Celebrating 40 Years of the Village Church Preschool Program

The Village Church Preschool program started back in January of 1975. It was administered through what was then called the Pre-communicant department. Rev. Bill Foster was the minister to pre-communicants and Jane Wilson was director of early childhood programs.

Village began with a weekday pilot program limited to Village Church members only. They started with two classes on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and two classes on Tuesday-Thursday. The curriculum would be consistent with the objectives of meeting the developmental needs of the child.

“We were so honored to have been chosen to be the initiators and founders of Village Church Weekday Preschool—such a wonderful part of so many fortunate children’s lives,” said Jane Wilson. “The guiding principles of a program based on High Scope Educational Research Foundation’s Cognitively-Oriented Curriculum, a strong developmental, child-right theory base, was the perfect parallel to Village Presbyterian’s doctrine and still holds true today and tomorrow. That’s why you are enrolling the children of the children we served in those early years.”

How the Program Has Evolved

According to Preschool Director Terri Gaeddert, “In 1975, Village had 26 children in the program. Today we have 110-112 children consistently every year.

Typically we are at maximum capacity. We now have a staff of 17. The extended day program has been added and the program has been nationally accredited through NAEYC (National Association for the Education of the Young Child) since 1999.

The program quickly grew beyond Village Church families. Today, about 30% of our preschool children are from Village Church families. We’re broadening beyond our neighborhood.

Last year we dedicated our new nature outdoor classroom. It’s important to this program to connect the inside and outside as much as possible.”

High Scope Curriculum

“We all follow the High Scope curriculum both at the preschool and the 4&5 year old program at the Village Church Child and Family Development Center,” Terri Gaeddert said. “I think that’s one of the hallmarks of the program. It was very new in the 70’s and it was very intentional and very important to that original staff – that it be done in a way that is cognitively oriented curriculum that uses a developmental approach – and every time

Continued
Bill Foster comes by, he wants to make sure that is still what we are using.”

Rev. Bill Foster shared, “At those earlier years, we wished to start a preschool where we could bring together our children with our Christian faith. Therefore, we looked at the learning process, intellectual growth and spiritual discernment of these young people. We asked ourselves ‘what could they handle and at what age could they handle it?’ Then we looked at our faith as it is given expression in the scriptures. We looked for staff people; teachers who held college degrees in Early Childhood Education who at the same time were faithful Christians.

We put this together and made a fun place with a fun spirit where they could learn and live together. It was a scary time at first because the cost of the program was not included in the church budget and would not be included the church budget. Therefore, parents had to pay for the cost. What we discovered was the families wanted a program and supported it to the point where we had always had a waiting list for youngsters to get in. And here it is 40 years later. Wow!”

Celebrating 40th Anniversary Jan. 26

The Village Preschool is commemorating its 40th anniversary on Jan. 26 with age appropriate activities, cupcakes, games, etc. for the children. Staff, both present and past, have been invited to an Open House to take a walk down memory lane with a progressive party to see what’s new in the preschool rooms.

Plans for the Future

“Village has always been a teaching church. The preschool program really follows that philosophy very nicely,” said Terri, who is in her fourth year as preschool director. “When I first started, my goals were that we would continue to be a model in the Kansas City area for developmentally appropriate preschool practices. We’ve proven to be a model of high quality standards in early childhood education for which there is high demand. I hope that we can continue to uphold that standard.”

Preschool Enrollment Begins in January

Village Church Preschool begins accepting applications for the coming school year (2015-2016) in January. Several years ago a tiered schedule was implemented due to the high demand for limited spaces in our program. This allows for currently enrolled families and Village Church members to have priority. For more information, please check the preschool page on the Village Church website or contact Terri Gaeddert at 913-671-2338.

Enrollment Schedule for Fall 2015-2016

On Jan. 12, enrollment opens for:
- Current Preschool Families & Village Church Members
On Jan. 15, enrollment opens for:
- Current Village Church Kids Day Out Families
On Jan. 20, enrollment opens for:
- Community Families
**Singer/Songwriter Sam Burchfield Presents Free Concert at Village**

7 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2015

Rising star Sam Burchfield's soulful vocals and folk-influenced lyrics combine with a foundation in southern blues and funk to produce an exciting sound from this up-and-coming musician. He recently auditioned for American Idol and was chosen to go to Hollywood. Village Church Connectional Ministries is partnering with the Shawnee Mission East Coalition Club to sponsor this free concert. A retiring offering will go to LOVE 146.

