A Joyful Gift from Village Church to the Thwake Village Partnership

On Jan. 21, 2016, Mark Ball, director of music and Andrea Huffman, director of international mission (left), presented Rev. Dr. David Nzioka a check for $9,653.60 to benefit the Heartland Presbytery Thwake Village Partnership. The check is the total retiring offering collected from the Dec. 20, 2015 Tidings of Joy concerts. Thank you for your generosity to the Thwake Village Partnership.

Life in Thwake, Kenya has changed dramatically over the past few years. Villagers were accustomed to walking miles to the river to collect water, repeating this journey several times each day. Schools were functioning, but education was weakened by a lack of books and desks. Health care was non-existent with people having to walk for hours to other villages in their distress and hoping someone there could help them.

All of that changed when Rev. Dr. David Nzioka, pastor of Olathe’s Neema Community Church who was born and raised in Thwake, moved to Kansas City to earn his doctorate and began working as a pastoral intern for Village Church. He encouraged Village Church and the Heartland Presbytery to get involved in his small hometown, believing that real change could come from such a relationship. Churches from across the Heartland pulled together resources, funds, and volunteers, and under David Nzioka’s leadership, they began working in partnership with Thwake.

The mission, now officially called the Thwake Village Partnership, has been supported by the Heartland Presbytery and especially by Village Church for more than five years. “Such support has been invaluable, creating incredible change in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Thwake,” said Rev. Dr. David Nzioka.

The most significant of these changes has come from the building of a Health Clinic (staffed with a nurse and supplied with medication year round) and a water well, both of which have enhanced the health and well-being of Thwake villagers. The school children now have desks to sit in and new books from which to learn, both as a direct result of the Thwake Village Partnership.

The new Presbyterian church is the fastest growing congregation in Kikuyu Presbytery of East Africa. Each of these developments helped lead the Thwake Village Partnership to its current project: a children’s home for at-risk youth that will house 12 young girls and a house mother. This children’s home will bring security and stability to the most vulnerable population in Thwake, and will ensure that these girls grow up with clean clothes, plenty of food, a stable education and a loving home.

The next mission trip from Kansas City to Thwake will leave at the end of May and be in the village for the official opening of the new Children’s Home on June 5, 2016.

Learn more about the Thwake Village Partnership at [http://thwakevillagepartnership.com/](http://thwakevillagepartnership.com/). Contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission at Village Church, for more information about how you can get involved.
Food Pantry
Thank you for your generous donations on “Souper Bowl” Sunday! The Food Pantry shelves now look wonderfully full with all types of delicious soups. Throughout February we will be collecting all varieties of pasta, rice and beans. Think boxed rice mixes, rotini, lasagna or spaghetti. We also need all varieties of dried or canned beans and lentils. The Clothes Closet will continue to accept clean, gently used winter clothing through the end of March. Drop boxes are at the south doors, Chapel exit and near the crib room and music room. Thank you again for your continued support!

Village Cooks A Meal At Cross-Lines
On Friday, March 11, Village will cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. We need two to three people from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and six to seven volunteers to serve and clean up from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We also need cookie donations that should be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 10. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

The 2016 Village Golf Classic & Celebration Dominicana
Mark your calendars: the 12th Annual Village Golf Classic will be upon us faster than we realize! The tournament will take place on Monday, May 16, at Country Club of Leawood; and Celebration Dominicana is just two days earlier on Saturday, May 14. Registration forms are located at various locations around the church, or you can contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, for more information at andrea.huffman@villagepres.org.

Thanks for the Luggage
The DRMP would like to express a resounding THANK YOU to Village Church for making the January Luggage Drive such a success. The DRMP received over 70 pieces of luggage and, as a result, all of our teams were able to pack everything they needed without any issues. We are grateful for your donations and for the faithful support of our Village Church family throughout the years.
MISSION

Village Volunteer Coordinates Prison Ministry Opportunities at Lansing

Village Church member Arlin Buyert and volunteers across the Kansas City community are working to reach out to men and women incarcerated at Lansing Correctional Facility. In partnership with the Arts in Prison program, inmates join volunteers to express themselves creatively.

Arts in Prison provides opportunities for inmates to prove that they are more than the sum of their crimes. By providing arts education and experiences for inmates in Kansas state prisons and detention centers, these members of society, who have been locked away and often forgotten, are given a chance for self-reflection and an opportunity to create something beautiful. Whether through writing, yoga and meditation, public speaking, performing arts, textiles or visual arts, inmates create something that brings joy to others.

