



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.

JULY 19, 2017

Meet the Newest Members of Village Presbyterian Church

New Members who joined Village Church at the Mission campus on June 4, 2017:

Britton and Chris Briley live in Prairie Village with their two boys, Ellis and Hughes. Britton is a stay-at-home mom and Chris is a financial advisor and enjoys kids' activities, sports, golf, and travel. They join Village by Letter of Transfer.



Trisha Groebe lives in Shawnee with her husband, Andy. She is a nurse and in her free time enjoys reading, decorating, and kids' sports. Trisha joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Amy and Brent Nohl live in Prairie Village with their children, Oliver and Cece. Amy is a marketing solutions director and enjoys live music and nice weather outside with family. Brent is a senior manager of partner programs and enjoys music (cello, guitar, ukulele, piano). Amy joins Village by Letter of Transfer and Brent joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



John and Lindsay Pearce

live in Kansas City, Mo. with their son, Jack. John is a regional director in medical supplies and Lindsay is in sales and marketing. Both Lindsay and John enjoy traveling, cooking, working out, and trying new restaurants. John and Lindsay join Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Patty Slentz-Howard lives in Overland Park and is a litigation paralegal. She enjoys volunteering for Operation Breakthrough, Harvesters, Ronald McDonald House, and the church garden group. Patty joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Jerry Stabenow lives in Prairie Village with his wife, Diana. Jerry is retired and enjoys golf, gardening, and working out. Jerry joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



New Members who joined Village Church at the Mission campus on June 11, 2017:

LaNelle and Tommy Brasher live in Kansas City, Mo. Jerry is a coach for the KC Chiefs and enjoys fishing. LaNelle is a homemaker and enjoys Mahjong and bridge. They join Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Continued

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

New Members who transferred their membership from Presbyterian Church of Stanley to Village Presbyterian Church on June 25, 2017



Les & Lois Ansay



Brooke Ash



Laura Assyia



John Beveridge



Mary Beveridge



Randy & Cheryl Buseman



Lue Anne Christensen



Jerry & Jane Colwell



Eric & Margie Dyck



Larry Ferree



John Handly



Phil & Jeanne Hendrickson



Matt & Julie
Hendrickson
(children: Lucinda,
Matthew, Cindy)



Amber
Hitchcock
(joined by
Confession
of Faith)



Lisa Kelley



Joyce Lake



Sam & Martha Malsbary



Lorie & Rob Meacham



Jerry & Rosemary Moody

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED



Larry & Susan Pittman



Trent Pittman



Sally Rosine



Hal Schmidt & Sandie
Nabours-Schmidt



Mike Sharpe



Fred Stemme



Julie & Matthew
Stevens



Kay Thomason



Kelly Thomason



David & Karen Williams



Joe & Judy Woelfel



Gina Zwickel

New Members Not Pictured

Shirley Abrams
Marie & Charles Clark
Ellen & Randy Crain (child: Kevin)
Gretchen & Larry Eighme
Randy & Paige Jackson (children: Derek, Blake)
Chad Kelley
Anna Rae Meacham
Charlie Meacham
Allison Moody
Eric Ruf (youngest daughter: Ava)
Olivia Ruf
Madelyn Ruf

Brenda Sharpe (husband Mike pictured above,
children: William & Theresia)
Nancy & Lee Smithyman
Kyle Stevens (husband of Julie pictured above and
children: Matthew (pictured above), Michael, John)
Julie Thornton (her husband, Rev. Larry Thornton,
is a retired PC(USA) pastor)
Janet Warren
Taylor (TJ) Woelfel
David Zwickel
Sydney Zwickel

Village on Antioch
HOSTS

Heartland Traveling Day Camp

8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m. | July 31 - Aug. 4

For Kids K-6th Grade
Register at
villageantioch.org/summer-programs

Call 913-671-2355 for more information. For those wanting daily transportation to this camp from Village on Mission, we will provide a school bus, leaving promptly at 8 a.m. The bus will return to Village on Mission by 5 p.m. daily. Advance bus reservation required.

