



The Village Church *Good News* is published twice a month (printed once a month, online only mid-month) for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to: the Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Let me introduce you to John Bell - 2015 Visiting Scholar

By Rev. Diane Quaintance

When you received a postcard about this year's Visiting Scholar event sponsored by Village Church's Presbyterian Women, you may have wondered, "Who is John Bell?" It was Rev. Meg McLaughlin who first invited John Bell to come to Village Church. She had met him at a conference in Montreat, North Carolina and extended an invitation on the spot. Although I have never met him, what I know is that he is a deeply Christian man, a renowned preacher and teacher, a gifted hymn writer and a winsome storyteller.



Elisa Bickers presents John Bell a gift from Village Church at a Montreat workshop in October 2010.

John Bell is a Deeply Spiritual Man

John was born, and educated, and still lives in Scotland. He is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and in a member/worker of the Iona Community in Glasgow. Iona is an ecumenical community dedicated to peace and justice. John brings both joy and power to sharing the love of God and living as a follower of Jesus.

John Bell is a Renowned Preacher and Teacher

He is a sought-after lecturer, traveling to Europe, North America, Australasia and South Africa 8-9 months a year. In 2013 he received the Community of Christ's International Peace Award. The award is among the top 20 peacemaking awards in the world. He has been a frequent speaker at Presbyterian gatherings.

John Bell is a Gifted Hymn Writer

His childhood dream was to be a music teacher and he loves the music of the church. He says "people often forget what they hear preached, but they remember

what they sing, and what we sing shapes what we believe. With his colleagues, John has written many hymns; 18 of them are in our new hymnal. One journalist, Steve Mathonnet-Venderwell, writes, "It is the lyrics by John Bell that capture, or better yet, expand, edify and truly bless my vision of Jesus."

John Bell is a Winsome Storyteller

John's style is inviting, gentle, humorous, light-hearted, both tactful and irreverent. "He just can't keep from singing," says *The Christian Century*. "When he met with our staff,

he even taught us a song." With his Scottish brogue and down-to-earth demeanor, he engages everyone, and has taught new songs to a handful of folks in a retirement community and to 10,000 people at a faith and justice festival. "Some of us sing to tell stories, and some of us don't sing because someone once told us we can't," he says. *The Christian Century* staff reports that "he could teach rocks to sing."

John Bell doesn't have a mobile phone, driving license, camera, iPod, or wife. He has never traced his family origins, played a guitar, or eaten a Big Mac. But he will inspire and delight you, and touch the heart of your faith.

2015 Visiting Scholar Event

Friday, Feb. 20 Helzberg Hall: Kauffman Center
7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21 Village Church
9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tickets are available by calling the Kauffman Center box office at 816-994-7222 or online at Kauffmancenter.org.

Many Thanks from the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is so grateful for the wonderful response to the First Food Drive of 2015 on "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!" Your generosity will serve many hungry, appreciative clients of the Pantry.

This week the Pantry's request is for all varieties of whole grain cereal. Each household receives a minimum of one box of cereal a month. Please throw an extra one in your cart when you shop and drop it off at church.

Global Missions Offering

This Sunday, Feb. 8, Village will collect offerings for Global Mission. The proceeds help support the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership, which provides health care services to Haitian cane cutters and their families via partnership with the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic; and the youth spring break international mission project.

Save-the-Date Village Golf Classic

This year marks the 11th Annual Village Golf Classic benefiting the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership. Join us for this exciting event to continue our support for the men, women, and children in the bayetes of La Romana. Village Church has served La Romana for the past 20 years, and we continue to send five teams each year to help meet the medical, nutritional and educational needs of our Haitian and Dominican brothers and sisters. This sustaining relationship is possible only because of loyal donors like you.

Join us Monday, May 11, at the Country Club of Leawood, beginning at 1 p.m. You may donate as a non-golfer, silent drive donor, player or sponsor. Contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, at andrea.huffman@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390 for questions.

The auction and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 8, at a location to be announced later. Details are still being finalized, but it is sure to be a night filled with fellowship, awesome food and fantastic auction items!