The SME Coalition is a group of students whose mission is to engage in “Changing the World,” by raising awareness, as well as finances, for important world causes. The Coalition’s current focus is on LOVE 146, an international human rights organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation through survivor care, prevention education, professional training and empowering movement. Please contact Cindy Wilcox for any questions at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.

**David LaMotte Concert and Program at Village Church**

April 10-11, 2015

David LaMotte, award-winning singer/songwriter, activist, and advisor to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, will be at Village Church April 10-11, 2015. He'll perform a free concert at 7 p.m. Friday, April 10, in Friendship Hall at Village Church. Saturday morning, he will lead conversation based on his latest book, *Worldchanging 101: Confronting the Myth of Powerlessness*, and help us explore the ways that all of us can make a difference every day. David is well known around the Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina.

**Village in the City: Inspiring Music for an April Evening**

7 p.m. Sunday, April 26, 2015 • Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – Helzberg Hall

For the third year in a row, the Village Chamber Choir and Orchestra will perform a spring concert at Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The Village Choir will collaborate with the choirs of Baker University and Benedictine College and organist Dr. Elisa Bickers, all under the direction of Matthew Shepard, associate director of music at Village Church. Admission is free. Tickets are required and will be available in February through kauffmancenter.org. A Retiring Offering will benefit the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership, an international mission of Village Church.
Weekly Wednesday Dinners

Dine before or after your Wednesday class. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m., and the hot food buffet is open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy a well-balanced meal that is convenient and easy. A full meal with salad bar & dessert is only $7. Salad bar only is $6 (includes dessert). Cost for children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under eat for free.

Jan. 7 - pizza: meat, cheese, veggie and gourmet varieties
Jan. 14 - honey Dijon chicken w/apples, scalloped potatoes, green vegetable
Jan. 21 - beef stew, vegetarian stew, mini corn dogs
Jan. 28 - baked tilapia w/caper sauce, baked boneless chicken breast w/corn & tomato relish

Village University Classes

Village Talk is a series of live conversations that flesh out the intersection of faith and values, religion and public affairs, social issues and the common good. KCUR contributor and Village Church parish associate Rev. Brian Ellison will host these lively exchanges; engaging public figures, renowned scholars and community leaders. Audience participation will be welcomed in this interview to which all are invited. Conversations will be from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Chapel.

Our first guest will be Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Sly James speaking on “The American City” on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The Ten Commandments: Laws of the Heart, Part 2 - Are the Ten Commandments just a set of rules or are they a way of life? How does each one call us to reflect on our life and values? What does it mean to love God and our neighbor in a world where violence, greed, and fear threaten our lives, our values, our hearts? Sister Joan Chittister, a renowned biblical scholar, invites us to seek answers to these and other questions in this video-discussion series. Gus Breytspraak facilitates the conversation. 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 7-28, in Room 232.

School of Theology - Religions of the World, Part I - This course will begin with an introduction of how to study and relate to different religions and explore the question of where God is in each across the vast variety of religious beliefs and practices. Part I will cover the Abrahamic traditions — Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Taught by Rev. Dr. John P. Borden. 6:30- 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 7-28, in Room 132.

A New Pope – a New Day - Dennis Coday, columnist and editor of the National Catholic Reporter, will be our guest, sharing his perspective on Pope Francis’ first year and a half, recent events in the Catholic Church, and what might be ahead. Dennis offers his insight with wisdom and humor. Join us for an interesting session, and bring your questions. 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, in Room 127. Child care is not available.

Leaving a Spiritual Will or Spiritual Legacy - Journalist and Presbyterian Elder Bill Tammeus will help participants understand the difference between a spiritual will and a spiritual legacy, and help them begin to create a spiritual will. There will be talk about the five things dying people want to share: “I forgive you,” “please forgive me,” “I love you,” “thank you,” and “good-bye.” Bill will also share various ways he’s seeking to leave a spiritual legacy, including his latest book, Woodstock: A Story of Middle Americans. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 28-Feb.11, in Room 127.

