Tidings of Joy Concert: A “Joyful and Triumphant” Celebration for Cross-Lines Computer Lab

“All Ye Faithful” friends and members joined Village at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, and celebrated the holiday season with the 14th Annual Tidings of Joy Christmas concert. More than 1,500 attended the performances. Proceeds from the concert benefitted a new computer education program at Cross-Lines Community Outreach located in Kansas City, Kansas. As the third largest concert retiring offering in the history of Village, the total amount collected was $8,336.63.

Thank you to the entire Music Ministry team of Mark Ball, Matthew Shepard and Elisa Bickers, Sally Porter, and the 111 members of the Village Choir including Alegria and the young men’s ensemble, 16 members of the string orchestra and all the staff and volunteers who make this beautiful Village Church holiday tradition possible.

With funds from Village Endowment, Village Mission and this concert, Cross-Lines has received more than $31,000 to launch its new computer lab, scheduled to open at the end of January. The lab will help clients like Stacy and John who faced difficult times when Stacy had severe complications during pregnancy. Cross-Lines helped the family find affordable and safe housing and secured more stable employment for them both by using the Cross-Lines computers to search for employment opportunities.

With Village funds to renovate lab space, conduct classes and purchase laptops, Cross-Lines will assist its clients in their job search efforts by bolstering basic computer proficiency, resume writing skills and access to technology. In addition, this program will also empower parents who currently do not have internet access at home to check on their children’s classroom progress and provide them opportunities to access other community resources and information.

Program success will be measured in several ways: initially by the number of individuals that sign up for instruction, total hours of lab time usage, the perceived value in increasing quality of life, access to community resources and best case scenario job placement.

Cross-Lines will utilize sign in sheets to track lab usage, instruction time and volunteer hours.

If you have any questions regarding the Cross-Lines Computer lab, or would like to volunteer to help teach computer classes, call the Village Mission Office at 913-671-2369.
Food Pantry
Feb. 1 is SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY for the Food Pantry. Please watch the ads so you may stock up on cans of hearty soup to bring to church that Sunday. The Pantry gives away over 1,700 cans of soup each month. Warm soup is a winter staple for the Pantry’s clients and you can help! The Clothes Closet sends a big thank you to all who donated and placed 202 wonderful items on the Hat and Mitten Tree at the church. The Closet continues to collect clean, gently used winter coats – all sizes. They go out as soon as they come in.

Ready to Get Your Hands Dirty?
Now that the days are getting longer, children are getting restless and spring is getting closer, it’s time to start thinking about the Village Community Garden at 99th and Mission Road. Village is looking for volunteers to help plant, weed, water and harvest during 2015. Depending upon the weather, we hope to plant some of our cooler weather crops such as spinach and lettuce beginning in March. Garden produce is donated to the Village Food Pantry for our clients.

If you would like to join the community garden team, please call Deborah White in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369 or email deborah.white@villagepres.org. We will then contact you as we get closer to the planting season with a sign-up list of times to help.

Operation Breakthrough Reading Program
We wish to thank all of you who donate books or money throughout the year for the Operation Breakthrough Reading Program at Village Church. Each week during our reading program, the children are given two books to take home for their very own! The spring session of Operation Breakthrough Reading will begin March 25, 2015. This December, the Indian Hills Book Club collected 100 books to donate for the Operation Breakthrough Reading Program as part of their Christmas festivities. Thank you ladies, for sharing the joy of reading with our reading buddies!
**Christmas International House Celebration**

On Dec. 30, Christmas International House concluded its two weeks of activities with an international potluck, candlelighting and farewell celebration. During this two week period, 16 students shared the holidays with host families from Village and Grace Covenant Church. Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Malaysian students attending colleges all across the United States ice skated, square danced, listened to jazz in the Blue Room, bowled, shopped at Oak Park Mall and Legends, ate barbecue and Winstead's and toured the World War I Museum, Harvesters, Roasterie, Steamboat Arabia, Nelson Atkins Museum and Kansas City Zoo. Students repeatedly expressed appreciation for the time spent with host families and amazement for all that Kansas City has to offer visitors.

