



# The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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## 2018 PW Spring Retreat



The 2018 PW Spring Retreat will take place April 27-28, 2018 at the beautiful Heartland Presbyterian Camp in Parkville, Missouri. Don't miss this chance to spend time with the great women of Village Church in a lovely, natural setting. The retreat begins Friday evening and motel-like rooms are available for overnight guests. There is also the option of attending as a commuter. Heartland Camp is only about a 30 minute drive from the VOM campus and 38 minutes from the VOA campus. Registration will close Wednesday April 11th. Registration is now open at [www.villagepres.org/pw](http://www.villagepres.org/pw). Registration forms are also available at both VOM and VOA. If you have any questions call Lucy Tidwell at 913-486-7129 or email her at [lucytidwellco@gmail.com](mailto:lucytidwellco@gmail.com). Scholarships are available...for more information contact Rodger Nishioka.

We are pleased to host the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers as our keynote speaker for the PW Spring Retreat. There will be time for fellowship, prayer, reflection, singing and worship. We'll also have some fabulous workshops to choose from including those being led by our own Dr. Roger Nishioka, Rev. Hallie Hottle and Will Breytspraak

Melissa Anne serves as Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care and Congregational Life at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor in Ann Arbor, MI. She brings both pastoral and clinical training to her work in pastoral care. Melissa Anne has experience in ministry to small congregations. She has clinical training as a family grief and crisis counselor, and as a therapist. A morning person, she enjoys cross-country skiing, biking, good coffee, brewing beer, and spending time with her family.

Rev. Jenny McDevitt describes Melissa Anne as "...One of my earliest mentors in ministry. I worked alongside her for two years, and she taught me much of what I know about pastoral care. Her personality is warm and inviting; it will take you less than 10 seconds to feel comfortable with her. She is incredibly smart and very wise (those aren't the same thing!) She will make you laugh and probably make you cry, too. You will be better for knowing her. I certainly am."



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## *Message from the Moderators*

Dear Friends,

Jenny's farewell message from the pulpit was inspired...encouraging us to hear the love, understand the love and feel the love that Christ has for all of us. The farewell reception in Friendship Hall was an outpouring of our love and devotion to her and the ministry she has shaped these past 5 ½ years. The beautiful purple stole, the tapestry of pattern that graced her shoulders, was PW's gift from the heart...just as the donations from all of you will help create a meaningful and special place in her new home, the memories of her time with us will hold a special place in her heart and ours forever.

The song dedicated to her at the Gathering Service is from the Broadway musical, *Wicked*.

The lyrics from *For Good* said it perfectly...

"I've heard it said,  
That people come into our lives,  
For a reason.  
Bringing something we must learn.  
And we are lead to those,  
Who help us most to grow if we let them.  
And we help them in return.  
Well I don't know if I believe that's true.  
But I know I'm who I am today,  
Because I knew you.  
Like a comet pulled from orbit,  
As it passes a sun.  
Like a stream that meets a boulder,  
Halfway through the wood.  
Who can say if I've been changed for the better,  
But because I knew you,  
I have been changed for good."

As we look around at our circle of friends in PW, we all have been changed for the better because of learning from and loving each other. We have been changed for good.

With grateful hearts,

Patty Zender and Kim Stratton



## Presbyterian Women Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study
- To support the mission of the church worldwide
- To work for justice and peace
- To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.



Continued from Pg. 1

Please join us for this inspiring and uplifting time April 27 and 28. Tickets are on sale now through Wednesday, April 11. Cost is \$95, which includes program, lodging and meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch); or \$55, which includes program and meals with no lodging.

Our retreat theme: *Speaking Truth in Faith, Hope & Love.*

Retreat Committee Members: Co-Chairs: Lucy Tidwell and Carrie Craig. Janet Burton, Liz Middleton, Carla Rauth, Kathy Ray, Nancy Skidmore & Sandra Stephens.