GUEST PREACHER THIS SUNDAY, JULY 23

Rev. Chris Henry – Senior Pastor, Shallowford Presbyterian Church

Chris grew up in North Carolina and has lived in Atlanta since 2004. He began his ministry at Shallowford Presbyterian Church in January of 2011. Chris is a graduate of Duke University and Columbia Theological Seminary. Upon graduation from seminary, Chris received five honors including the Wilds Book Prize, Columbia's highest academic honor, and the Harvard A. Anderson Graduate Fellowship. Chris' work has been published in the Christian Century, Feasting on the Gospels, Journal for Preachers and Covenant Connection. He has been a featured preacher on Day 1 radio, as well as at many Presbyterian and ecumenical events. Chris is a member of Columbia Seminary's Board of Trustees and the NEXT Church Advisory Team.

Chris has a passion for preaching that inspires and challenges individuals and communities to faithful living in a complex world. He believes that churches have the capacity and the mandate to be places of transformation in the lives of individuals, the surrounding community, and the world. At Shallowford, he feels deeply blessed to work alongside a gifted and creative staff, visionary leaders, and a committed congregation of disciples who live out the call to invite all people to a faithful way of life in Christ and in community.



Chris is married to the Rev. Sara Hayden, who works as a national associate for the Presbyterian Mission Agency's 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative (onethousandone.org). Sara and Chris are the parents of two sons: Samuel (three years old) and Benjamin (four months old). Chris enjoys running long distances, grilling on the Big Green Egg, watching Duke basketball, listening to podcasts, reading biographies and novels, traveling (especially to western Colorado), and, above all, spending time with Sara, Sam and Ben.

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work: Village Mission Grants

During 2017, the Village Church Mission Committee has received 30 grant requests from community organizations seeking funds from the mission budget. During the first half of the year, the committee has carefully considered each of the applications and allocated funds to 17 organizations. Resulting from their efforts, the committee has designated nearly \$96,110 to the following programs that work to strengthen the community:

Amethyst Place: \$2,000 for the Healthy Eating, Active Living nutrition education program

Artists Helping the Homeless: \$5000 to help homeless clients address legal issues and reintegrate into society

CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties: \$2,500 for teen advocacy for youth aging out of foster care

Community LINC: \$48,557 to launch their trauma informed care program for homeless families

Covenant Presbyterian Church: \$5,000 for their food pantry

Cross-Lines Community Outreach: \$5,000 for their hunger relief program

Cultivate Kansas City: \$5,000 for their Double Up Seniors program to help purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at local markets

El Centro: \$4,110 for tuition assistance for the Academy for Children Ready for Kindergarten

Hillcrest Transitional Housing: \$5,000 to renew the Village apartment sponsorship in Johnson County

Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries: \$2,500 for IDs and birth certificates for low income and homeless clients seeking employment

Reconciliation Services: \$4,000 for staffing their café and food pantry

reStart: \$5,000 for their maternity group home

Shawnee Community Services: \$5,000 for their pantry program including Milk 2 My Plate program

Shawnee Mission Meals on Wheels: \$3,000 for meals for clients

Sheffield Place: \$5,000 for residential clinical services for homeless mothers and their children

Sherwood Center: \$3,000 to update classrooms for students with autism

Youth Ambassadors: \$20,000 for work stipends for youth involved in the life and job skills program

In addition to community grants mentioned above, the Mission Committee has funded grant requests to Presbyterian Church affiliates working to strengthen the church including Covenant Network, Heartland Presbytery, Darren and Elizabeth Kennedy, Montreat Conference Center, Neema Presbyterian Church, NEXT Church, Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition, theological scholarships, Thwake Village Kenya project, Youth Ministry Institute Midwest and for construction of the Village Prayer Labyrinth. These distributions totaled \$228,000.

Early in the year, the Mission Committee made a number of grants totaling \$217,540 to partner ministries such as Christmas International House, Dominican Republic Medical Partnerships, Village Emergency Assistance, Front Porch Alliance, Heartland Habitat for Humanity, Village Preschool and Youth Mission Trips.