Tidings of Joy Concert: a "Joyful and Triumphant" Celebration for Cross-Lines Computer Lab

On Jan. 13, Mark Ball presented Cross-Lines Community Outreach Executive Director Susila Jones a check for \$8,336.63 from the retiring offering collected at the Tidings of Joy concerts. The proceeds are benefitting a new computer education program at Cross-Lines Community Outreach located in Kansas City, Kansas.

This marks the third largest concert retiring offering in the history of Village Church.



Village Families Help with "Stop Hunger Now" Meal Packaging

On Saturday, Jan. 10, several families from Village Church met at the Stop Hunger Now headquarters in Overland Park and packaged 3,672 meals to be shipped to the hungry all over the world. Children and parents worked tirelessly to support the organization's vision of a world without hunger. This event provided a wonderful and fun opportunity to teach our children the importance of caring for others in need.

Stop Hunger Now perfected the assembly process that combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packets. Each meal costs only 29¢. The food stores easily, has a shelf-life of two years and transports quickly. Stop Hunger Now uses volunteers to package meals resulting in an extremely cost-effective operation while, at the same time, increasing awareness of global hunger and food insecurity issues across the world.



We will be having a second food packing morning on Saturday, Feb. 28. If you would like to join us for the 10 or 11 a.m. shift, please contact Elizabeth Nolen at elizabeth.nolen@villagepres.org.

Wednesday Nights @ Village FEBRUARY 2015

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.

- Feb. 4** - Veggie or beef tacos with Mexican rice
- Feb. 11** - Beef pot roast, roasted potatoes & root veggies, cherry cobbler
- Feb. 18** - Teriyaki salmon fillets, mac/cheese
- Feb. 25** - Tuna/noodle casserole, chicken cacciatore



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. 6:30-8 p.m. in the Chapel.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Chapel - David von Drehle, editor-at-large, *Time Magazine* 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*.

The Ten Commandments: Laws of the Heart, Part 2 - Are the 10 Commandments just a set of rules or 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 and fear threaten our lives, values, and our hearts? Sister Joan Chittister, a renowned biblical scholar, invites us to seek answers to questions in this video-series. Gus Breytspreek facilitates conversation 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Room 232.

John Knox and the Scottish Reformation - Rev. Dr. Lonnie H. Lee will lead a 6-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 share slides from his European travels. 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25- April 1, in Room 127.

Lenten Study: Heaven and Hell - What happens to us after we die? The perennial questions of life after death have long captivated Christians and people of other faiths, from arguments Jesus had with the scribes about resurrection to recent evangelical preachers who have been excoriated for rejecting the idea of hell. In this class, we'll examine the history, theology, biblical resources and cultural representations of heaven and hell. We'll talk about what our own tradition has proclaimed about where we go when we die. We'll ask what our views on the afterlife say about God... and about us. Taught by Rev. Brian Ellison. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25-March 25, in Room 132.

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 "goodbye." 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. Wednesday, Feb. 4 & 11, and 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, in Room 127.

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

Exciting 2015 Tours for Village Church and Friends

Summer in Scandinavia: July 30-Aug. 11 in Denmark and Norway with early option to Stockholm, Sweden July 27-30.

Christmas Markets of Germany: Dec. 3-13 Visiting magical towns in Bavaria along the Romantic Road and where the tradition of Christkindlesmarkts began.

Please come to a tour meeting to learn more at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, in Rooms 132 & 133. If you cannot attend, please contact Lisa Ball at LisaBallTravelDesign.com.



COMPUTER MINISTRY

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.

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.

HELPING HANDS — because everyone needs a little help now and then

We know the importance of showing up at the hospital, listening gently when someone is struggling, making a phone call to stay connected, and sharing a prayer in the midst of it all. However, we also know the importance of showing up with rakes and leaf bags, changing a burned-out light bulb, and dropping off a home-cooked meal after a hospitalization. These activities are not only helpful, they are holy. They remind us that we are a community, and that we support each other as much as we can, whenever needs arise.

We are able to provide short-term assistance with three broad categories of need:

Household Help: specific tasks around the home such as occasional yard work, small home repair or maintenance work, moving a piece of furniture, etc.