Among the Arts in Prison programs, the East Hill Singers is a unique, internationally known prison chorus. Founded in 1995, the chorus has grown in size and prominence to include up to 50 inmate singers. The unique aspect of the chorus is the addition of volunteer singers from the surrounding community who are also chorus members. Normally, the chorus is comprised of about 50% inmates and 50% volunteers. Some Village members participate in the chorus on a regular basis.

The recidivism rate among former East Hill Singers, Arts in Prison's longest running program, is 18% as compared to 32% for the state of Kansas and greater than 50% for the United States.

All Arts in Prison programs are led by volunteer instructors and Arlin is among those volunteers, teaching a poetry class. If you are interested in taking part in this program, Lansing requires volunteers to be 21 years of age or older, to complete a volunteer application packet, a simple security check and Lansing's volunteer training, and to commit to five visits per year to the facility. Arts in Prison also accepts donations of art supplies for use in programs held inside corrections facilities. For example: yarn, plastic knitting needles and crochet hooks, acrylic paints, brushes, canvases, charcoal pencils, drawing paper, blank sheet music (manuscript paper), how to play instrument instruction books, composition books, and journals.

If you would like to volunteer for an arts program, donate supplies or simply learn more about this service opportunity, call Arlin Buyert at 913-909-2915 or email arlin85@att.net. Arlin leads a poetry group for 12 weeks in the spring and fall on Thursday nights.

SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY

Concealed Carry on Kansas College Campuses – What Does It Mean?
Presented by Loren Stanton of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 6, in Rooms 126 &127

The Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force of Village Church is sponsoring this special event presented by Loren Stanton, president of the Northeast Kansas Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Our speaker will provide information regarding the Kansas law allowing concealed carry of guns in all Kansas state and municipal buildings. College campuses have an exemption, which ends July, 2017, when the concealed carry of handguns will be allowed inside state university buildings. The event is free and open to the public.

Contact Trevor Fletcher at 913-530-3864 or tfletcher32@hotmail.com for more information.
INTRODUCING OUR NEW ADULT MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Dr. Rodger Nishioka to Head Adult Education at Village Church

On Feb. 7, 2016, Dr. Rodger Nishioka was introduced to the Village Church congregation as our new director of Adult Educational Ministries. Rodger will begin his new post at Village on March 20.

Rodger is one of the most sought after and inspiring preachers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He’s been teaching Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta for the past 15 years. Some of the comments in response to the announcement on Facebook were: “Get ready for some awesomeness!” “He’s brilliant, faithful and fun.” “Great things are happening at Village.” “Holy smokes! Wowzers for Village and Heartland Presbytery. Seriously!”

We’ll share more about Rodger Nishioka in the April 5 Good News.

LENT SERMON SERIES

Treasure in Clay Jars

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth that the Gospel Ministry is a “treasure we hold in clay jars.” This is a metaphor that resonates because we all know how fragile faith can be. We know how fragile Christians can be. One of the wonders of grace is that God continues to be found among the weak and fragile of faith. God’s treasure is carried in clay jars, meaning God’s beauty can show up in our brokenness. It’s good news. We hope you will join us to hear it.

Feb. 21 When the Church Gets it Wrong
Feb. 28 Some Things Never Change…Until They Do
March 6 I Believe, Help My Unbelief
March 13 The Brokenness of Jesus
March 20 When the Nation is Broken
March 27 Easter Isn’t Over
CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Weekly Wednesday Dinners
Dine before or after your Wednesday class. Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; 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. A full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar & dessert is $6. Cost for children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under-no charge. Contact Cindy (913-671-2331) or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org for a reservation.

WND Menus:
Feb. 17—Beer Battered Cod, Chicken Fingers, Coleslaw, Mac & Cheese
Feb. 24—Brown Sugar Baked Salmon, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetable
March 2—Shepherd’s Pie Beef and Vegetarian

Wednesday Night Classes- Village U
For questions or registration, call 913-671-2333 or email marianne.weber@villagepres.org. See class descriptions in the Village U Catalog or at www.villagepres.org.