The Village Church thanks members of the Mission Committee who have embraced their stewardship of the mission dollars and identified these deserving community programs for 2017. Members of the Mission Committee are, Ginny Beall, Marilyn Borel, Dan Carroll, David Conderman, Dee Gound, Tami Greenberg, Kim Higgins, Ted Higgins, Rex Joyce, John Kost, Pam Logan, Sarah McKee, Dan Robeson, Scott Stanley, Neil Stewart (chair), Margaret Stout, Samantha Sturgeon, Kathy Wells, Kathy Wilcox and Deborah White (director of Mission). Over the past 30 years, this committee and many before them have supported more than 280 separate organizations.

The 2018 Mission Committee will start accepting grant applications in January 2018 with decisions occurring by June. The deadline for grant applications is Feb. 28.

MISSION

Food Pantry

Summer heat is here and the Clothes Closet continues to need summer clothing - male and female, all sizes (although there is always a great need for the larger sizes), clean and gently worn. Hats, caps, sunglasses, etc. are also in demand. In that same vein, the Food Pantry always has a need for deodorant, sunscreen and insect repellent during these hot months.

The Food Pantry is asking for 1-2 lb. packages of all varieties of rice and beans. When grocery shopping, you would be helping the Food Pantry if you pack your groceries in the standard size brown paper grocery sacks. Then recycle the bags at the Pantry and they will be recycled to the clients. Thank you.

Food Pantry Welcomes New Office Assistant

The Food Pantry is pleased to announce that Liz Middleton will become the new Food Pantry assistant effective Wednesday, Aug. 9. Liz has been an employee of Village Church for over 15 years. Her time is currently divided between Connectional Ministries and Children and Family Ministries. With her move to work part-time at the Food Pantry, Liz will be saying good-bye to her position in Children and Family Ministries. Liz will continue to work with Cindy Wilcox in Connectional Ministries on Mondays and Tuesdays and also on Wednesday mornings. She will be at the Pantry Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and all day Friday. We are very excited to welcome Liz to the Pantry!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Village Welcomes Will Breytspraak

Please welcome Will Breytspraak, our new director of Music Ministry at Village on Mission.

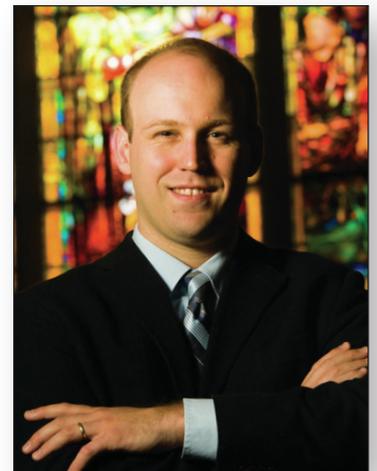
Will grew up at Village and his parents are Gus and Linda Breytspraak. He graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School. Will received his Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College (Princeton, New Jersey). His Bachelor of Music degree is in piano performance from Saint Olaf College (Northfield, Minn.), where he sang in the Saint Olaf Choir.

Prior to coming to Village, Will served as chair of Performing Arts at Maret School (Washington, DC), and as director of music at Northwood Presbyterian Church (in Silver Spring, Maryland). As children's chorus master at Washington National Opera, Will prepared ensembles for over 50 performances with the company.

Prior to moving to Washington, D.C. in 2013, Will was director of music at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, and artistic director of Musica Sacra Atlanta.

Will and his wife Kate have two children, Edie and Nell.

"It is a dream come true, and a new adventure, to return to Kansas City and Village Presbyterian Church with my family!" says Will. "So much of the world of music and music ministry opened up to me in my childhood at Village, and I am eager to give back to the children and adults of this community along with Village's wonderful staff and congregation. I am looking forward to seeing so many old friends, and meeting so many newer members of the Village family in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you for your warm welcome."





Ice Cream Social 2017

A crowd of 500 people came out for ice cream and summertime fun at our 42nd Annual Ice Cream Social at Village on Mission on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

A Day with Author and Scholar Rev. Dr. Frances Taylor Gench, Professor of Biblical Interpretation 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 29, Friendship Hall

All are welcome to attend a day with Rev. Dr. Frances Taylor Gench to learn more about the Gospel of John. The 2017-2018 Circle Study for Presbyterian Women of Village Church draws heavily from Dr. Gench's work. The morning session includes an overview of John's Gospel; the afternoon session includes closer, in-depth examination of a selected text and a sample circle lesson. Women and men alike will enjoy a fun and educational day. There is no cost to attend the sessions; lunch is provided for \$10.

