD, Steve Holtman, Andrea Huffman, MA, Chris Logan, J.D., DRMP chairman, Pam Logan, R.N., Rita Luallin, R.N., Genevieve Maliszewski, PhD, David McKinsey, M.D., Steve Stiles, M.D. Nancy Topper, M.D., Sarah Weekly, R.N., Suzanne Willey and Karla Wilmot, WHNP.
**Second Thursday Recital May 11**

Join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, May 11, in the Village Church Chapel for a free recital with guest artists Dr. Margaret Marco, on oboe and English horn, and Dr. Paulina Wu Leisring, on piano. The program includes the *Concerto in D Minor* by Alessandro Marcello and *Romance No. 1* by Robert Schumann.

Dr. Margaret Marco is the associate professor of oboe at the University of Kansas and principal oboist with the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra.

Pianist Dr. Paulina Wu Leisring is widely considered a versatile musician whose experiences range from serving as a concert soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician, as well as a keyboard collaborator for opera, ballet, chorus and instrumental soloists.

**Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert May 7**

“Conductor’s Favorites – A Retirement Concert”

The Kansas City Wind Symphony continues its 19th season, “As You Like It,” at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 7, in the Village Church Sanctuary. The free concert, entitled “Conductor’s Favorites,” marks the final concert of conductor Phil Posey.

After 15 years and over 100 concerts with the ensemble, Dr. Posey will retire. During the concert he will “pass the baton” to Dr. Langston Hemenway who will begin his leadership of the Kansas City Wind Symphony for their 20th Anniversary Season beginning in September.

Our featured alto saxophone soloist is Kansas City jazz great Bobby Watson, who will join with the ensemble in a special arrangement by Frank Ticheli of *Amazing Grace*. Pat Setser, who will continue as associate conductor, will open the concert with the fanfare from Paul Dukas’ ballet *La Peri*.

Dr. Posey will follow with the *First Suite in E-flat for Military Band*, written in 1909 by Gustav Holst, and a recent work by Hollywood composer Julie Giroux entitled *La Mezquita de Córdoba* (*The Mosque in Córdoba*). Giroux’s exciting composition celebrates the multi-cultural, religious and artistic accomplishments of this famous Spanish Mosque.

After Dr. Hemenway accepts the baton from Dr. Posey, he will conduct a new work *Danzón No. 2* by Mexican composer Arturo Márquez. The remainder of the concert includes Arthur Sullivan’s *Pineapple Poll*, a suite from Gilbert and Sullivan’s enduring operettas, and the *Finale from Symphony No. 1* by Russian composer Vasily Kalinnikov.

A reception honoring Dr. Posey will follow the concert.

The Kansas City Wind Symphony is a member ensemble of the Village Church Arts Alliance.

**Te Deum Antiqua Choir Performs Biber’s Requiem**

7 p.m. Sunday, May 14

The Te Deum Antiqua choir presents Biber’s *Requiem* at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 14, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Mo. Matthew C. Shepard will conduct. The concert will open with motets of German composers Scheidt, Schein and Schutz, followed by the powerful *Requiem* by Biber for choir and organ.

A $15 per person donation is suggested. Te Deum is a member ensemble of the Village Church Arts Alliance. Learn more at [www.te-deum.org](http://www.te-deum.org).
WOW Lunch at Cascone’s

Ladies of all ages are welcome to join Women of Wisdom (WOW) for a noon lunch on Thursday, May 18, at Johnny Cascone’s Italian Restaurant, located at 6863 West 91st (91st and Metcalf). Join us and share in good food and fellowship. RSVP to Marvie Sneegas at sneegi@kc.rr.com or 913-209-9608 by Wednesday, May 17.

Highlights from the 2017 Celebration of Faithful Women Brunch

Friendship Hall was packed with women of all ages at the Celebration of Faithful Women’s Brunch on Saturday, April 8. Three incredible women were recognized as PW Honorary Life Members: Marilyn Borel, Julie Foster and Virginia Stuhr. Sarah Are gave a beautiful meditation on “Holy Nudging.”

Special thanks to members the 2017 Celebration of Faithful Women Committee: Vicki Graham and Carol Solenberger (co-chairs), Maggi Alston, Jeanne Boudreau, Fay Harrison, Anellen Neill, Cindy Nicholson, Sandra Stephens and Marilyn Wineinger.

Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing accepts fabric, only one yard pieces or larger, cotton, cotton blends and wool, also yarn and embroidery floss. Please contact Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 regarding other items to be donated and general information. If you don’t machine sew, perhaps you would enjoy doing some hand sewing, stuffing pillows or pressing. Come and go as your time permits.