BT.007 Parting of the Ways, Rev. Dwight Tawney, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 17-March 9, in Room 127
FL.004 Piecing Your Family Puzzle Together, Char Mitts, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 17-March 16, in Room 132
FL.005 Sex and Sexuality in Adolescence, Rev. Zach Walker, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 17 & 24, in Rooms 232-233
SL.002 Lenten Class on Prayer, Rev. Sally Wright, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 17-March 23, in Room 126

COMPUTER MINISTRY

Computer classes are free of charge. Beginner Excel Computer Class: 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17. Basic Computer Class: 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 23- March 15 or 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 24-March 16. Call Cindy at 913-671-2331 or email cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to sign up for classes.

AGE SPECIFIC DINNERS

Red Snapper Pan-Asian Bistro • Event for 40s/50s
6 p.m. Friday, March 11
Village Church is offering a fun dinner opportunity for people in their 40s & 50s (couples and singles)! We have reservations at Red Snapper Bistro at 8430 Ward Parkway, at 6 p.m. Friday, March 11. Each person is responsible for their own tab. The reservation is under “Village Church Group.” Space is limited. RSVP to cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331.

Dinner at Stroud’s in Fairway • Event for 70s and Up
4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17
You are invited to meet at the famous Stroud’s Restaurant in Fairway, to enjoy a home-style dinner menu of American Classics with other Village friends. We’ll gather at the restaurant, located on the corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and 55th Street, at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. We’ll go “Dutch” (each person pays for their meal). RSVP to Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.

Olive Garden Italian Restaurant near 95th & Metcalf • Event for Age 60s
6 p.m. Thursday, April 7
Couples and singles are invited to meet at the famous Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, to enjoy Italian Classics with other Village friends in their sixties. We’ll gather for dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at the Olive Garden located on 95th Street, just east of Metcalf. Each person is responsible for their own tab. The reservation is under “Village Church Group.” Space is limited. RSVP to cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331.
Te Deum Antiqua and Kansas City Baroque Consortium Concert, Feb. 21

Te Deum Antiqua and Kansas City Baroque Consortium will perform Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri: Meditations on the Suffering of Christ* at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 40th and Main in Kansas City, Mo.

Deitrich Buxtehude’s 17th century oratorio reflects upon “the most holy limbs of our suffering Christ” in seven cantatas. Te Deum Antiqua’s presentation of this profoundly moving work on the second Sunday of Lent also will feature members of the Kansas City Baroque Consortium on period instruments in the beautiful St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Te Deum and Kansas City Baroque Consortium are members of the Village Arts Alliance. A $10 donation is requested, free for students with ID.

Nowlin Middle School Choir and Village Chamber Choir Concert Feb. 23

Nowlin Middle School has been chosen by Village Arts Alliance to be the focus of some of our outreach efforts and to help them in their efforts to enrich and change young lives through music. The Black & Gold Nowlin Middle School Choir will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Village Sanctuary with the Village Chamber Choir. The Nowlin Middle School Black & Gold Choir has been chosen to perform at Helzberg Hall as part of the American Choral Directors Convention (Southwest Division) next month. The Feb. 23 concert at Village Church will give them a chance to do a “dress rehearsal” before a live audience in advance of their ACDA Convention performance.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert
“A Celebration of Music and Art”
7 p.m. Sunday, March 13

The Kansas City Wind Symphony continues their 18th season, “Nights of Dreams, Imagination and Magic,” with a free concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in the Village Church Sanctuary. Entitled “From Russia with Love,” the program features guest pianist Kairy Koshoeva performing Rachmaninoff’s *Piano Concerto No. 2*. The second part of the program features Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition* with an art exhibit and projected artworks by Village Church artists.

While completing her doctorate at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kairy Koshoeva appeared as soloist in numerous venues in the Kansas City area, including Village Church. She currently teaches at the New School for Music Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Dr. Koshoeva has won awards around the globe including the top prize at the International Piano Competition in Vicenza, Italy, and was a Gold Medal winner of the Rachmaninoff Award in Moscow, Russia.

The Kansas City Wind Symphony is a member of the Village Arts Alliance that includes the Te Deum Chamber Choir and the Kansas City Baroque Consortium. Dr. Phil Posey and Pat Setser conduct the ensemble.

Call 816-781-1132 for more information about the concert. Visit [kcwindsymphony.org](http://kcwindsymphony.org) to learn more about the Kansas City Wind Symphony.
March 4-5, 2016

Amy-Jill Levine PhD

A self-described “Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt”

“Jesus the Jewish Storyteller: Hearing the Parables Anew”

Friday, March 4, 7 p.m.
Session 1: Parables, Pearls and Prodigals
Reception and book signing follow the program.
Books available for purchase courtesy of Rainy Day Books.

Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m.
Session 2: Tax Collectors, Priests, Levites and Samaritans
Session 3: Vineyard Owners and Day Laborers

Tickets are available online at villagepres.org/ministries-programs/visiting-scholar/

VILLAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208
www.villagepres.org
For more information: 913-671-2333 or visitingscholar@villagepres.org

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women of Village Presbyterian Church

The purpose of Presbyterian Women is to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.
Amy-Jill Levine PhD

Amy-Jill Levine is making a return appearance as Presbyterian Women’s 2016 Visiting Scholar. Audiences describe her as both engaging and entertaining. Bill Tammeus, former Faith columnist for The Kansas City Star writes, “I have heard her speak a couple of times and read her books. She’s not just terrifically insightful but also engaging and fun even while dealing with difficult topics.”

Amy-Jill Levine • 2016 Visiting Scholar • Friday-Saturday, March 4-5, 2016

Register online or by mail

• **Online** – go to www.villagepres.org - click “Ministries,” then “Visiting Scholar.” Register and pay by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover). A small service fee will apply.

• **By mail** – complete the registration form and mail with your check PLUS a self-addressed, stamped envelope (must include payment).

Please note: Payment must accompany all registrations. We cannot accept registrations by phone or e-mail.

Mail-in Registration Form

- Registration must include payment PLUS a self-addressed stamped envelope.
- No registration deadline. Feb. 18 is the cut-off date if you want to receive tickets by return mail.
- Registration forms received after Feb. 18, or without a self-addressed stamped envelope, will be held in will-call.

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________________________
Phone: ______________________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ______________________________________________________________________________

Village Church Member: [ ] yes [ ] no

If registering by mail, please return this form with payment made to: Village Presbyterian Church
Visiting Scholar Program
6641 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Advanced purchase Friday and Saturday: $32
  Qty ___ @ $32 = $_______
Friday only: $20
  Qty ___ @ $20 = $_______
Saturday only: $15
  Qty ___ @ $15 = $_______

TOTAL: $_____

For more information: 913-671-2333 or visitingscholar@villagepres.org

INSERT Feb. 16, 2016
Praying for Those Who Serve in Our Military

If you have family members or friends who are currently serving in the military, we would be happy to add them to the prayer list. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org with the person's name, rank, where he/she is based and any other information you would like included on the prayer list. We are so grateful for their service.

Village Hosts PC (USA) Stated Clerk Nominating Committee
Jan. 20-22, 2016

Village Church hosted the Presbyterian Church (USA) Stated Clerk Nomination Committee, a group of nine individuals elected by the 221st (2014) General Assembly to nominate a stated clerk for the General Assembly. Kathy Lueckert, our director of finance and administration, is serving a key role in providing staff support for the nominating committee. Kathy shares, “The stated clerk position is as close to a ‘head of denomination’ as Presbyterians get. This is our third face-to-face meeting, and the committee is conducting telephone interviews with 12 applicants for the position of stated clerk during their three days at Village Church.” The committee will announce the nominee in mid-April, and present this person to the 222nd General Assembly in June, in Portland, Or.

The National Nominating Committee:
1st Row L-R - Jose Manuel Capella-Pratts, Miami, Fla. (teaching elder); Clair Rhodes, Hot Springs, Ark. (ruling elder); Scott Prouty, Redwood Falls, Minn. (teaching elder); Virginia Rainey, State College, Pa. (ruling elder) and Arthur Canada, Charlotte, N.C. (teaching elder);
Back Row L-R - Linda Therien, San Diego, Ca. (ruling elder); Jerrod Lowry, Sandy, Utah (teaching elder); Milinda Benallie, Window Rock, Ariz. (ruling elder); Kathy Lueckert (staff support, Prairie Village, Kan.) and Carol McDonald, moderator, Indianapolis, Ind. (teaching elder);

The current Stated Clerk, Gradye Parsons, has been in the position for eight years and did not stand for a third term. “It’s a particularly critical time in the life of PC(USA),” said Kathy, “so the group feels the weight of making a good decision, of discerning God’s will. “