RSVP by July 21 to marianne.weber@villagepres.org or 913-671-2333.



PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Faith and Grief Lunches Help Heal the Soul

Sometimes connecting with others who have also experienced the loss of a loved one can help. The monthly Faith & Grief lunch allows you to meet others, listen to a short program and have conversation in smaller groups led by a trained facilitator. Lunch is provided. Faith & Grief lunches are on the first Tuesday of every month, from noon-1 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Come every month, come when your schedule allows, or just come once to check it out. Registration is online at www.faithandgrief.org. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

VILLAGE CUP SUMMER HOURS



Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8 a.m.-noon
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Cup will be closed for summer hiatus. The dates will be the weeks of July 24-28 and July 31-Aug. 4.
We will be open Sundays July 23, 30 and Aug. 6.
We'll all be back to our regular schedules on Monday, Aug. 7.

Summer Adult Sunday Morning Class

Faith Seeking Understanding. Conversations On the Sermon Text for All Adults

Each Sunday through Aug. 20, all adults are invited to study and discuss the Bible text for the day's sermon. The class will meet from 10:45-11:45 a.m. in Rooms 126-127. The class welcomes persons who are new to the Bible as well as those who are more familiar with the Bible. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will explore the context of the Bible passage, discuss what the preacher said in the sermon, and better understand what it means to us as followers of Jesus. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, director of adult educational ministry, will lead the class on July 23 and Rev. Diane Quaintance will teach July 30.

Now That You Have Your Google ID, What Do You Do With It?

The Village Church Computer Ministry is hosting "water cooler sessions" on the first Wednesday of the month. Remaining sessions will be held on Aug. 2 and Sept. 6. Learn how the Google suite of products can be used to collaborate with others while doing God's work in the church and the community. Topics will include Gmail and InBox, Google Calendar, Google Docs, Google Spreadsheets, Google Drive and Google Keep. 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 316.

Watch for the Fall 2017 Village U Catalog ... coming Aug. 3!

The fall 2017 Village U curriculum is a wide umbrella encompassing all our adult learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location. Village Church is a learning community with a long commitment to providing opportunities for adults – young and older—to grow in knowledge and faith together. We hope you will spend some time discovering all that is available.

- Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee per child for the term; reservations required in advance.
- Some classes will have a small fee for materials and resources; the fees will be noted in the class listing.
- You will be able to register online, by telephone, by fax or by email.

Registration for Village U 2017 fall term:

- For Village Church members: Registration begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 14.
- For community: Registration begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 21.



SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

Seeking Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly with God

Village Church member and ruling elder Samm Skare was eating breakfast at a Burger King with the Minor Home Repair Team of Front Porch Alliance when he struck up a conversation with Terrance Wise who has worked in the fast food industry for 20 years. Terrance's \$9.30-an-hour shift at Burger King was just his first job of the day. Afterward he left for his \$7.47-an-hour job as a cook at Pizza Hut.

Samm is a member of the Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force which continues the long history of Village Church working toward economic and social justice.

Burger King is not willing to give Mr. Wise full-time hours, paid sick time, paid vacation, nor health benefits. Samm and Terrance work together with Stand UP KC, the local chapter of a nationwide movement of fast-food workers, the Fight for 15, fighting for a higher wage.

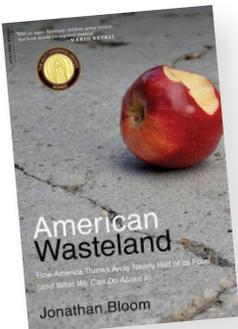
Village Church's Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force seeks to educate and advocate about social and economic issues such as hunger, gun violence, mass incarceration, healthcare and immigration.

For more information about the work of the task force, see the Village Church website under connect>adult>social justice.

New Library Books from the EAC!