Career Connections – Here to Help Your Job Hunt

Are you searching for a new job? Consider attending the next Career Connections classes to learn ways to conduct a planned, step-by-step job search. The next series begins at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, in Room 230. Please contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

Families For Mental Health Meets May 18

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, you’re invited to hear Dr. Pranahitha Reddy talk about psychiatric services that are available at Johnson County Mental Health. Sharing and caring follows the presentation. Families for Mental Health meets the third Thursday of every month in Room 126.

Learn More About Alzheimer’s Disease

You’re invited to hear Michelle Niedens, the director of education, programs and policy at the Alzheimer’s Association, speak at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 11, in Room 132. She will talk about learning more about Alzheimer’s and the resources that are available to help those who are affected by it. This presentation is sponsored by Stephen Ministry. Everyone is welcome.
## Easter Lily Memorials

### In Memory Of
- Frances & Russell Acuff
- Suzie Allen
- Charles ‘Hap’ Anderson
- Katherine & Leroy Anderson
- Lark Anderson
- Barbara Arther
- Fred E Baker
- Jean & Rush Barns
- Mac & Lucille Beall
- Mort Beck
- Melissa Trager Bilyeu
- Ralph Bock
- Matt Boggan
- Mr & Mrs James Bothwell
- Dick Bradley
- Judy Brook
- Jack Brown
- Phyllis Brownlee
- Blanche, Jerry & Bill Cerny
- Agnes & Andrew Chonko
- Jim Clewenger
- Greg Colston
- Ruth & Ken Colston
- Dick Conley
- Addison Cox
- Frank Creason
- Patricia Crawford
- Larry Culbertson
- Dorothy Dahms
- David DeFeo
- Sara Chappell Deines
- H H ‘Hop’ Dickenson
- Dr Antoni ‘Toni’ Diehl
- Toni Diehl
- Dr & Mrs Harold Diehl
- Ethel & Bert Dowden
- KaKa Dubowy
- Thomas & Helen Easton
- Marge & Don Fairhurst

### Donated By
- Gail V & Phil Acuff
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Melanie Anderson Wall
- Mark & Melissa Anderson
- Becky Anderson
- The Arther Family
- Gloria Baker
- John & Charlotte Hall
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Leslie Kohle, Nancy & John Trager
- Carla Bock
- Bob & Sandy Burdick
- Sybil Diehl
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Beverly Brown
- Peggy & Jim Gray
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Chonko & McInerney Families
- Mildred Park & Margaret Stout
- Ann Colston
- Ann Colston
- Betty Conley
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Ann Creason
- Sharolyn Molle
- Nancy Culbertson
- The Hart Family
- Carolyn DeFeo
- Stan & Peggy Chappell
- Polly Dickenson
- Sybil Diehl
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Sybil Diehl
- Marion & Bill Dowden
- Karan & Dale Rice
- James & Nancy Easton
- Ann Colston

## Easter Lily Memorials

### In Memory Of
- Marvin Field
- Blake & Mildred Foard
- Mildred Foard
- Dave Francisco
- Lisa Frazen
- Merle & Lou Ann Frey
- E Mae Fritz
- Barbara Gile
- Harold, Nadeene & Donna B Gooch
- Edna & Eugene Goodwin Sr
- Gene Goodwin
- Bertha & James H Gordon
- Carol Grainger
- Virginia Gray
- Mary A Griffin
- Susan & Bill Hall
- Deke & Dottie Harberts
- Doyle Hargadine
- Dr L Wayne Hart
- Hector Hidalgo
- Raleigh Hoel
- Dr John S Hollyman
- Lynn Hollyman
- Christine Moon Hyde
- Bruce Janecek
- Ania Labunski Johnson
- Chick Keller
- Roger Ketterman
- Romney Ketterman
- J Tenbrook King
- Marjorie ‘Mardie’ Kirkwood
- Helen Lamb
- J T Lamb
- Duane & Pearl Landon
- Sydney A Landon
- Edith & Earnest Lee
- Mardel Lillard