## Celebration of Faithful Women

10 a.m. Saturday, March 24, in Friendship Hall

Please join us in honoring  
Margaret Dalke  
Vicki Graham  
and  
Jennifer Sawyer



Rev Sarah D. Brouwer will be speaking  
on  
"Open Doors, Open Futures"

Reservations available online and in Friendship Hall starting Feb. 25.

*Read about the Honorary Life Members  
on the following pages.*

## Honorary Life Member: Margaret Dalke

Margaret was born in Polo, Missouri. She attended Cottonwood School and country church. She says her mother was a sincere Christian woman and they attended church regularly. Margaret was baptized in a country creek. After her church closed, her family joined the Polo Methodist Church. She graduated from Polo High School in 1949 and was Valedictorian of her class of 21 students.

After graduation, Margaret worked for a year to save enough money to attend Chillicothe Business College for the secretarial course. Then she moved to Kansas City, MO. In 1954, Margaret married Virgil Pedersen, they were active members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church for 26 years. She taught Sunday School and were part of "The 20", a group of members who called on church visitors. She and Virgil had two children, their daughter, Diane was married at St. Mark's after graduating from the University of Missouri. Their son, Dean was married the same year in Indiana, following his graduation from Purdue on an ROTC scholarship. Dean served in the US Navy for 26 years.



Margaret got her pilot's license under the instruction of her future son-in-law. Virgil bought a four-passenger Bonanza and they flew all around the country. Margaret says she learned to fly because she wanted to be able to take the wheel as needed and to also keep track of their location.

In 1981, Margaret was going through a divorce. She was alone, looking for a job and a place to live. She and her ex-husband had a successful printing business and lived in an apartment above the business. A woman who worked with her suggested Margaret go to the singles group at Village Church. She went, reluctantly at first, because Margaret considered Kansas somewhat like a foreign country. She had always lived and worked in Missouri. But at Village Singles she met Dutch Dalke, and they gradually got to know each other. Dutch lived in Olathe. She truly believed this was a miracle that God provided for them. Otherwise, they never would have met.

She and Dutch were married and bought a house in Overland Park, where they lived for 26 years. They joined Village Presbyterian Church and traveled extensively. For 17 years, Margaret worked part-time for the Johnson County Squire newspaper with Tom Leathers, the editor, who was a long-time Village Church member.

In 2006, they moved to Lakeview Village and Dutch passed away in 2014. Though she really misses him, Margaret has many wonderful memories and enjoys living at Lakeview. She and Dutch were very active members at Village. They were on the Mariners board and were Shepherd Deacons to welcome new members. They participated in square dancing and helped set tables for Wednesday night dinners. As a Village Visitor, Margaret visited shut-ins and provided transportation to doctor visits. She was a Stephen Minister and worked at the food pantry for five years.

Even though Margaret lives at Lakeview she remains actively involved at Village. She participates in Rev. Len Carrell's new visiting program. Though she is no longer comfortable driving as far as Village Church, she participates in Presbyterian Women at Lakeview and provides transportation on campus as needed. After taking the Lakeview lay chaplain class, she visits people in the Care Center and Rehab regularly. She also organizes the wheelchair pushers to take residents to church every Sunday. For more than 10 years, she has been editor of the Lakeview Journal, which includes copy written by Lakeview residents. She served one term on the Lakeview Resident Council.

Margaret always liked to dance and still misses her dance partner. Her hobbies are mostly table games with good friends. She likes to read and enjoys visits from her children, grandchildren and sister, as well as from Dutch's daughter who lives in the area. They remain very close.

Margaret wrote an article that was published in Lakeviews, the official newspaper of Lakeview Village. They had asked for true stories of miracles, and her story was about her first connection of Village Church and meeting Dutch Dalke.

## Honorary Life Member: Vicki Graham

Vicki grew up in Iowa City. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Patrick's Catholic Church and she also attended school there. Vicki remembers cleaning the church pews with her grandmother on Saturdays.