Meals: during an illness, while recovering, after welcoming a new baby, or other life events that throw

your schedule off track, let volunteers provide a meal you don't have to prepare for or clean up after.

Transportation: if you need help running a short errand or getting to a medical appointment, let a volunteer help get you where you need to go.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: As with any ministry, this effort is only as strong as the volunteers behind it. We can use your helping hands and your willing heart whether you have one day a week or one hour a month to share. Any variety of skill level is welcomed -- you will self-select your own projects. Contact Sandy Perry at sandy.perry@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327 to sign up.

WE WANT TO HELP YOU: If you have a need that might be met through Helping Hands, contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jenny.mcdevitt@villagepres.org or 913-671-2367.

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Did you notice?

During the Now & Tomorrow campaign we talked about annual giving - stewardship, but we used different words. Did you notice? Stewardship is now referred to as Village Commitment. The committee chose Village Commitment after many thoughtful discussions because it reflects your faithful and heartfelt commitment to supporting the missions and ministries of Village Church.

— Your Village Commitment Committee

Radio Broadcast and Livestream Interruption

Many of you know that our 9:30 a.m. worship service did not broadcast on 1660 AM on Sunday, Jan. 18, or Sunday, Jan. 25. IT director Tom Walters discovered the radio broadcast transmission problem was related to a circuit problem with AT&T. AT&T has replaced a control module, hopefully resolving the radio transmission issue. Some of you have called or emailed that you've experienced problems with our live streaming of worship services. Please email tom.walters@villagepres.org or Ron Patton at ron.patton@villagepres.org with details of what troubles you may be having or call him at 913-671-2382 Monday through Thursday. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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 tutti*) 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 Prangcharoan, commissioned to celebrate the Bach Aria Soloists' 15th Anniversary. Tickets can be purchased at bachariosoists.com.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, in the Village Sanctuary

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.

The Rule of Love and Fossil Fuels • Global Divestment Day, Sunday, Feb. 15

John Calvin wrote, "We are the stewards of everything God has conferred on us.... The only right stewardship is that which is tested by the rule of love."

The greatest threat to humanity today is climate change, and the populations most threatened by environmental catastrophe are the world's poorest. We've seen the destruction of polar habitats in the Arctic Circle. With melting ice caps, sea levels, especially around poor island nations, are rising, threatening extinction.



Being part of the solution, practicing right stewardship, is more complicated now than toting recyclables to the street or buying a Prius. Individual action is not enough. We must demand action from our legislators and from fossil fuel companies themselves. In conjunction with the current study by PC(USA) on fossil fuel divestment, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) is participating in a global education effort, asking churches, their foundations and individuals to consider divesting from all fossil fuels within five years. Divestment on a global scale will revoke the moral license which shareholders grant fossil fuel companies to profit in ways known to be destructive to the planet and its most vulnerable populations.

After all services on Sunday, Feb.15, EAC members and others will be in Friendship Hall with educational materials, ready to answer questions about fossil fuel divestment. We encourage your prayerful consideration of this issue.

Contact Nicola Juricak at nicolajuricak@yahoo.com if you have any questions or concerns.

"They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Isaiah 11:9

MUSIC MINISTRY ON THE MOVE



Our entire Music Ministry team has moved offices due to construction of the new Welcome Center and Sanctuary renovations. Music Director Mark Ball's office is now in Room 118B (Elizabeth Nolen's old office), Sally Porter is now in Room 123 next to the Copy Center. Offices for Elisa Bickers and Matthew Shepard are now just off the Youth Ministry offices on third floor. Jenny Hull will share Sally's office on Tuesdays when she spends her day at Village. Elizabeth Nolen's office has been relocated to the Business Office Suite. All phone numbers and emails remain the same. Thank you for your patience during our construction phase.

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 Feb. 24

Our book for discussion in February is *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan. It covers a time in the life of Robert Louis Stevenson and his wife. Our meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 24, in Room 127. All are welcome. Having read the book or not, we believe the discussion will be found interesting.

**Naked Spirituality
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.

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.