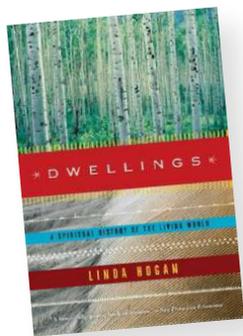
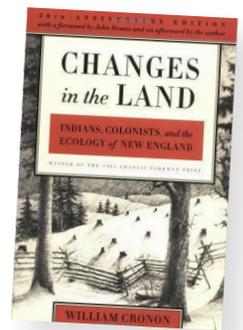
The Environmental Action Committee has made eight new additions to the Village Adult Library in Room 129 that are now available for check out. You can read about the first four below, and hear about the remaining four in the next *Good News*. Come by and borrow one of these fascinating texts that consider God’s creation in new and challenging ways. Come on in and check them out! The library’s summer hours are 8:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m. on weekdays and 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Sundays (closed Saturdays).

Peace,
 Hannah Ratliff
 Village Church member & MDiv student at Columbia Theological Seminary



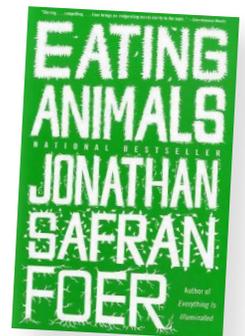
New York Times journalist Jonathan Bloom writes about the staggering amount of food waste we produce every day. Not only do households purchase food that goes bad before they ever eat it, but whole fields go unharvested, and massive amounts of perfectly good crops are discarded because they aren’t aesthetically perfect enough to pass grocery stores’ demanding checklists. The U.S. is estimated to waste as much as 40% of all the food we produce. From the publisher: “Jonathan Bloom wades into the garbage heap to unearth what our squandered food says about us, why it matters, and most importantly, how you can make a difference in your own kitchen — reducing waste and saving money.”

Historian, ecologist, geographer and professor William Cronon explores the ways that New England plant and animal life were altered with the introduction of European colonists. According to Cronon, the farming practices brought over from foreign shores may have taken a significant toll on American land. From the publisher: “William Cronon constructs a brilliant interdisciplinary analysis of how the land and the people influenced one another, and how that complex web of relationships shaped New England’s communities.”



Award-winning Chickasaw novelist and poet Linda Hogan explores our spiritual connections to natural landscapes and surroundings. A quick, beautifully written read, *Dwellings* is a love letter to the earth and all those who live in it. “She encourages her readers to see themselves as a small part of the whole that is our ecosystem. The pieces come together to reflect the author’s profound respect for the earth and prompt us to feel the same.” -Library Journal

From novelist Jonathan Safran Foer, author of *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* and *Everything Is Illuminated*, comes this fascinating and contemplative combination of investigative journalism and personal memoir. As a sometimes-vegetarian himself, Foer’s new status as a father propels him into a journey to understand why we eat some animals, and not others, so he could one day explain this to his young son. “What makes *Eating Animals* so unusual is vegetarian Foer’s empathy for human meat eaters, his willingness to let both factory farmers and food reform activists speak for themselves, and his talent for using humor to sweeten the argument.” -O, the Oprah Magazine



Upcoming Environmental Action Committee Events

Young Adults' Chat & Chew

12:30 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at Café Gratitude on Southwest Boulevard

Enjoy FREE plant-based food (courtesy of the Environmental Action Committee), fellowship and fun. Plus, you can contribute to a discussion about how the food we eat impacts the environment. Vegetarians, vegans, and ardent carnivores alike are all welcome to join. This is a no-guilt discussion! Environmental Action Committee intern Hannah Ratliff will lead a discussion about where our food comes from, what impact it leaves behind, and the changes each one of us could potentially make to leave the earth better than we found it. This does not mean that Hannah will try to turn you into a vegetarian :) All (young adult) voices are welcome and encouraged to share. RSVP by July 26 to Hannah at hannah.ratliff@villagepres.org.

End-of-Summer Earth Care Cookout

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Fairway Park shelter by the pool

As a celebration of the work of the Environmental Action interns Amber Berg and Hannah Ratliff, the Environmental Action Committee is hosting an end-of-summer cookout and inviting all of Village to join. It will be completely waste free, delicious, locally grown or organic and totally vegan. With black bean burgers, veggie kabobs, roasted potatoes, fresh watermelon and Hannah's homemade berry cobbler, this FREE meal is a great way to celebrate the planet and our church together. Join us for fun, fellowship and delicious, sustainable food! Bring your kids, your dog or a friend for this celebratory afternoon together. RSVP by Aug. 15 to <http://bit.ly/2t4Keey>.