Vicki moved from Iowa to Kansas City to work at the Dental School and at that time was called the Jackson County Hospital. Having recently moved to Kansas City, Vicki still had Iowa license plates on her car and in her apartment complex there was a male resident also with Iowa plates. These Iowa natives waved at each other each morning on their way to work – these waves led to Vicki meeting her husband, Ralph. The Grahams just celebrated 46 years of marriage this past Valentine's Day. She and Ralph are the proud parents of two children who were baptized and confirmed at Village Church. Her daughter, Abbey and her husband, Drew were married at Village and their children, Vera and Graham were baptized at Village. Their son, Nick and his wife, Adriana live in Los Angeles and have two young children.



Vicki had a variety of jobs after the Dental School. When they lived in St. Louis, Vicki taught Dental Assisting at Merrimack College. Vicki taught preschool at St. Michael's Episcopal Church where she still keeps track of many of the families, her last preschool class graduated from high school in 2017. When Abbey went to college, Vicki took a "mini retirement" but retirement didn't take too well, so she worked in the Shawnee Mission School District as a paraprofessional, retiring from there. Her post retirement job was in our Village Cup as a barista. She says Ralph and her daughter encouraged her to apply and appreciates Chef Emily taking a chance on her. Vicki says she thinks she's really retired now.

The Graham family has been intertwined with Village Church since 1980. Vicki started, as many female members have with Art Ministry. She was a new stay-at-home mom who wanted to meet other moms and appreciated the childcare. Vicki was quickly asked to join the Art Ministry Committee, taking classes and teaching classes. Once her children were in preschool, she was invited by her friend, Fay Harrison to attend a Circle, soon to be the Circle Leader. Then another dear friend, Joan Zook asked Vicki to co-chair the Women's Spring Retreat with her. Vicki and Ralph also served as Deacons. Vicki says her involvement wasn't enough for "Dear" Joan who again nominated Vicki for a position at Village, as an Elder then Vicki became an Elder.

Vicki says girlfriends have kept her involved since the first day they joined Village Church. She has taught Kindergarten Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Confirmation class. She was on the search committee for a youth pastor that brought Matt Vaughn to Village Church. "Dear" Joan again had Vicki involved this time with the Care and Counseling Committee. She has served on many Presbyterian Women committees from Advent Dinner to Christian Action Chair, in which she co-chaired the Celebration of Faithful Women Celebration the past three years.

In Vicki's free time, she enjoys gardening – she's been a Johnson County Master Gardener for the past 15 years, recently going to emeritus status. She was involved with the Deanna Rose butterfly garden, Shawnee Indian Mission garden and she currently volunteers with the Santa Fe Trail Elementary School Junior Master Gardeners. Vicki also quilts and is a member of the Modern Quilt Guild. She's involved with the Boomerang and Pointer Sisters needlework groups at Village. She says with this group of girlfriends, they know everything about each other, they have been their own care and counseling group to each other over the years. The support and love of these groups are everything to Vicki.

Vicki is so appreciative to Village Church for intertwining their history with her family. Vicki says the top three decisions she made in her life are marrying the guy with Iowa plates, buying a house in Prairie Village and joining Village Church. She said it's made for a pretty good life.

## Honorary Life Member: Jennifer Sawyer

Jennifer has called Kansas City home all her life. She was born while her mother and two-year old sister were heading by train to Kansas City from Salina for the holidays. They had to get off the train and rush to the hospital for Jennifer to make her appearance. Jennifer graduated from Barstow, attended Southern Methodist University but graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She also earned a Master's Degree in Curriculum Design with an emphasis in Early Childhood.

Jennifer married her high school sweetheart, Bob Sawyer in 1967 and last year celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! They are blessed to have two wonderful children, Stephanie Freeman (and also her husband Paul) and Russ Sawyer, and five amazing grandchildren: Paul Jr (21), Bobby (19), Henry (17), Annie Kate (13) and Mary (8). Jennifer is thankful they all live in Kansas City, and spending time with them at sporting events, concerts, family dinner and family vacations is one of Jennifer's favorite pastimes. She is also fortunate to have her two sisters and their families, her husband's siblings and their families, and her 92-year old mother all here in Kansas City. Family gatherings are amazing!