Go to www.villagepres.org for more details about Wednesday Nights @ Village.
Welcome New Members Who Joined in November 2014

KEN & JEAN BUTLER
Ken & Jean live in Leawood, KS. They are retired and joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

DIANA LEE
Diana lives in Overland Park. She is the mother of Village Church member, Samantha (John) Sturgeon. Diana joins as an Affiliate Member.

PAM & JAMES JORGENSEN, WITH ANNIE
Pam, James & Annie live in Prairie Village, KS. Pam is a student at UMKC Law School. James is a student at Shawnee Mission East. Pam joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. James joined by Baptism & Confession of Faith & Annie was baptized.

PHIL & JO-ANN PULLIAM
Phil & Jo-Ann live in Overland Park. They are retired. They joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

NICOLA JURICAK
Nicola lives in Kansas City, MO. Nicola is retired and joined Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.

REBECCA ENSLOW
Rebecca lives in Prairie Village with her husband, member David Enslow & their 3 children. Rebecca is a stay-at-home mom. She joined by Reaffirmation of Faith.

SUE MORRIS with husband, DICK MORRIS
Sue lives in Lenexa with her husband, Dick. Sue is retired and joined by Letter of Transfer.

Lunch Gathering for LGBT and Friends
Village Church is exploring new ways of bringing together LGBT people and their friends in the church and the community. Our next gathering for Sunday Lunch will be at Waldo Pizzeria. We have reservations at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Family owned and operated, Waldo Pizza at 7433 Broadway Street (75th & Wornall), KCMO 64114, is famous for their made-to-order pizza with a huge selection of fresh ingredients, salads and sandwiches. Vegetarian and gluten free items are also available. Come join us for a wonderful taste of Italy! Please contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to RSVP or request more information.
The Thwake mission is unique," says David. "Having been brought up in Thwake and still in-touch with the people and what goes on there, I am able to educate our brothers and sisters in the United States and advance the partnership with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, hence bearing more fruits to the glory of God."

Neema Community Presbyterian Church is collecting empty pill bottles for the medical center in Thwake Village. Pill bottle donations should be taken to the Neema Community Presbyterian Church at 9898 W. 95th St. in Overland Park, Kansas on Tuesday or Sunday. Please be sure to only include prescription bottles (not over-the-counter i.e. Tylenol, vitamins or supplements) and remove any personal information from the bottles. If you would like to learn more about mission efforts in Thwake, you can reach Rev. David Nzioka by email at nziokadavid@yahoo.com.
I Wouldn’t Be Here If People Hadn’t Given Blood

Blood platelets play a critical role in controlling bleeding. They’re responsible for blood clotting. For people with Glanzmann’s syndrome, this vital function is impaired. Their abnormal platelets don’t aggregate during blood coagulation. Their blood doesn’t clot, so the bumps and bruises that most people dismiss as minor inconveniences can become life-threatening injuries.

Christine Latham has Glanzmann’s syndrome, so at home and at her job as an occupational therapist she lives what she calls “a careful life.” Even so, she has had several episodes of internal bleeding in her life and has spent more than a little time in hospitals for blood transfusions. More than once these transfusions have saved her life.

By her own estimation, Christine has received between 150 and 200 units of blood. To put that amount into perspective, 200 units equal 25 gallons. Put another way, 200 people have helped Christine survive a ruptured ovary at age 16, several bouts of gastrointestinal bleeding and other life-threatening episodes.

Through it all, Christine has one message she wants every blood donor and potential donor to know: “Giving blood is life saving. And receiving blood is safe. I wouldn’t be here if people hadn’t given blood, and I’m very grateful.”

Village will host a blood drive from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, in Rooms 132 & 133. To make an appointment online, visit esavealifenow.org and use sponsor code “villagepres.”

Food Pantry

The New Year has just begun, and the Food Pantry is hoping that one of your resolutions this year will be to bring one can of food each week to the church for the Pantry – one person, one can a week – that’s 52 cans of food each year from one church member. It will be a small effort on your part, but if each member of the church does this, it will make a big difference for the Pantry in its battle with hunger in our community. We are in need of canned vegetables – all varieties are welcomed. The clients shopping at the Pantry select a minimum of six cans on their visit - the need for veggies is always there.

The Clothes Closet continues to seek winter coats – new or cleaned and gently used – all sizes.