Beyond exposure to Kansas City culture and amusement, the students repeatedly emphasize the best part of their experience has been the friendships developed with students from other countries and with their American families. According to Christmas International House volunteer coordinator, Judy Miller, “the kids tell us that we have changed their perceptions of America in a good way, and they remain connected with us in the future with plans to keep in touch.”

Thank you to all the families and organizers of this Village holiday tradition of 12 years. This cultural exchange would not be possible without you opening up your homes and hearts to these students. If you are interested in volunteering as a host family in 2015, please email Judy Miller at judy.miller@kcpl.com. One week and two week hosting options are available and it is a great cultural exchange opportunity for families with children.
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. Call or email Stacy at 913-671-2334 or stacy.fischer@villagepres.org for a reservation.

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

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.

Date Nights - Please join us for a Date Night with your spouse. We will begin with a 30-minute discussion each evening on a topic to help you strengthen your marriage, and then couples will be free to leave on their own for some time away for dinner and discussion. The topics will cover family of origin, toolbox for marriage and growth planning. The event will begin at Village Church at 5:30 p.m. and will end by 8 p.m. Child care is available with an advance reservation. The deadline to make a reservation is Monday, Jan. 26. Please contact Pam Southerland at pam.southerland@villagepres.org or 913-671-2322 to make a child care reservation. Led by Clint and Kim Carter. 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11 & 25, in Room 233. Register for one, two or three nights.

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.

Village Talk - 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 next guest is David von Drehle, editor-at-large of Time Magazine. At 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, he will speak on “History, A Way of Understanding the Present.” At Time, Von Drehle has covered politics, breaking news and the Supreme Court since 2007. He is the author of four books, including Abraham Lincoln and America’s Most Perilous Year, published in 2012, and Triangle: The Fire That Changed America.

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

Beginner Classes: 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 24, March 3, 10 & 17; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 25, March 4, 11 & 18
Call or email Stacy at 913-671-2334 or stacy.fischer@villagepres.org to sign up for classes.
Sunday Evening
Taizé Worship Feb. 8

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 at 5 p.m. in the Chapel on the second Sunday of every month: Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13.

Poinsettias Spread Joy for Christmas

This year 162 poinsettias were delivered to 29 different zip codes, 49 facilities, 43 private homes, and 2 hospitals. As you can imagine, this is a logistically difficult ministry, but through the kindness of our friends and members and the expert facilitation of long-standing coordinator Ruthie Kline, it was accomplished with smiles and much gratitude from the recipients. This is truly a gift that comes straight from the hands of our Village community to those who could not be with us to celebrate the season.

As Time Passes – Prayer

0 Lord, the new year is upon us.
Some of us greet it – embrace it gladly,
while others may find it fearful and worrisome.
We are putting the past behind us . . . or at least trying to do so.
So much has happened as the days have gone by;
So much of hurt and happiness,
of loss and gain,
of hope and fear.

There were sorrows that shook us hard.
There were surprises that gladdened our hearts.
As we look back we realize how different life is today than it was then.
We are no longer who we were . . .
for better or for worse.
But through it all you have remained faithful.
For that we thank you.

Now a new year is here.
Now we have a whole year
to grow in love or to fall out of love,
to turn our hands toward service or to turn away in idleness,
to rejoice in your gracious goodness or to take each day for granted,
thereby missing out on miracles – ordinary and extraordinary.

In the coming days we want to do well by you and by others.
We want this year to be the year when we are the best we've ever been.
You offer us that opportunity.
Help us make it happen.

Yes, a new year is upon us.
While we may not know what events are ahead,
may we be mindful that you will meet us with the dawning of every tomorrow.
For that we thank you.