Kathy recently accepted an invitation to continue her role at the General Assembly as tracker. In a letter to Village Church Session Clerk Henry Sewing, Thomas Hay, associate stated clerk of the General Assembly, said, “The skills of negotiation, strategic thinking and organization you see daily in her work at Village are put to very good use in the pressure cooker of a General Assembly. I can’t tell you how many times I have walked out of an Assembly thankful for the many places where Kathy was there to offer her calm leadership in an exhausting and often thankless job.”
Tickets Sales Open Sunday, Feb. 28, to Presbyterian Women’s Spring Retreat
“Change A Place Where God is Active”
April 22 & 23
Don’t miss the inspiring and creative sessions led by Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin and her mother, Rev. Margaret Peery. The retreat at the Heartland Presbyterian Conference and Retreat Center in Parkville, Mo. will include times for fellowship, prayer, reflection on Scripture, singing and worship.
Registration will be in Friendship Hall between Sunday services on Feb. 28 and March 6. Online registration also opens Sunday, Feb. 28, at www.villagepres.org.
Cost is $95 for meals, lodging and the program. Commuter cost is $55 and includes breakfast, lunch and the program. For more information, contact Jennifer Stradinger at 913-707-4918.

American Public Square Faith Fellowship Event at Village Church
7:30-9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 18
Join American Public Square as it comes to Village Church for the third event in its Faith Fellowship series. We will look at “varieties of spiritual experience” from different perspectives drawn from both Western and Eastern traditions. Rev. Brian Ellison will moderate a panel discussing the issue and answering questions from the audience.
Thursday, Feb. 18, In Friendship Hall
Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.; Program, 8- 9 a.m.
For more information on the event and to register, go to americanpublicsquare.org or call 816-235-5067.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Village Church Child & Family Development Center

The new Village Church Child & Family Development Center building construction is moving along with great speed. As you drive by the 99th Street campus, you will see the building has taken shape with walls and roof installation. The children enjoy watching the progress and are often found wearing their construction “hard hats” around the building. Mr. Jim Bany, Pearce Construction’s project superintendent, is great about talking to the children and explaining what is going on with the project.

Welcome Center Progress

The drywall in the Welcome Center is almost complete. The cabinetry/casework began last week. Outside, site work for sidewalks, curbs, etc. has begun.

Cross your fingers. It looks like Sunday, March 13, may be our first Sunday in the Welcome Center. This date could change, but it’s looking positive right now.

Sanctuary Basement

The Sanctuary basement (except for Room 15) is complete. On Feb. 9, Fry-Wagner Moving and Storage brought back all the Music Department belongings and other items that had been in storage since last spring.

Elisa Bickers, Jenny Hull and Matthew Shepard were back in the renovated Music Department space on Feb. 9, receiving the huge inventory of items that have been in storage since the space was cleared for renovation last spring.

We’re in the home stretch and the finish line is in sight. Thank you for your patience and grace during this time of construction.
Upcoming Village U Classes:

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. The Great Books Group will welcome you on the first Tuesday of each month. Child care is not available. Taught by Betty Long. 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, in Room 127.

Date Nights - We 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. Child care is available with an advance reservation to be made two weeks prior to the Date Night. Taught by Clint and Kim Carter. 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, in Room 233.

Day Trip to Toy and Miniature Museum - The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures educates, inspires and delights adults and children through the museum’s collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. Cost: $20 plus lunch. Coordinated by Georgia Klein. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3.

A Practical Guide to Gardens & Gardening in the Kansas City Area - It’s that time of the year to start thinking about your yard. Our instructor has 27 years of garden making under her belt (and fingernails). She is a landscape architect who studied with John Brookes at the Clock House School of Garden Design in England and has taken courses at the New York Botanical Garden. This course will provide ideas on how to improve – not redo – your current ornamental gardens. Learn how to deal with shade, Kansas City soil and weather, those pesky bunnies, and suggest plants based on these factors. Taught by Cynthia Gillis. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in Room 232.

Village Talk - In a radio talk show, Rev. Brian Ellison, a KCUR contributor and parish associate of Village Church, hosts lively discussions with engaging public figures, renowned scholars and community leaders. From 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, in the Chapel, Brian will speak with Rev. Dr. Wallace Hartfield II, pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, a leader in the Harmony organization for a number of years and on staff at Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes Highlights

9:30 a.m.
The Faith Journey class, led by Judy Matthewson, is studying Marcus Borg’s Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most. Borg surveys the most significant conversations and personalities that shaped his life, and presents his convictions about the faith and its role in the 21st century. Room 230.