Continuing the Star Families Christmas Tradition

We are so thankful for each and every one of you for your part in helping make “Star Families” wishes come true. Each year, Village Church families, groups of friends, and Circles look forward to shopping for Star Families. This year, Village Church adopted 100 families and generously donated money to make holiday meals a reality for the Operation Breakthrough families. We are especially grateful for the package loaders, Sara and Gary Gilson, Kim and Dr. Ted Higgins, and Sandee and Greg Smith, who collected the presents with smiles and willing hands. Giving is truly one of the highlights of the Christmas season! Thank you all!

—Marilyn Borel, Ann Colston, and Cindy Whitham, co-chairs
Sunday Evening Taizé Worship
Are you looking for a quiet, contemplative worship experience? Are you wishing for a chance to catch your breath, to take a break from the stress of life? Would you like to set down your burdens, even for just a short while? If so, join us for our Taizé worship service. The service includes simple songs, silence, and scripture. We also share communion together. Taizé worship takes place on the second Sunday of every month. 2015 dates include: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov 8, Dec. 13.

Growing Through Grief
New Series Starts Jan. 7
If you are grieving the death of a loved one, please know you are not alone. In order to support our members walking this difficult journey, the Care and Counseling department offers a five-week class, Growing Through Grief. Join us to learn more about the grieving process, meet others who understand your struggles, and be reminded that God accompanies us through even the hardest of moments. The classes include helpful (optional) reading from Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. The series is offered at no cost and includes your own copy of the book. Registration is required.

The next series runs Jan. 7-Feb. 4, 6:30-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday in Room 124. Please contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or sandy.perry@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

Could you use some fresh ideas for your job search?
This free class will show you how to plan and conduct your job search in today’s job market. Many experts have estimated that up to 80% of today’s open jobs are not being advertised. Do you know how to find these jobs?

We will show you how to find these job openings and how to approach these employers. We will show you the difference between just “looking for a job” and “conducting a planned step-by-step job search”.

If you are not happy with the success of your job search or you know someone who is struggling in their job search, we would love to have you join us.

The Village Church Career Center will start a new four-week class on Jan. 12 (ending on Feb. 2). We will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 232.

Contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or at sandy.perry@villagepres.org to register.

A Prayer for Ephiphany:
There is a time to be born, and it is now
There is a time to be born and a time to die.
And this is a time to be born.
So we turn to you, God of our life,
God of all our years,
God of our beginning.

Our times are in your hand.
Hear us as we pray:
For those of us too much into obedience,
birth us to the freedom of the gospel.
For those of us too much into self-indulgence,
birth us to discipleship in your ministry.
For those of us too much into cynicism,
birth us into the innocence of the Christ child.
For those of us too much into cowardice,
birth us into the courage to stand before
principalities and powers.
For those of us too much into guilt,
birth us into forgiveness worked in your generosity.
For those of us too much into despair,
birth us into the promises you make your people.
For those of us too much into control,
birth us into the vulnerability of the cross.
For those of us too much into victimization,
birth us into the power of Easter.
For those of us too much into fatigue,
birth us into the energy of Pentecost.

We dare pray that you will do for us and among us and through us what is needed for newness.

Give us the power to be receptive,
to take the newness you give,
to move from womb warmth to real life.

We make this prayer not only for ourselves, but
for the church waiting at the edge of life,
for our city waiting for newness,
for your whole creation, with which we yearn in eager longing.

There is a time to be born, and it is now.
We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.
Come be with us now. Amen.

— Walter Brueggemann, from Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth
The Village Choirs (including the Chamber Choir, Alegría Choir, and music interns) were joined by the Village Orchestra for two Tidings of Joy concerts on Dec. 21. It was a delightful afternoon and evening of music, bringing together the many emotions of Christmastime. What a great way to lead up to Christmas Eve!

Second Thursday Recital Jan. 8 Featured Artist: Monty Carter

Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, in the Chapel for a free concert with Monty Carter who will be playing violin and viola accompanied by Mark Ball on piano.

Monty Carter serves as principal violist and concert program annotator for the Saint Joseph Symphony, concertmaster of the Heritage Philharmonic of Jackson County, Missouri, and Baroque violinist in the Kansas City Baroque Consortium. His music compositions have been featured in the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival, in Kansas State High School Activities Association event, and by community orchestras in the Midwest.