Village Cares for God's Creation

Anthropocene: a word used to describe human impact as having a geologic force on our planet. Can man's impact on the planet be described in geologic terms? These are interesting questions that even the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History asks. Even miniscule objects washed up on a beach wreak havoc on certain bird species and other life forms, threatening extinctions and upsetting the balance of ecosystems. Humans do indeed have a profound effect. Everything counts.



Hero Central Vacation Bible School

VBS at Village on Mission is in its third day. Kids are having awesome adventures alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discovering the qualities that make us truly heroic in Gods' eyes.

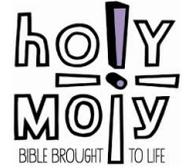
This year, in addition to collecting items for our favorite mission, the Village Food Pantry, we are collecting Super School Supplies. You can drop off your donations in Friendship Hall all week!



Summer Is Almost at an End

Students who have completed grades K -5th will continue to meet in Room 203 for a Broadly Graded class called Holy Moly!

Kids' Kingdom and Preschool Church School will resume regular classes after Labor Day on Sept. 10.



Creations By Kids

Be sure to check the Village Church Kids Facebook page for pictures from this summer's 46 Creations By Kids camps! <https://www.facebook.com/VillageChurchKids/>

Mission is Possible

The "Mission is Possible" Bake Sale made their goal of \$150 in less than 30 minutes Thursday, July 13, at Village Church on Mission. They were able to donate a total of \$375 to the No Kid Hungry project.



Traveling Day Camp July 31-Aug. 4

The Heartland Center staff returns this summer, bringing with them fun and exciting ways to study the Bible through interactive worship, songs, crafts and of course games! There is still time to register! Follow this link; <http://www.heartlandcamps.org/traveling-day-camps/#forparents>

Music and Drama Camp Tells the Story of Moses and the Exodus at Village on Mission

From June 26-30, 55 children (ages 6-11) learned 10 songs, memorized lots of dialogue, all in less than 15 hours of camp to perform Are We There Yet?, this year's production for Music and Drama Camp at Village on Mission. The musical told the story of Moses and the Exodus, including the parting of the Red Sea, the burning bush, making of the golden idol, and even the plague. Special thanks to Jenny Hull and the volunteers who worked with the children to learn the show in such a short period of time.



Middle School Denver Mission Trip

By Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of Youth Ministry

On June 21, we returned from the middle school mission trip to Denver, full to the brim with stories, laughter, donuts, indoor cliff diving & mariachi bands, late-night games while staying at Calvary Baptist (thanks for their amazing hospitality!), opportunities to serve, and reflecting on the Lost Parables (Luke 15).

What did we do? While we were there we spent time with a group called Yard Angels, dedicated to helping people age in their homes by helping them care for the exterior of those homes. It involved some tough yard work (and cutting some intense thistles). We also traveled up to Greeley, CO (Jenna's old stomping grounds!) to work with her church helping to serve a meal to the homeless (a program the church has been doing every Monday for 15 years!). Our third work day - and certainly the hottest work in the sun - was with Extreme Community Makeover, cleaning up alleys by picking up trash, weeding, and painting over graffiti. After the work days we had time to visit the zoo, swim at the Cherry Creek Reservoir, get a sugar fix at Voodoo Donuts, fine dining and entertainment at Casa Bonita, and a host of other fun!

What did we talk about? Each evening we also had programming where we could debrief the day as well as talk about our theme for the week: Luke 15 and the "Lost Parables." Each of the parables tell us something about who God is, and in learning about God we in turn learn something about who and how God is with us. In short, God is always seeking after us, no matter who we are. If we feel lost, if we feel like the world has abandoned us, if we question our worth, if we squander what is given to us, or even if we are resentful of others - God always seeks to find us, to invite us, and to embrace and celebrate us.

Our prayer as we return is that we would have confidence that God is seeking us, and that part of our call is to seek to make others feel known and found.



Rev. Zach Walker Is a Dad!

Meet Silas Boyd Walker, born on July 3 at 6 lbs. 10 oz. and 19" long. Congratulations to Rev. Zach Walker and his wife, Rev. Dr. Meredith Holladay, on the birth of their son.