### Donated By
- Martha Field
- Betsy Foard Swift
- Her Family
- Jean Francisco
- Karan & Dale Rice
- Miriam Frey & Elliot Frey
- Barry & Krista Rogers & Families
- Brad & Carrie Kruse
- Deanne Gound
- The Goodwin Family
- The Goodwin Family
- The Goodwin Family
- Walt Grainger
- Peggy & Jim Gray
- Nancy Poplinger
- John & Charlotte Hall
- Their Family
- Dortha Hargadine
- The Hart Family
- Jim & Sonia Whiteaker
- Verna Hoel
- Jay Hollyman
- Jay Hollyman
- Gloria M Crawford
- Jean Janecek
- Laura Edginton, Jan Curt
- Labunski & Carla Labunski
- Carol Keller
- Cora Ketterman
- Cora Ketterman
- Mark & Melissa Anderson
- Tom Kirkwood
- Donna Wilson
- Donna Wilson
- Richard D Landon
- Richard D Landon
- Diane, Duane, Pam & Dayna
- Lillie Leick, Mary Kay Leick-Rude
- Dave Lillard
EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Mardel Lillard
Jackie Lloyd
Jim Lord
George Machala
Lorraine Machala
Roel “Roy” Martinez
Bernice & George McCordic
James & Hazel McCutcheon
Bill McEachen
Judy G McEachen
Gary W McKillip
Tom McIntire
Tom McIntire
Tom McIntire
James B McLaughlin
Teres E Meier
Martha Miller
Max & Annabel Miller
Mary Jean Montgomery
Joanie Mullett
Lillian & Samuel Morris
Melinda McIntire Nedbalek
William Nelson
Barbara Jones Niedringhaus
Marlene Nixon
Thomas O’Connor
Thomas O’Connor
Nina Anderson Olberding
Edward Owen
Rex Park
Donald Peck
Pete Petersen
Arnold Peck
Beverly Peterson
Jennifer R Poplinger
Rex Raudenbush
Rex Raudenbush
Jadeen Rivard
Ruth & John Rudky

DONATED BY

Robert Nelson
Wes Lloyd
Susan Lord
Barb & Tom Stephens
Barb & Tom Stephens
The Mulloy Family
Marion & Bill Dowden
James & Nancy Easton
Richard McEachen
Richard McEachen
Mary McKillip
Ann McIntire
Ginny & Scott Beall
Mark & Melissa Anderson
Annette McLaughlin
Carla Bock
Robert Nelson
Annette McLaughlin
Robert Montgomery
Robert Mullett & Family
The Goodwin Family
Ann McIntire
David & Angie Nelson & Family
Larry & Sara Lynn Jones
John & Charlotte Hall
Julie O’Connor
The Knabe Family
Melanie Anderson Wall
Peggy & Jim Gray
Mildred Park & Margaret Stout
Donis Peck
Jim & Joyce Wann
John & Charlotte Hall
John & Charlotte Hal
Nancy Poplinger
Ernie & Evelyn Lobb
Jim & Joyce Wann
Mark Rivard
Marsh, Jermann, McInerney & Chonko Families

IN MEMORY OF

Dick Sayles
Ann Perry Schumacher
Jerry Shadowen
Ellie & Jim Skidmore
Ann McGahey Smith
Howard Smith
John & Alice Spaugh
Scot Squires
Bob & Mary Stark
Jim Stauffer
Stephanie Stephenson
Mary Jane Stolper
William E Stolper
Lowell Thomas
Helen C Thompson
Lawrence H Thompson
Brent Tidwell
Charles “Chug” Tuttle
Virginia & Clay Van Reen
David Wall
Harold & Fern Whiteaker
Mary Wickersham
Harvey C Wilson
Rodney Wilson
Rodney E Wilson
Doyle K Wood
George L & Diane C Wood
Earl & Nancy Woodard
Bob Zender
Ray Zook

DONATED BY

June Sayles
Bob & Judy Perry
Janet Stauffer
Nancy Skidmore
The Veglahn Family
Helen Smith
Cindy, David & Katie Henderson
Mary & Paul Lemon
Maryanna Adelman
Janet Stauffer
Brad & Carrie Kruse
Carla Bock
Carla Bock
Judie Thomas
Larry & Sara Lynn Jones
Larry & Sara Lynn Jones
Lucy Tidwell
Bee, Chip and Kevin Tuttle
Gail Van Reen Acuff & Phil Acuff
Melanie, Gwen & Nathan Wall
Jim & Sonia Whiteaker
Margaret Stout
Donna Wilson
Ginny & Scott Beall
Priscilla Wilson
Brett & Pam Wood
Brett & Pam Wood
Lucy Tidwell
Peggy & Jim Gray
Joan Zook
Weekly Wednesday Church Dinners

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 3-10 is $3 and no charge for children age 2 and under. Contact Liz Middleton at 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon Monday.

Menu:
May 10 – Baked ziti w/Italian sausage, baked vegetarian ziti, Gluten Free versions available.

Our LAST Wednesday Night Dinner for the spring season is May 10.
We look forward to seeing you next fall when dinners resume Sept. 6.