Jennifer has always loved working with children of all ages. She taught Early Childhood for 15 years. She was a coordinator for 1st and 2nd grade at Village and taught Sunday School for about 12 years. Jennifer followed one class from their 1st grade experience all the way through their Confirmation Class. She has a special place in her heart for these young people.

Jennifer has served the community through a variety of organizations and involvement. She has served on the Mercy Hospital's Children's Relief Association and was an active member of the Cystic Fibrosis local chapter.

Jennifer has had a many great experiences at Village – serving on the Village Missions Committee and three years as a Deacon. Jennifer started her journey with Presbyterian Women as a member of Circle 2. She has been active with Amazing Graces from the beginning. She was honored to serve two terms (3 years each) on the Presbyterian Women board, first as Spiritual Growth Coordinator and then had the great privilege of serving as the PW Board Moderator. A very wise woman told Jennifer that being Moderator would be one of the best experiences of her life – and she was right!

Jennifer and Bob love to travel, and to celebrate 50 years of marriage, they are going to Alaska in June and Ireland this fall. Some of their other destinations include Arizona, California, Michigan, and Hilton Head, SC. In Jennifer's free time, she enjoys reading and knitting, and she and Bob are avid walkers. They recently moved to a high rise overlooking downtown Kansas City, and are enjoying exploring their new vertical neighborhood!



## Tribute to Rev. Jenny McDevitt by Julie Foster

Jenny,

You have been many things to us: our leader, our teacher, our counselor and our friend. We want to send you off with something to remember us, in appreciation for sharing your gifts and filling our hearts...

We may be tearful, but we are also thankful. Thankful you followed the call to Village Church, thankful for your patient spirit and thankful for your gentle guidance.

We're not exactly cheerful about your new call to Madison Avenue Presbyterian, but you taught us that being of good cheer is a responsibility; we are all called to seek the best both in others and for others, and practice a forgiving spirit. So, I am practicing, "I am so happy for you."

If there were ever stories to add to the Bible, you are the obvious (and perfect) candidate to write them! You are a visionary wordsmith; you created a soulful energy in our lives with this gift. The Call to Worship, the Prayers of the People, the Charge for Sarah Are, your heartwarming Benediction, examples of how we are all profoundly touched by the inspiration, encouragement and goodness in your words.

An unexpected opportunity. It is said that when God closes one door, He opens a window. Therefore, as we embrace your new call, we feel delightful! That being said, please remember to give your doorman a "heads up," because we would prefer coming through the door. NYC, baby! Do I hear an "Amen?"

In the words of Pope Francis, "Grace is the amount of light in our souls." Our lives are much brighter, more colorful and abundantly beautiful because of your endless creativity and bold willingness to take a chance to show us, through your eyes, a very clear picture of the beauty of grace.

We seem to be more thoughtful and peaceful as a result of your kindness and comfort. Your compassionate hugs, warm handshake, loving words, and sometimes, simply your caring presence. We noticed. We listened. We will continue to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly because you revealed the path to us.

We hope that we are more prayerful and faithful. We know your new community will marvel, as we have, at your thought-provoking sermons, and your wisdom in interpreting the Word, both of which bring us to our knees and guide us in examining our character.

I'm not sure that we are more graceful, but we are more full of grace, because you constantly reminded us, and we fully realize, that God's grace is a gift... a gift for one and for all.

We are hopeful. You proclaimed time after time that we are to be hopeful for a new day when God's glory is known to everyone. We are hopeful that individually we hear God's voice, hopeful that we see what matters, and hopeful that we follow those Holy nudges of which you spoke so often.

As we bid you farewell, it has been a pleasure and an honor to work alongside you. Our hearts are full; not only full of wonder, but full of joy because we are grateful to know you and call you friend.