**You're Invited to the Ordination of Owen Gray
During The Gathering at 5 p.m. Sunday, July 30**

Owen Gray grew up at Village Church. In June, he received his Master's in Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Va. Owen invites his Village family and friends to his Service of Ordination during The Gathering at 5 p.m. Sunday, July 30, in Friendship Hall.

Owen shared his faith journey with Heartland Presbytery on June 10. Here are some excerpts.

"My faith journey began at Village Church. It was there as a child that I was baptized, went to preschool and Sunday School, spent summers at vacation bible school, and attended youth group. As a freshman in high school I was confirmed at Village. I preached my first several sermons there, and had the privilege of serving as a Pastoral Intern after graduating college. At Village I was married to my wife, Grace, and our daughter, Ruth, was baptized. It has been my congregation of care throughout my ordination discernment process. To me, Village Church is home, and that congregation planted within me the seeds of calling to serve Christ's church.

Soon after entering college, I started serving in youth ministry. I found the mission of Young Life exciting and was involved with the organization for all four years of school. I became a leader in its middle school ministry: a fantastic, life-giving way to express my faith and share it with others. I also helped lead the youth group at Eastridge Presbyterian Church. Eastridge was experiencing great transition in leadership, but the devoted parents that I worked with to lead their middle school group were amazing examples of wisdom and self-giving.

I spent all three summers of college working at Heartland Center's summer camp. My first summer on staff was life changing. It exposed me to a form of relational ministry that I fell in love with and that still motivated me today. As a counselor, high-ropes facilitator, and program assistant, I feel that the best ministry I have ever done took place at Heartland. I hold dear to my heart the staff I worked with and the experiences I had with campers at Heartland. In these youth ministries, and in my undergraduate schoolwork in religious studies and political science, my college years not only helped me hone and identify my gifts, but they also confirmed my call to ministry in the Presbyterian Church.

More recently, my faith has been shaped by personal and vocational transitions. Vocationally, my year-long internship at Village offered invaluable experience about the daily reality of congregational ministry. My three years of seminary in Richmond, Va. have helped give context to that experience, as well as offer new experiences through internships at the Virginia Interfaith Center, CPE at VCU Medical Center and a pastoral internship at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church. Through it all I still feel called to congregational ministry, and I am excited to live this out beginning in August as a Lake Fellow Resident at Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis.

I give thanks to God for all those in my life who have nurtured, guided, advised and inspired me in discerning a call to ordained ministry."



Celebrating Opus 22: Schedule of Events

Organ builders Richards, Fowkes & Co. are finishing up the voicing of all 3,800 pipes in the Village pipe organ and are on target to have it all wrapped up in time for Organ Dedication Sunday, Aug. 6. During worship at Village on Mission on Aug. 6, we will walk through the church year in one morning as Dr. Elisa Bickers plays our completed pipe organ in all its glory. We will introduce the instrument to the community with a series of dedication concerts listed below.

Dedicatory Worship Services

9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 6

Dedicatory Organ Recitals: Dr. Elisa Bickers

3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20 & 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23

Second Thursday Recital: Dr. Lara West

12:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14

Solo Organ Recital: Douglas Cleveland

3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24

Village Chamber Choir, Orchestra and William Jewell College Concert Choir

Featuring two world premieres

3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29

Second Thursday Recital: Paul Meier

12:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9

Te Deum Chamber Choir

Kurt Knecht, organist

3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12

Kansas City Wind Symphony

Dr. Elisa Bickers, organist

7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12

Annual Tidings of Joy Concerts

3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

Bach Aria Soloists

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018

Second Thursday Recital: Dr. Kenneth Walker

12:15 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2018

Second Thursday Recital: Mark Ball

12:15 p.m. Thursday, May 10, 2018

Solo Organ Recital and Hymn Festival

Dr. Jan Kraybill, organist

7:30 p.m. Friday, May 18, 2018



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VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Because of your generosity ...



those teen parents attending the Parent and Child Education Support (P.A.C.E.S.) program at DeLaSalle feel the love and support for their children with soft, warm, homemade blankets.

SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VILLAGE ON MISSION

9:30 and 11 a.m.
Sanctuary

5 p.m. The Gathering
Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH

11 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