Women Of Wisdom Lunch

Mark your calendars for noon Wednesday, Feb. 18, and join Women of Wisdom for lunch at O'Neill's Restaurant, 95th and Mission Road in Overland Park. We will be seated in a private area in this casual, friendly restaurant where a wide variety of moderately priced menu selections are offered. Reservations may be called or emailed to Diane Lee at 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net by Monday, Feb. 16.

Presbyterian Women Purpose

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

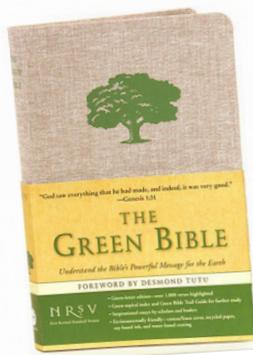
- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study
- To support the mission of the church worldwide
- To work for justice and peace



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Gift of Green Bibles

Since 2009, the Environmental Action Committee has given Green Bibles to past and present staff members of Village Church to raise their consciousness about the theology of earth care and eco-justice. This Christmas, Green Bibles were given to Rev. Zach Walker, Michelle Phillips, Dr. Elisa Bickers, Marianne Weber, Deborah White and Laura Davis, making a total of 23 recipients over the years.



N.T. Wright, Barbara Brown Taylor, Brian McLaren, Matthew Sleeth, Pope John Paul II and Wendell Berry, as well as other earth care resources.

It is meant to equip and encourage readers to see God's vision for Creation and help them engage in the work of healing and sustaining it. EAC's hope is that recipients can read the scriptures anew and discover how caring for the earth is not only a calling, but also a lifestyle.

Providing meaning and hope for humanity's role in creating a just and sustainable world, the Green Bible has been endorsed by scholars and leaders of both the religious and environmental communities. It has been produced using a cotton/linen cover, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified 100% recycled paper and soy-based ink.

**Celebration of Faithful Women
 “What’s In Your Pocketbook?” • March 28, 2015**

Presbyterian Women are planning the annual luncheon to celebrate the gifts of all women at Village Church to be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, in Friendship Hall. We will honor Carla Bock, Charlotte Hall and Susie Latas as PW Honorary Lifetime Members. Our engaging guest speaker is Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist and associate director of music at Village Church.

Elisa also serves as the lead musician for The Gathering service at Village Presbyterian Church. She is the harpsichordist for the Bach Aria Soloists, a Kansas City Chamber music group devoted to the music of Bach and those inspired by him. She has traveled around the country and abroad to perform and compete as an organist. Elisa has also served on the faculties of Washburn University and the UMKC Conservatory, teaching organ, harpsichord and organ literature.



The drawing of the pink purse is by art teacher Abbey Graham Thomas, Vicki Graham’s daughter.

growing spiritually, working for justice and peace and emerging as a new creation in Jesus Christ.

2015 Honorees:

Carla Bock began her journey at Village Church 25 years ago when she joined on Palm Sunday. She has been involved in a variety of activities: PW Circle 7 treasurer, chairman of several committees including Care and Counseling Committee, the Celebration Service and the Adult Ministry Committee; volunteer for the Memorial Guild, Interfaith Hospitality, and Wednesday night dinners. She was on the initial steering committees for the PW Operation Breakthrough Reading Program (formerly St. Vincent) and the Women of Wisdom stage group. She is also ordained as a deacon, an elder and a Stephen Minister. Dear to her heart is her weekly engagement as Food Pantry volunteer.



Charlotte Hall is ordained as a deacon and elder, is co-leader of a Core Connections small group, has chaired the Missions and Nominating Committees, and served as a member of the Stewardship and PW Visiting Scholar Committees. Her community work includes: membership of the Front Porch Alliance Board, assisting with Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network, PTA president for Ridgeview Elementary and Shawnee Mission East, and advisory planning chair for the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.



Susie Latas joined Village Church 47 years ago. Her involvement at Village Church includes: being ordained as a deacon, an elder, a member of Session, chair of the Sacristy and Worship and Music Committees, teacher of new members class, adult education classes and Vacation Bible School, and choir member (both Bell Choir and More Love Chorale). She is also currently a weekly volunteer at Village Food Pantry and a member of the Associate Pastoral Nominating Committee.