May the Light always shine brightly along your path. May this new call bring you an abundant and plentiful life, filled with meaningful friendships and great love.



## OPERATION Breakthrough

Operation Breakthrough Reading Program

Wednesday mornings

9:30 to 11 a.m.

March 21 through April 25

Mark your calendar for the Spring session of reading with the Operation Breakthrough children at Village Church!

See you soon!



### Tour of Operation Breakthrough

On Wednesday March 7 we will have the opportunity to go to Operation Breakthrough for a tour of their facility. We will gather at the church and leave at 9:15 a.m. A car pool will be organized or you can meet us at OB at 9:30.

The car pool will return to the church around 11 a.m. Anyone interested may contact Marilyn Borel for details.

[rborel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rborel@sbcglobal.net) or 913-708-1917



**Rev. Dr. Serene Jones**  
7 p.m. Friday March 9  
9 a.m. Saturday March 10  
Village on Mission  
What is True:  
*Theology and the American Story*

Tickets are available online at [villagepres.org/visiting-scholar](http://villagepres.org/visiting-scholar)  
or at the door. For more information call 913-671-2333.

BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE  
AND GENTLE; BE PATIENT;  
BEARING WITH ONE  
ANOTHER IN LOVE

EPHESIANS 4:2

## Women Of Wisdom

Women of Wisdom, (WOW), warmly invites all ladies to lunch at noon on Wednesday, March 21. We'll dine at Joe's Cellar, the new cozy restaurant inside the Mission Road Antique Mall. Joe's Cellar features authentic Italian dishes, made from scratch with simple ingredients. Also included on their menu is salads, small plates, paninis, quiches, and soup, plus desserts. We hope you will join us to share conversation, laughter and delicious food at this popular Prairie Village gem at 4101 West 83rd Street. RSVP to Marvie Sneegas, [sneegi@kc.rr.com](mailto:sneegi@kc.rr.com), or 913-209-9608, by Tuesday, March 20. We'll look forward to seeing you. As always, all women are most welcome.

**JOE'S CELLAR**



### Amazing Graces at **kemperMUSEUM** of contemporary art

5 p.m. Thursday, March 8

Meet at Cafe Sebastian for hors d'oevres,  
wine and sparkling water

Docent led tour will begin at 6 p.m.

There is a \$10 fee and drinks are not included.

Dee Gound is collecting mail orders. Her address is:  
8208 Cherokee Cir., Leawood, KS 66206



### Circle 1

Meets: 7-8 a.m.  
Room 124

Leaders: Mary Bertsch  
(913-217-5641)  
[dbertsch@sprynet.com](mailto:dbertsch@sprynet.com);  
Penny Singer  
(913-648-2446)  
[penny2835@gmail.com](mailto:penny2835@gmail.com)

An eclectic mix of curious, God-seeking, supportive, worldly women, including homemakers, teachers, nurses, matchmakers, business women and philanthropists.

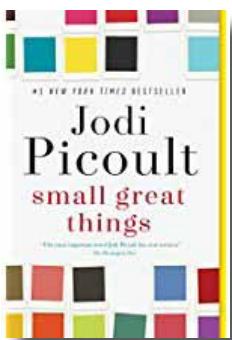
Geared toward early risers who strive to stay on point while fully discussing the topic.



## Page Turners

"Small Great Things," by Jodi Picoult, is the book for discussion at the March 27 Page Turners' meeting. It is a story of a black child's learning about racial divides at a very young age and her struggle to navigate discrimination. The story follows Ruth into adult years and her profession of nursing. An extreme act of prejudice brings about a lawsuit which threatens Ruth's job. The public defender assigned to represent Ruth is a white woman who believes she has no prejudices, but is surprised by reality.

Page Turners meet at 9:30 a.m. in room 127 on the fourth Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Contact Rosella Hoglund at 913-642-3574 or Judy Lockett at [judylocket5@gmail.com](mailto:judylocket5@gmail.com) for more information.