Monty teaches string studies at Benedictine College and Northwest Missouri State University.

Monty is married to fellow performing artist and educator, Trilla Ray-Carter, and they reside in Kansas City, Missouri, with their musically tolerant cat, Ruthie.

Sing in the New Year

We begin a new season of singing in Village Church Music Ministry on Jan. 7 & 8. More Love Chorale, a choir that sings in worship only once a month, rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Village Choir, Chamber Choir, and Alegría (a choir for young adults) meet on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. There are no auditions required to participate in these ensembles – and new singers are always warmly welcomed. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Mark Ball, Elisa Bickers, or Matthew Shepard. They will be happy to help you find your place for singing in the new year!
Mission Sewing
Mission Sewing will return on Jan. 6. If you are interested in joining us, we will be in the sewing room from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. every Tuesday. We also need folks who are willing to cut out items at home. Donations of fabric and yarn are always welcome--no fancy fabrics. You can come and go as your time permits. We take a lunch break at noon. Bring your own or visit the Cup. Call Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 for more info.

Naked Spirituality
Longing for a deeper, more authentic faith? Unsure where to start? Join us (fully clothed!) as Women With Spirit reads and discusses *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words*. Author Brian McLaren believes our faith is enriched by living into these words: here, thanks, oh, sorry, help, please, when, no, why, behold, yes and silence. We’ll consider how the experience of our lives intersects with these ideas. Come for comfort, challenge, and good company. Rev. Jenny McDevitt will facilitate the conversation. Thursdays at 10 a.m. beginning Jan. 15. Child care is available.

Page Turners Meeting Jan. 27
For our January meeting, on the fourth Tuesday of the month, we will discuss *The Girl You Left Behind* by Jojo Moyes. Our meetings are at 9:30 a.m. in Room 127. The discussions are interesting even having not read the book, and all are welcome.

Wine and Wonder - Starting Jan. 6
The first Tuesday of each month (beginning in January), Women With Spirit will gather at the home of Rev. Jenny McDevitt at 6:45 p.m. for conversation and reflection. Each month, Jenny will choose a topic prompted by a short article or blog post to spark some initial conversation about life and faith . . . but we’ll leave plenty of time for catching up with each other, too. Wine and non-alcoholic drinks provided; you bring the questions you wonder about. Feel free to bring a snack to share, too. Child care is available at Village Church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with advance reservation.

2015 Visiting Scholar John Bell
“God’s People Find Their Voice” Feb. 20 & 21
John Bell is a hymn writer, author and occasional broadcaster on national radio and television who has been honored by the Royal School of Church Music, the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada, and the University of Glasgow. He’ll present at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2015 at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, and at 9 & 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015 at Village Church. Tickets are available at kauffmancenter.org or at 816-994-7222.
PW Advent Candlelight Dinner
Dec. 2, 2014

More than 300 women gathered in Friendship Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 2, for the Advent Candlelight Dinner. The tables were topped with charming gingerbread churches, decorated by the Advent Committee members. Guests were welcomed by PW Moderator Julie Foster. Natalie and Robin Kistler lit the Advent Candle, and Brenda Beachey gave the devotion.

Chef Emily and her crew prepared a delicious dinner, which was followed by the announcement of the names of three women who will be receiving Honorary Life Memberships: Carla Bock, Charlotte Hall and Susan Latas.

Alison Sneegas Borberg, daughter of Marvie Sneegas, lifted her beautiful voice in song as she performed a medley of Christmas songs – accompanied by her mother.

Cindy Wilcox presented the meditation on the theme, “The Door is Open, Will You Come In?” In addition to sharing some of her family stories, she encouraged those present not only to welcome people to Village Church but to actively invite friends and acquaintances to worship services and other church events.

This memorable evening concluded with the Holy Sacrament of Communion, a very meaningful way to begin the Advent season. It was an amazing time of wonder, fellowship and grace for all who attended.
AMAZING GRACES
wine tasting

Please join us
and meet with old friends and new.

A Wine Aficionado will guide us in the selection
Of some truly delicious, affordable wines.