Elisa met her husband, Rob, at Texas Christian University. Rob is a history teacher at Shawnee Mission East High School. They live in Overland Park with their two-year-old daughter, Isabel, and their black cat, Friday. Elisa enjoys gardening, home canning and listening to music of all kinds.

Elisa will speak to a theme of “What’s in Your Pocketbook?” She shares a preview of her talk. “As far as I have observed, it seems that a common state of being for many women is ‘over-scheduled-under-nourished.’ Run, run, run... Go, go, go! There’ll be plenty of time to care for yourself LATER, after everything ELSE has been achieved and over-achieved. What is the source of this crazy philosophy, and how it is that it has such a hold on us? We’re going to dig into our actual and metaphorical pocketbooks, and sort through all the stuff in there. My bet is this: we could lighten our loads quite a lot when we tune out the world’s confusing messages and instead focus on what God hopes for us.”

Celebration of Faithful Women will be an inspirational day of fellowship, laughter and joy. We hope that you plan to join us!

Honorary Lifetime Members embody the mission of Presbyterian Women; building an inclusive community,

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:

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, KDHE. Taught by Detective Marcus Fizer. 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Room 132.



Organizing 101 - "I'm overwhelmed!" "Organized? I used to be." Is that you? Professional Organizer Gracie Luce will give tips on maximizing your space, de-cluttering and time management. She will bring clues on beginning your day with an idea list to ending your day with a good sigh of accomplishment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Room 127.

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.

Village Forum in Rooms 126-127

The Ten Commandments, Part 2 - Are the Ten Commandments just a set of rules or are they a way of life? 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.

Lenten Study: Heaven and Hell - In this class, we'll examine the history, theology, biblical resources and cultural representations of heaven and hell. We'll talk about what our own tradition has proclaimed about where we go when we die and how those views have evolved as the world has changed. We'll ask what our views on the afterlife say about God ... and about us. Taught by Rev. Brian Ellison at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 22-March 29, in Rooms 126-127.

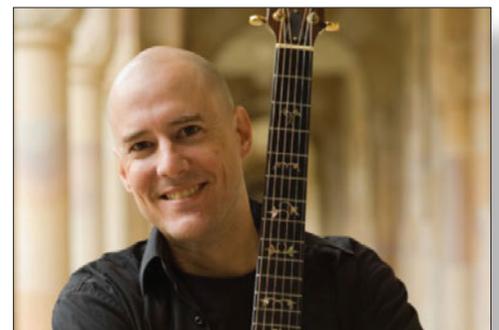
Cloud of Witnesses

John Knox and the Scottish Reformation - Rev. Dr. Lonnie 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. 9:30 a.m. Feb. 22-March 29, in Room 232.

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. Saturday morning, he will lead conversation based on his latest book, *Worldchanging 101: Confronting the Myth of Powerlessness*, and help us explore the ways all of us can make a difference every day. David is well known around the Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina.



6th Grade “Club V6” Service Opportunity

From noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, 6th graders will gather to share a yummy pizza meal together. When the dishes are cleared, kids will make and decorate Easter cards for congregation members who are no longer able to get out and about.

Village Moms Today!

Village Moms is trying a new thing starting today. We will still gather the first Tuesday of every month at the same time, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. What’s new is our monthly programs will consist of Story Time, finger plays, songs and movement activities in the Children’s Library and crafts in Room 203. Themes vary month to month. For more information email Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2355.

**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, for children ages 2-4 years, is 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.

**Setting the Table Communion Education
Class 3rd through 5th grade**

Celebrating Communion is much like sitting around the table for a family meal. All are invited. We invite children from 3rd through 5th grade who are interested in attending a class to learn about this very important feast of thanksgiving. The class consists of two sessions; in the first session, we’ll explore the meaning of the Lord’s Supper and in the second session, children will get to take part in the Maundy Thursday service and receive communion. Mark your calendars for 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 26 & April 2.