The Cloud of Witnesses class welcomes Rev. Dwight Tawney who is teaching Return of the Exiles. Israel’s war with the Babylonian Empire in 587 BCE led to the destruction of Jerusalem, the burning of the Jewish Temple, and the forced exile of thousands of citizens. The tragedy could have spelled the end of the nation, but resourceful leaders, such as Ezra and Nehemiah, provided a new vision for the nation’s life. This class will explore the rebuilding of Israel during the tumultuous Second Temple Period. Feb. 21-March 20 in Room 232.

Growing Together - We are watching and discussing a PBS documentary that illuminates the writing of the four gospels and the western history that influenced the Christian religion. Room 132.

The Village Forum class is viewing and discussing the video series, People of Faith: Christianity in America. Rooms 126 and 127.

10:45 a.m.
The Inquirers class is reading and discussing Dr. Amy- Jill Levine’s book, Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. Facilitated by Don and Barbara Wilson. All are invited to join this welcoming study group. Room 124.
6th Grade
If you enjoyed last Sunday’s Pancake Breakfast, you saw many of our 6th Grade volunteers. Their March event will be at Urban Air, located at 144th and Metcalf in Overland Park. Watch your email inbox for more information, or call Cheryl at 913-671-2355.

Family Lenten Practices
If you and your family are looking for a simple but meaningful way to walk through the season of Lent together, try making a Jesus tree. As you create your family’s own Jesus tree, you will be guided day by day through a study of the life and teachings of Jesus, from his presentation in the temple to his death and resurrection. Each day during Lent, families read a Bible story about an event or teaching during Jesus’ life. There is a corresponding image for you and your family to decorate and place on a few barren branches collected together in a vase or planter. You can watch as the barren branches “blossom” through Jesus’ life. Drop by the Children and Family Ministry office to pick up your supplies.

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 grades who are interested to attend a class to learn about this very important feast of thanksgiving. The two-hour class consists of exploring the meaning of the Lord’s Supper and in the second half of the class, children will get to take part in the Maundy Thursday service and receive communion. (Families are welcome to wait for the child at the worship service at 7 p.m.) Mark your calendars for 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24.

Moose on the Loose this Summer at Village Church!
Be on the lookout for the 2016 Summer brochure, in your mailbox in February. Monday, Feb. 29, is sign-up for church members, current Preschool, KDO and Day Care families. March 7 is sign-up for the community. Loads of fun planned this year!

Youth Ministry Chili Cook-Off, Feb. 21
Our Village Church youth are having their annual Chili Cook-Off from 5:30-7:30 p.m. this Sunday, Feb. 21, in Friendship Hall. All proceeds benefit youth mission trips. You don’t have to enter as a contestant to attend, but they would prefer a reservation for this fun, family-friendly feast. Tickets are on sale on Sunday mornings in Friendship Hall. Cost is $10 a person or $30 a family. Email youth@villagpres.org for more information.
Because of Your Generosity...

At the Heart of Giving...
Your gift to Village Church during the annual commitment campaign is so important in continuing the work we do here at Village Church.

Thank you!
Would you like to help one of our mission efforts do even more? We have asked Mission Sewing what would help them extend their donations to area hospitals, cancer centers, hospice homes and other area agencies. They welcomed the offer and have put together a Wish List. We would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase an item or two from this Wish List and bring with you on Sunday, March 6, to Friendship Hall and drop off at the Village Commitment table.

Mission Sewing Wish List
- Gingher scissors 7”
- Soft & Crafty Polyester fiber fill - 5 or 10-lb. bulk box
  Satin ribbon - 1/4” in pastel colors
- Bernat Softee Baby yarn - white, pink, baby blue
- Lion Brand, Pound of Love yarn - pink, white or blue
- Coats brand thread - white, black, green, blues
- Rotary cutter sharpener - 45 & 60 ml blades
- Fabric - cotton, flannel (No satin)
- Serger
- Monetary donations also accepted

Thank you for your generosity! Your gift will help Mission Sewing construct more items to help those who suffer with an illness. Items include, walker bags, eyeglass cases, peanut-shaped pillows, lap robes for all ages, blankets for newborns and pajamas for children. Knitters create newborn caps and cancer hats among other projects.

Did you notice?
We’ve launched a new Village Church website design!
Our marketing and communications team has been working on the new design for the past several months. It launched today. You’ll notice it has many new features and information is organized a little differently. Thank you for your patience as we continue to improve communication within Village Church and with the community at large.