Annual Meeting Of The Congregation Sunday, Feb. 1

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Feb. 1. The meeting will include presentation of the 2015 budget and sharing of plans for 2015.
2nd Thursday Recital Feb. 12

Featured Artist: Devin D. Burton, Baritone

Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in the Chapel for a free 30-minute recital with baritone Devin Burton. Mark Ball will accompany on piano. Devin will sing music by African-American composers, showcasing the struggle and determination of the African-American Spirit.

Devin is a second year graduate student of the UMKC Conservatory, where he studies with tenor Vinson Cole, as well as a second year Music Ministry Intern with Village Presbyterian Church. Devin is pursuing a Master of Music in Vocal Performance with an emphasis in opera performance.

A native of Hartselle, Alabama, Devin completed his Bachelor of Music in vocal performance at the University of Montevallo where he studied with tenor Dr. Roderick George. Burton’s recent engagements include Guglielmo (Così fan tutte) and Harry Easter (Street Scene) with UMKC opera, Aeneas (Dido and Aeneas) with the Kansas City Baroque Consortium as well as Adam in Haydn’s Die Schöpfung (The Creation) with Village Presbyterian Church at Helzberg Hall. He is currently preparing the role of John Brooke (Little Women) as well as a second concert performance with Village Church at Helzberg Hall as the baritone soloist for Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Dona nobis pacem on April 26.

Bach Aria Soloists Concert at Village Feb. 7

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, Village will host the Bach Aria Soloists, a local chamber music group that performs the music of Bach and those inspired by him. This special concert will feature some of Village’s favorite musical guests, including soprano Sarah Tannehill Anderson and guitarist Beau Bledsoe, as well as famed violinist Elizabeth Suh Lane and Village’s Principal Organist Elisa Bickers. The program will include dramatic French Baroque organ music, a Bach partita “re-written” for violin and guitar, BAS’ own La Folia Variations, and the world premiere of “Dialogue,” by 2013 Guggenheim Award winner Narong Prangcharoen, commissioned to celebrate the Bach Aria Soloists’ 15th Anniversary. Tickets can be purchased at bachariasoloists.com.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert Feb. 8

The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present a free concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, in the Sanctuary. This concert will feature the complete three movement transcription of Howard Hanson’s Symphony No. 2 “Romantic.” The first movement of this Symphony has been recently transcribed by Dr. Ryan Woodhouse, and the other two movement transcriptions have been composed by Norman Goldberg and Frances McBeth. This complete work will receive its premier at this concert. The program also includes Tchaikovsky’s Fantasy Overture: Romeo and Juliet, Richard Wagner’s Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral from Lohengrin, and a new work by Julie Giroux, Italian Rhapsody. Call 913-671-2344 for more information.
**Wine and Wonder**

On Feb. 3, 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. Wine and Wonder is held on the first Tuesday of the month.

**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.

**Naked Spiritually WWS Book Study and Discussion**

The Women With Spirit Book Study with Rev. Jenny McDevitt meets at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays in Room 206. The group is reading and discussing *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words* by Brian McLaren. Child care is available with advance reservation.

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**Women With Spirit Wine Exchange Feb. 6**

Join us at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the home of Berent and Shelby Krumm (3208 W. 92nd St. Leawood, KS 66206). Bring two identical bottles of wine - one to share and one to swap. Go home with a new bottle to try. Appetizers will be served. RSVP to Shelby Krumm at shelbykrumm@yahoo.com. Call Pam at 913-671-2352 for child care before Jan. 30. Child care is provided from 6-9 p.m.

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**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
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
Visiting Scholar Event | Feb. 20-21, 2015

God’s People Find Their Voice
John L. Bell
Hymn-Writer • Church of Scotland Minister • Iona Community Member

Friday, Feb. 20 — Helzberg Hall: Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
7 p.m. “God’s People Find Their Voice”
Saturday, Feb. 21 — Village Presbyterian Church
9 a.m. “Gifts of the Global Church”
10:30 a.m. “Rediscovering the Psalms”

Ticket Prices: $35 for both days, $21 for Friday night and $14 for Saturday*
Tickets are available by calling the box office at 816-994-7222 or online at www.Kauffmancenter.org.
*A surcharge of $6 per ticket, by the Kauffman Center, is included in these ticket prices.