**Meneilly Center Completion Open House
5:30-7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23**

This year, we will fulfill our promise to our neighbors at 99th & Mission by completing the Meneilly Center for Mission campus with the construction of a new Child and Family Development Center.

You are invited to a Meneilly Center Completion Open House from 5:30-7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, at the Tillotson Building, home of the Village Food Pantry. Neighbors surrounding the Meneilly Center and parents of our children at the Child and Family Development Center have also been invited.

You’ll have the chance to see our building plans for the new child care center and community multi-purpose areas; learn about its environmentally-friendly, sustainability features from our Environmental Action Committee and more. Rev. Tom Are will give welcoming comments at 6 p.m. We hope to see you there!

New Little Village One

Join Children and Family Ministry in welcoming the following little one born recently: Elizabeth Berrigan Hennessy (Cara and Nick Hennessy, parents). A rose will be placed on the communion table Feb. 15 in honor of her birth.

**Annual Youth Chili Cook-Off
Sunday, Feb. 22**

This year the middle school and high school youth will again host their Chili Cook-Off from 5:30-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, in Friendship Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as we sample and vote on the best chili across a variety of categories including traditional beef, vegetarian, spiciest, and other. The youth band and the Village Voices will be on hand to entertain and we will also have a variety of desserts. The dinner is only \$10 and all proceeds go toward youth mission trips in 2015. Tickets are on sale now and are available on Sunday mornings in Friendship Hall, or contact Rev. Zach Walker in the Youth Office (zach.walker@villagepres.org)





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PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT KC,MO

Because of your generosity...



... about 71 elementary-age children attend Kids' Kingdom each Sunday morning. They rotate through 10 different experiential learning opportunities where they have fun while learning about the bible and God's love.

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

Theodora "Teddy" Faber
Doris Harper
John Hocker
Marjorie Hodges
Hazel "Hayes" Hoener
Lynn Hollyman
Theodore "Ted" Honig
Eugene May

A Sign of Change - From Priscilla H Wilson's World

A blog by long time Village member Priscilla H Wilson

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015 and the Village Presbyterian Church steeple is scheduled to be lowered to the ground. The big crane arrives about 8:15 a.m. As time passes various folks come from the church to stand on the sidewalk across the street. None of us are engineers so we state a lot of, "maybe they are..."; "do you suppose..."; "it looks like...."

This goes on for several hours as we watch a large strap guided to a hard-hatted workman (or 2 or 3) inside the steeple. More crowbar loosening of flashing. More sawing and pounding can be heard from inside. By 11:45 most of us have wandered off to meetings, appointments, a cup of coffee, or lunch.

I am sitting in my car sipping the welcomed hot coffee when I look out my windshield. "Oh no," I yell to myself as I see the crane slowly begin to move. I leap out of the car. Camera and tripod swing in the air. I struggle to grab some shots. As the steeple slowly descends it resembles a feather drifting slowly on the air toward the ground. It is all over before I can conjure up a rational thought.



Why did I spend so many hours hoping to catch this moment?

Long ago (late 1950s) Rodney [Priscilla's late husband] and I stood on the lawn of the Norwood Park Presbyterian Church in northwest Chicago. We watched as the steeple came down from an old white wooden church. Subsequent weeks saw that whole building removed and replaced with a colonial red brick building. These many years later that church is closed.

That church was important to us in our early married life. This church has been (and is) important in our later married life. Somehow watching this steeple being lowered to the ground was a thread tying the two ends of our lives together.

This morning represented the vitality and hope for the future of the church. Who knows what the future holds. Change is for sure and I wanted to be a part of this one step. This event symbolized for me our understanding of the call to respond in mission and service on behalf of the future.

Printed with permission from Priscilla H Wilson



Priscilla is pictured here with Village staff and church members waiting for the top section of the steeple to descend.



Rev. Tom Are and Rev. Dwight Tawney await the steeple move.

The Village Church steeple came down in three sections on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015.



Photo by Kevin Engelken of Pearce Construction

Photo by Rev. Dwight Tawney



The Village steeple came down for the first time in 1955 when it was reset on the new Sanctuary building.



Photos by Lori Locke