Wine tasting and hors d’oeuvres
Wednesday, January 28, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Indian Hills Country Club

Your $30 check by Jan. 21, made out to:
Presbyterian Women of Village Church
is your reservation.
Send to: Kathy Collins
4716 West 86th St.
Prairie Village, KS 66207
ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Village University – Spring 2015

You may enroll for all courses online at villagepres.org, by email marianne.weber@villagepres.org, by calling Marianne at 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119.

Upcoming classes include:

**Especially for Women** - Currently this lively class for women of all ages will focus on Marcus Borg's *Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written*. Starting March 1, Especially for Women will turn to the parables with Amy-Jill Levine's newest book, *Short Stories by Jesus*. Rev. Diane Quaintance leads the discussion. 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays, now-May 22. Room 132.

**Great Books Discussion** - If you're interested in reading selections that stimulate your critical thinking, come read and discuss many of the great authors and their ideas which support our western civilization. Books are ordered from The Great Books Foundation. The Great Books Group will welcome you on the first Tuesday of each month. Facilitated by Betty Long. You may contact her at 913-859-0392 or email btlong81@gmail.com for more information. 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3, April 7 and May 5 in Room 124. Child care is not available.

**James Joyce: Ulysses** - James Joyce's *Ulysses* is a novel that has been called “the most prominent landmark in modernist literature," a work where life's complexities are depicted with “unprecedented, and unequalled, linguistic and stylistic virtuosity." Because *Ulysses* is a daunting work, we will use two Village University sessions to discuss it. Twelve weeks will give us time to read the work slowly and carefully, immersing ourselves in its complexity, depth, and artistic coherence. Since there are many variations of the work, it helps to read from the same edition. We will be using the Gabler version: *Ulysses* – ISBN-10: 0394743121. For the first class, please read chapter one. Taught by Kelly Fast and Michael Sanem. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 15-April 30, in Room 232. Class will not meet on Jan. 22, March 5, 12 and 19.

**Essential Oils** - Are you ready for an oil change? Essential oils have been used for thousands of years and for good reason! They are reliable, safe and natural. They are also extremely cost effective! The first week of class we'll discuss what essential oils are, the different grades of oils and how to use them. The second week we'll cover natural solutions to sleep. Week three you will learn about mood management and replacing over-the-counter drugs with essential oils. Each week you will be given a sample of the oils. We will be diffusing oils during class so you can experience the aromatic joy of using essential oils while you learn about them. Taught by Sherry Fritzshall. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 20, 27 and Feb. 3, in Room 127. Participant's cost: $10 (for oil samples).

Highlights of Sunday Morning Offerings for Adults

9:30 -10:30 a.m.

**The Ten Commandments, Part 2** - Are the Ten Commandments just a set of rules or are they a way of life? How does each one call us to reflect on our life and values? What does it mean to love God and our neighbor in a world where violence, greed, and fear threaten our lives, our values, our hearts? Sister Joan Chittister, a renowned biblical scholar, invites us to seek answers to these and other questions in this video-discussion series. Gus Breytspraak facilitates the conversation 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sundays, Jan. 4- Feb. 15, in Rooms 126-127.

**Cloud of Witnesses in Room 15** - In *The Challenge of Jesus*, renowned scholar John Dominic Crossan introduces us to Jesus and the flesh-and-blood people who shaped the world into which he was born in this stimulating video-discussion series. We will meet a Jesus we may not have known before as we explore the dynamic interactions between the Roman Empire and the people of occupied Israel during the time in which he was teaching and acting. Rev. Diane Quaintance will lead the discussion. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 4-Feb. 15, in Room 15.

Beginning on Jan. 22, Reverend Dr. Lonnie H. Lee will lead a six-week study on John Knox and the Scottish Reformation. The study will cover Knox's early years in exile on the continent of Europe, his leadership of the church reform movement in Scotland, and the long struggle of the Scots to preserve the Presbyterian form of church government that Knox helped to implement. Dr. Lee will be using slides from his European travels to the places John Knox lived and worked. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 22-March 29, in Room 15.

10:45 -11:45 a.m.