“While people often forget what they hear preached, they remember what they sing.”
—I wanted to . . . “find some new way of speaking about God to the people or about the experience of the people to God.”

“It seemed that most people were . . . using popular choruses, which to my mind represent only a fraction of God and a fraction of human experience.”
—John Bell

Sponsored by: Presbyterian Women of Village Presbyterian Church

For more information: 913-671-2381 or visitingscholar@villagepres.org

Meneilly Society

Building your Legacy...

Planning for the future is not about “things” but about values. By remembering Village Church Endowment Trust in your estate plan, you can guarantee your continued support in helping to feed the hungry, minister to the sick here and abroad, care for and educate our children and support one’s walk in their faith in God.

Remember, your will or trust is not so much a plan for what happens after you are gone, but more about a testament of how you live today.

If you have remembered the Village Church Endowment Trust in your estate plan, please let us know and become a member of the Meneilly Society.

Contact Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325 with any questions.
Village University – Spring 2015
Enroll for courses 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:

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).

Jerusalem: An Ancient City in a Modern World - Rev. Dwight Tawney shares his knowledge acquired on archeological visits to the city of Jerusalem, claimed by three religion traditions – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. A Lunch and Learn class from noon-1:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, in Room 132. Bring your own lunch from home or purchase from the Village Cup. Drinks will be provided. Child care is not available.

Keeping Kids Safe Online - Learn more about possible dangers of internet usage, practical safety tips and tools and the cybercrime reporting process. This presentation covers electronic safety concepts, including gaming systems, music devices and other wireless/internet communication. Presentation designed by Sunflower House, Overland Park Police Department and FBI Cyber Crime Task Force. This program is appropriate for adults only. This training is approved for 2 clock hours, KDH&E. Taught by Detective Marcus Fizer. 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Room 132.

Highlights of Sunday Morning Offerings for Adults

9:30 -10:30 a.m.

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

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 Breyspraak facilitates the conversation 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sundays, now through 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 now through Feb. 15, in Room 15.

Beginning now, 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. 25-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 Breyspraak, M. Div., Ph.D., longtime Village Church member. Sunday mornings Jan. 25 through Feb. 8 in Rooms 126-127.
Souper Bowl of Caring: Tackle hunger

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than $98 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Throughout January, children and their families are encouraged to bring cans of soup to Kids’ Kingdom and Preschool Church School. This mission project shows kids they can make a positive difference in the world.

Summer at Village Church

It may be cold outside today, but it is almost time to sign up for all the summer fun at Village! Members will be allowed to sign-up on Monday, March 2, for Creations by Kids classes (beginning the first week of June through the second week of July), Kid’s Day Out classes (Wednesdays starting June 3), Music Camp (afternoons June 22-26), Vacation Bible School (July 13-17) and Traveling Day Camp (July 27-31). Community sign up is March 9. Watch for our summer brochure mailed to homes in a few weeks.

Heartland Center Overnight Camps

It’s time to start thinking about overnight summer camp for kids who have completed 2nd grade and older.

There is nothing quite like being on an “island”, away from the busy outside world, where kids build relationships with new and old friends and discover new things about their faith and themselves. In the words of a very wise camper, “God is everywhere, but at camp, I just listen better.”

Camp Heartland is where relationships are made and we believe God changes lives through them. You’ll have a chance to hang out with new people, connect with old friends, and grow stronger in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Come spend a week at one of the best camps around!

For more information, visit http://www.heartlandcenter.org/camps/overnight-camps/

Village Kid’s Day Out Program Fall 2015 Enrollment

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.
Because of your generosity…

…during 2014 Village Church provided emergency assistance to help 638 households with rent and/or utilities in the Kansas City area. More than 1,726 individuals, which include 715 children, were given a helping hand.

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

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

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY - If weather is predicted to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. service will be cancelled.