Tell Me More About This Church
Conversation with Rev. Tom Are

“Tell Me More About this Church” is a special opportunity for those newer to Village Church, to spend time with Senior Pastor Tom Are, and learn more about Village Church. This is a two-part, free class that will be offered from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 30 (part 1), and June 6 (part 2), in Room 232 (south end of the building/2nd floor). A box dinner will be provided.

To register, please contact Liz Middleton at 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org.
Child care is available for this event, with (7 days) advance notice reservation; please make your child care reservations by contacting Marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2322.

Village Cares for God’s Creation

When considering possible damage to the earth and its inhabitants by man’s activity, many recommend using the precautionary principle, a just-in-case principle. Just in case the lives and livelihoods of the earth’s most vulnerable could be destroyed by rising sea levels or desertification, anything that might cause serious and irreversible damage should be halted or modified, even in the absence of indisputable proof. Just in case.
Endowment Trust – Meneilly Society

Our spiritual lives didn’t begin to truly awaken until we, an Episcopalian and a Methodist, walked into Village Church one Sunday in 1974, looking for a church home that would nurture ourselves and our young daughters. By December we had joined Village, and it has been our spiritual home for more than 42 years. We can honestly say that just walking into this building still brings us joy to this day.

We will never forget the impact that Dr. Bob Meneilly continues to have in our lives: as mentor, educator, inspiration and friend. The best way we have found to express our gratitude to this great man is to continue supporting this phenomenal church so that others may continue to be similarly blessed long after we are gone.

Our membership in the Meneilly Society is how we have chosen to do just that, and it feels very right to leave such a legacy.

—Al & Carole Pugsley

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

6th Grade Move-Up and Family Brunch

Sunday, May 21, will be our 6th graders last day with us as they are officially welcomed into Middle School Youth. To celebrate, parents and 6th graders are invited for Sunday Brunch to meet the Youth staff and get to know what Middle School Youth is all about. Watch your mailbox for more news.

May 21


May 28 – Memorial Day Weekend

No Kids’ Kingdom Sunday School. Preschool classes meet as usual.
Village Preschool Director Terri Gaeddert To Retire

When Terri Gaeddert began as director of Village Church Preschool in the summer of 2011, she immediately began preparing for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation site visit. She went through that labor intensive prep process again last year. We received word in January of this year that the preschool had been re-accredited for another five years. Shortly thereafter, Terri announced her retirement.

The Winding Road to the Village Preschool

Terri received her Bachelor’s in Elementary Education from Bethel College in North Newton, Kan. “I did a little bit of teaching at an elementary school before I had my first child. Once I started having children, it was always just filling in teaching jobs, depending on where they were in school.”

Terri and her husband Greg have three boys (Joel (33), Aaron (30) and David (26). “We moved to Kansas City when my oldest was about to be a Kindergartner. And, as luck would have it, we bought a house right between Pam Southerland and Marjean Lindquist. And that’s how I got to Village.”

“While I lived on that block, I had my youngest. One day, Pam, who was in charge of child care at the time, said, ‘Why don’t you just come with me? We can always use more people. It’s fun. You can bring the baby along. It would be a great thing to do.’ So I did.”

Terri started subbing for the Village Preschool. She taught in the first summer Kid’s Day Out program. Then Jane Goss hired her to teach at the preschool. “But we moved to Wichita that summer. We moved back here five years later. Patty Zender, then preschool director, called me and asked if I would consider teaching for her. I taught here for 10 years and then six years ago, I took the director’s position. I recognize that I have been standing on tall shoulders for a long history here.”

Good News, May 3, 2017
**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

May 3, 2017
Vol. 54, No. 9

Village Commitment

The Power of Giving

I remember the first meeting I attended for the launch of the Now & Tomorrow campaign. I sat among peers and friends, listening to the lofty goal of over twenty million dollars. I wasn’t going to be the one to say what I’m sure others were thinking — “There is no way we can hit that number.” So, I sat quietly, contemplating the months and years ahead at Village Church. As I walked to my car after that meeting, I noticed that spring had sprung. The sun was out, the birds were singing. I remember thinking, “Today is a new day. We can do this.” And we did.

I hope you find this season to be hopeful and optimistic. On behalf of the Commitment Committee, we thank you for your continued support and wish you much joy in this season of change and rebirth.