**Has Jesus Been Misquoted?** - This introduction to Bart Ehrman and his critics will explore whether scribes intentionally changed some New Testament texts related to women, Jews, pagan religions, and competing understandings of Jesus' nature in the earliest centuries. Bart Ehrman argues that did happen in books such as *Misquoting Jesus* and *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture* and again this year in *When Jesus Became God*. " Not so fast" respond some of his Evangelical friends and critics in books, articles and blogs. Taught by Gus Breytspraak, M. Div., Ph.D., longtime Village Church member. Sunday mornings for four weeks beginning Jan. 18 in Rooms 126-127.
The True Meaning of Christmas

The Children’s Christmas play, *The True Meaning of Christmas*, was a delight. A chorus of angels sang sweetly as children explored the various themes of Christmas. Mary and Joseph were there to help tell the beloved story from Luke Chapter 2 as a little shepherd girl watched her tiny little flock and the Wisemen journeyed to see the Christ child. If you missed the play, be sure to check out all the great pictures on the Village Church Kids Facebook page.

Kids’ Kingdom starts a new unit, “Worship with Jesus, Worship Today,” after Epiphany Sunday. We will be learning about the Jewish traditions and compare them to some of our Christian faith traditions.

Club V6 is moving! Starting the first of the new year, 6th Grade Sunday School, also known as Club V6, will meet in Room 302. Signs will be posted to guide kids and parents to the new room.

Diapers in December

Children and Family Ministry sponsored their first ever Diapers in December. Almost 4,000 diapers were collected and donated to the Village Food Pantry. Way to go! If you did not get a chance to donate, look for this new tradition to continue in 2015.

Village Kid’s Day Out Program

The Child Care Department is pleased to offer our Kid’s Day Out program for the 2015/2016 school year. This program is for children ages 2-4 years on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and is in session from Sept. 3, 2015 through May 19, 2016. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where your child can grow and learn. We provide your child with many opportunities to explore and be creative. We have a loving, energetic staff that will make your child's experience a positive one.

Fall enrollment begins Monday, Feb. 2, from 8 a.m.-noon for Village Church members, KDO Alumni siblings, and Village Preschool families. Enrollment for community members is Monday, Feb. 9, from 8 a.m.-noon. Tuition is $110 per month plus a one-time registration fee of $40.

Any questions? Please contact Marjean in the Child Care Department at 913-671-2322.

Giving Thanks by Giving Back

What do 25 turkey baskets, 40 Blessing Socks, 6 fleece blankets and almost 200 PB&J's have in common? They were made by the Village Youth Groups. During the month of November, both the Senior High CHEER (Sunday night Youth Group) and Middle School GPS (Wednesday night Youth Group) spent time learning what service means, why we serve and then put those lessons into practice. This year the VPC Food Pantry received the hand tied fleece blankets and turkey baskets. The PB&J sandwiches and Blessing Socks (thermal long socks stuffed with deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, gloves, anti-bacterial wipes, Kleenex, and a granola snack) were delivered to City Union Mission for distribution. The youth also decorated thank you cards to be used by folks here at Village Church. (If you would like to use these cards, please contact the youth department.) This has been a great experience for all involved and we hope to weave in more service projects through the year.
SESSION MEMBERS

Special thanks to the following 10 elders whose Session term came to an end on Dec. 31, 2014

Janet Baird  Justin Brown  John Hall  Steve Hoover  Stacey Janssen
Kathy Joyce  Amanda Lambright  Mike Manies  Joe Pattison  Carter Stokes (Y)

Please welcome 11 elders who came on to Session on Jan. 4, 2015

Don Baird  Erica Brune  Kevin Butler  Carol Groebe
Kathryn Jones (Y)  Linda Lee  Tony Liu  Donna Martin
David Parks (Y)  Julia Scammahorn  Neil Stewart
Village Commitment

...the Paul Mesner Puppets have given a holiday performance at Village for many years. A beloved tradition, it is always free and open to the public. This year “St. George and the Dragon” delighted the children and their families.