*"May the road rise up to meet you.*

*May the wind be always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face,*

*The rains fall soft upon your fields*

*And until we meet again,*

*May God hold you in the palm of His hand."*

## PW Alive Now

Alive Now is a Bible Study for women who are early risers. We meet each Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Heritage Dining Room. In addition to studying a passage of scripture, we are a support group for one another and often spend as much time sharing and caring for each other's needs. For more information, please contact Judy Cooper at [judycooperjc@gmail.com](mailto:judycooperjc@gmail.com).

## Gentle Therapeutic Yoga Classes

Mondays and/or Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Gentle yoga for joint health.

8 classes for \$96

New students: first class is free.

Please bring your own yoga mat.

Class location: The Youth Loft on 3rd Floor.



Class Description: Must be able to get up and down off the floor relatively easy. Knee, wrist, and hip issues welcome. This is Very gentle yoga that leans towards the therapeutic and functional side of things.

Instructor: Katie Hurcomb has been teaching therapeutic methods for the last 20 years and loves to help illuminate the pathway of awareness so her students can heal and strengthen themselves.

Please call her or text with any questions.

913-244-5623

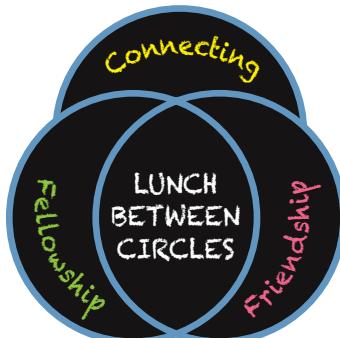
Elaine Franz  
Messenger Editor  
[ebdkfranz@gmail.com](mailto:ebdkfranz@gmail.com)

## Lunch between Circles

The last Lunch Between Circles for this year will be on April 10 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Sign up at March circle meetings or contact Leslie Conrad or your circle leader by April 1. The cost is only \$6 for a delicious meal prepared by Chef Emily. Hope to see you there!

Questions?

Contact Leslie Conrad  
[conradleslie@aol.com](mailto:conradleslie@aol.com)  
or 913.341.2734)



## Amazing Graces Book Club

If you like to read and enjoy good conversation, you will fit right in to this interesting group! The AG Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month in homes at 6 p.m. For meeting locations, reading lists and general information, email Sara Wallace at [swallace01@gmail.com](mailto:swallace01@gmail.com).

## Amazing Graces Dinner Groups

The AG dinner groups were created so women could gather in smaller groups and enjoy one another. There are several Amazing Graces dinner groups for you to choose from. Each group chooses their own dates and times to meet for dinner, dependent on the needs of their group, always at a different restaurant. We welcome new members. For more information, call Deb Spaulding, 913-219-5503 or [deborah.spaulding@hok.com](mailto:deborah.spaulding@hok.com).



## Box Tops, Coupons and More

Proceeds from the collection of these coupons benefit the children of Menaul School.

Menaul School is proud of its tradition of educating students in New Mexico. In 1932, the school became co-educational. Today, Menaul accepts students from all cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Fifty percent of the students receive financial assistance, and more than 60% are self-identified as individuals of racial or ethnic minorities.

The children at Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, thank you for your support.

**Note:** Please be sure that the box tops and labels you save have not expired.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tour Operation Breakthrough - March 7

AG at Kemper Museum - March 8

PW Visiting Scholar - March 9-10

Circle Day - March 13

WOW Lunch at Joe's Cellar - March 21

Celebration of Faithful Women - March 24

Page Turners - March 27

PW Spring Retreat - April 27-28



## Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing continues to provide numerous items for various local hospitals and agencies. If you would like to join in the fun, we are open every Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and go as you like. If you are there during lunch, bring your own or purchase something at the Cup. No need to be a machine sewer. We have jobs for hand sewers and pillow stuffers. Call Edie Hultman @ 913.432.3515 for more information.