—Kathy Collins

Sunday Worship Schedule

Village on Mission
8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. - Sanctuary
5 p.m. The Gathering - Friendship Hall

Village on Antioch
9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

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

Winton “Win” Ahlstrom
George Aikin
William “Bill” Burton
Marjorie Clough
Betty Davis
Tom Olofson
Leslie Young, Jr.
On Feb. 19, 2017, Village Church member and Stephen Minister Patty Zender told us Why Village Matters to her. She spoke with honesty and heart when she gave her moving and thought-provoking testimony about not only serving and following Christ as a Stephen Minister, but also receiving Christ's care through one. Her words were truly a part of our worship that morning. She spoke of the active love of a Living God that found her in a world of grief. Join with all of us, her fellow Stephen Ministers, in not only thanking her, but also thanking God for her witness to the Good News of Christ. This is her testimony!

It is my privilege to be here today and talk about the Stephen Ministry program at Village Church and its mission to provide compassionate Christian care for those in need. How do we provide meaningful and hopeful support as we take steps forward in the healing of our hearts?

Grief is hard work. It has been over six years now since my husband, Bob, died. The shock and trauma of his death, losing my best friend and the love of my life, settled around me like a dark fog. This uncharted territory of profound loss left me adrift in emotional chaos. I was used to being in control of my life and this chaos disrupted my order of things, so I buried my pain and vowed to be strong and push on. Surrounded by my loving family, wonderful friends and support of Village Church pastors, all pouring out their care and compassion, and my life settled into a new routine, one without Bob. We were a pretty good team, and I didn't know how to navigate this life very well without him. There were some days I wasn't sure I wanted to.

The emotional chaos I felt was real. I wanted to be that person who could handle it all, so I buried my feelings and denied the deep grief I was in. I prayed everyday for God to help me. He did. What I really needed to do was to "lean into" the discomfort of my grief. Leaning into the discomfort and chaos allowed me to be vulnerable and then something changed. What changed was a Stephen Minister entered my life.

I will always remember that winter day I first met her. I won't reveal her identity today other than to say she was truly a gift from God. She came to my home on a cold, gray Sunday after church. We sat in front of my fireplace and she softly said, “Tell me your story.” Her steady, quiet, affirming presence created a safe environment where I could pour out my lament. She reflected back to me my heartache and pain with her listening heart. My sadness streamed forth in a way that surprised me. I mourned in a way I had not given myself permission to do before. My tears became her tears. She listened. God listened. God's healing presence was in the room.

We met every Sunday in this fashion and winter turned into spring, not only as I turned the pages on the calendar, but in my heart as well. The intimate stories that I kept buried, slowly took on different meaning. Opening myself up to vulnerability created a different rhythm of joy, love and acceptance in my heart. Those painful memories were slowly being channeled into memories of sweet holy moments. Yes, they can still bring unexpected tears at times, but I can fall into those memories with the grateful realization that they bring freedom when I claim them as part of my story. A story of love, which tells of God's deep and abiding love and grace that is woven into the very fabric of us all. The lovely thing about grace and compassion so freely given...is it becomes an echo in our lives. God whispers this promise to all of us. I believe in his healing echo of love with all my heart. What we send out comes back to us. As you give, you shall receive. What you see in others exists in you. Radiate and give LOVE, and LOVE comes back in return.
I’ve been given the blessed opportunity to become a Stephen Minister myself. It is indeed a privilege to share in another’s life as a compassionate caregiver, listening to her story. The heartfelt and hopeful prayers said as we hold each other’s hands and embrace our vulnerability, are truly a testament to how this ministry is a gift of God’s grace.

Grief never ends...but it changes. It is a passage...not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith... It is the price of LOVE. I’ve learned to lean into the chaos of difficult times, knowing our God always brings grace, beauty and peace out of the chaos. And with a grateful heart I can hear him now.

—Patty Zender

For more information about receiving a Stephen Minister, please speak with a pastor or Stephen Minister. There are ministers all around us. You can identify them by their nametag. We are here to listen, care and pray. To learn more about becoming or receiving a Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347, or by calling the Care and Counseling Department.

Stephen Ministry’s Caring Formation Upcoming Events

All are invited! Presentations are at 5 p.m. in Room 132.

**May 11** - Michelle Niedens, director of education, programs and policy/Alzheimer’s Association: “Learning More About Alzheimer’s Disease and Resources To Help Those Affected By It In Some Form”


**Aug. 24** - Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Village Church: “Hospital Calls And Offering Care To Those With Terminal Illness”

Other Dates:

**June 22** – Stephen Ministry Picnic 5-7 p.m. at Franklin Park

Stephen Ministry Leadership Meetings:

**May 16**

**June 20**

**July** – no meeting

**Aug. 15**

*Inspiring words…*

“To begin by always thinking of love as an action rather than a feeling is one way in which anyone using the word in this manner automatically assumes accountability and responsibility.”

—Bell Hooks