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

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

villagepres.org

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours
10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
6–7:30 p.m. Thursday night
9:30–11:30 a.m. Sat. morning

IN MEMORY
Donald Barnes
Henry “Hank” Danielson
Jim Hammond
Nancy Kendall
Charles Robert “Bob” Rawlings
Judy Williams
POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Nevada Allen
Charles “Hap” Anderson
Roy & Katherine Anderson
Jan & Pete Andrews
Barbara Arthur
Dorothy W & Frank G Barhydt
Alex Bascom
Mac & Lucille Beall
Sally Billingsley
Elaine Billington
Marian Billington
Melissa Trager Bilyeu
Bob Birkenmeier
Matt Boggan, son of Sandy Burdick
Don & Nanci Bramley
Agnes Brewer
Judy Brook
Beulah & Lee Bronson
Jim Bronson
Jack Brown
Virginia Burdick, mother of Bob Burdick
Keith Carlat
Jane Caulfield
Blenche, Jerry & Bill Cerny
Agnes & Andrew Chonko
Greg Colston
Dick Conley
Clifton Couch
Patricia Crawford
Frank Creason
Larry Culbertson
Jack & Ida Curtis
Mark Curtis
Mark Curtis
Christine (Tassy) Deffenbaugh
H H (Hop) Dickenson
Ethel & Bert Dowden
Courtney Drumm
John & Betty Durrie
Julie & Tom O’Connor
Melanie Anderson Wall
Mark & Melissa Anderson
Nancy & Frank Kirtk
The Arther Family
Sally Barhydt & Peter R Karsten
Cindy & Wade Whitham
Ginny & Scott Beall
Andrew & Mary Erin Billingsley
Wilbur Billington
Wilbur Billington
Mary Trager
Elizabeth Birkenmeier
Sandy & Bob Burdick
Nancy D Bramley
Phylas Lose
Ginny & Scott Beall
Jay & Sandi Ediger
Jay & Sandi Ediger
Beverly Brown
Bob & Sandy Burdick
Cindy & Wade Whitham
Dr Joan Caulfield & Dr Alan Warne
Ginny & Scott Beall
The Chonko & McInerney Families
Ann Colston
Betty Conley
Irene Couch & Dee, Lisa & David
Loyd Crawford
K Ann Creason
Nancy Culbertson & Family
Tom & Janet Curtis
Tom & Janet Curtis
Gerald, Kim, Tommy & Molly Rappold &
Emily & Artie Gafford
Diane & Craig Taylor
Polly Dickenson
Bill & Marion Dowden
Jean Drumm
Don & Linda Pierpoint
Tom & Helen Easton
Virginia & Ed Ediger
Dottie Ellenberger
Jack & Gwen Fowler
Lou Ann Frey
Keith & Lois Galleghue
Barbara Gile
Edna & Eugene Goodwin Sr
Eugene Goodwin
Bertha & James Gordon
Virginia Gray
Dottie Harberts
Louise Hart
Charles & Bulah Haynes
Hector Hidalgo
Sarah Susan Hitchcock
Fred Hoener
Karyn Winstead Hoener
Karyn Winstead Hoener
Carol & Phillip Hopkins
Bill Hunt
Beulah & Charles James
Blake V Jones
Charles & Cleda Jones
Chuck Jones
Lois & Elisha Keeler
Roger Ketterman
Don Kimsey
Phil Kline
Phil Kline
Phil Kline
Phil Kline
Phil Kline
J T Lamb
Helen Lamb
Forrest Lowell Langdon
Edith & Earnest Lee
Betty Libby
Christine F Long
Nancy & Jim Easton
Jaye & Sandi Ediger
L K & Shirley Ellenberger
Tom & Janet Curtis
Merle Frey, Miriam, Spencer
& Andrea Brown
Cam Galleyghue
Brad & Carrie Kruse
The Goodwin Family
The Goodwin Family
The Goodwin Family
Jim & Peggy Gray
Glenn Harberts
The Hart Family
Eleanor & Jim Lear
Jim & Sonia Whiteaker
Charles Hitchcock
Richard Hoener
Richard Hoener
Gary & Susan Ihde
Peter & Linda Van Veldhuizen
John & Lois Hunt
Charles & Mollie James
Nalkeyn Jones
Duane & Jackie White
Sally Barhydt & Peter R Karsten
Charles & Mollie James
Romney & Cora Ketterman
Joni Kimsey
Ginny & Scott Beall
Ruthie Kline
The Kids
The Grandkids
The Great Grandkids
Donna Wilson
Donna Wilson
Frances H Robertson
Diane, Duane, Pam & Dayna Lee
Hugh Libby
Diane & Craig Taylor
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![Poinsettia Memorial](image-url)