

Singer/Songwriter Sam Burchfield to Perform Free Concert 7 p.m. Friday, March 6, in the Village Sanctuary

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.

From banjo, to brass, to traditional rock 4 piece, Sam has taken the diversity of modern music and blended it into his own multiple-genre style that keeps the listener entertained, interested and impacted.

His music spills out of a passionate soul. From the slow ballads that speak of love and longing, to quirky and comical folk tunes, Sam has not limited himself to one genre.

Growing up in Seneca, South Carolina, Sam played coffee shops and other small venues before eventually moving to Athens, Georgia, to further his musical career and to attend the University of Georgia. From playing in well-known Athens band Street Rhythm & Rhyme to winning the statewide singing competition Campus Superstar 2013 and appearing on *American Idol* in 2014, Sam has had a diverse musical career. He continues to leave the door open to new possibilities and opportunities, recently trying his hand as a worship leader and a music teacher at a summer camp in Montreat, North Carolina.



Photos by Claire Diane Photography



"I'm so excited to make the trip out to Village Church this March! Your church family has already made me feel so welcome, and I can't wait to share my music with you all," said Sam. "I never would have thought that my years attending and working at Montreat Youth Conference would somehow lead to me being on a plane headed

to Kansas. I'm honored to be spending an evening with you, and am looking forward to a great night of storytelling, singing and worshipping together!"

In February of 2014, Sam released his debut EP (extended play album) earning lots of media attention such as renowned college music blog, "Good Music All Day."

To watch his video of *Here Tonight* [click here](#).

Village Church Connectional Ministries is partnering with Shawnee Mission East Coalition Club to sponsor this free concert by Sam Burchfield at 7 p.m. Friday, March 6, in the Village Sanctuary. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis so arrive early to get a good seat. A retiring offering will go to LOVE 146.

The Shawnee Mission East 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. Learn more at love146.org.

Contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 for more info.

A Recap of the 2015 Batey Symposium

This past January, three members of the DRMP traveled to the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA to attend the 2015 Batey Symposium, a collaboration of the various mission groups that work in the bateys around La Romana in the Dominican Republic. They discussed best practices, shared research initiatives and engaged in conversation with the administrators of Hospital El Buen Samaritano in order to determine the greatest needs of the under-served populations.

Drs. Al Biggs and Steve Stiles, both of the DRMP, along with Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, represented Village Church and the DRMP at this symposium. They presented research on DRMP's new Nutrition Station modules as well as their data on hypertension. The symposium attendees were so impressed that they plan to make the DRMP's Hypertension Guidelines the standard protocol for all teams heading to the DR.

Ultimately the symposium was a great success, pulling together groups from across North America in a collaborative effort to help better the health and livelihood of our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic.



Village Church mentor and DRMP board member Dr. Al Biggs gives a presentation at the 2015 Batey Symposium.

CELEBRATION



Dates Set for DRMP Golf Tournament and Celebration Dominicana Dinner and Silent Auction

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 bateys of La Romana. Village Church has served La Romana for the past twenty years, and we continue to send five teams each year. This sustaining relationship is possible only because of loyal donors like you.

Mark your calendars to join us for one (or both) of our two exciting events: "Celebration Dominicana" Dinner and Silent Auction at the Country Club of Leawood at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9, and our golf outing on 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 more information.

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work- Village Safety Net Programs

Due to a visit to the emergency room when she was uninsured and the subsequent garnishing of her wages, Denise, a single mom with two children, has fallen behind on her rent. Her case worker called Village to ask for help on her behalf. Marcus and Amanda fell behind on their rent when Marcus' hours at work were cut. Felicia had a utility shut off notice when her son's father was not able to pay child support due to a disability. In each of these scenarios, Village Church stepped in to help prevent eviction or to keep the lights on.

Through annual giving, Village provides safety net services to Kansas Citians like Denise, Marcus, Amanda, Felicia and their children every week. In 2014, 1,726 individuals, including 715 children, received emergency assistance from us. "We are among a small handful of churches in the Kansas City area that provide a formal emergency assistance program," shares Deborah White, director of mission. "Often agencies such as Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army and others turn to Village to help their clients obtain the last few dollars needed to stay in their homes or to prevent utility shutoffs."

In addition, the Village Food Pantry and Clothes Closet supplies food to families living in poverty and helps bridge the gap between SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) support and the full nutritional and personal care needs of many of our clients.



Deborah White,
director of mission

In 2014, the dedicated team of staff and volunteers at the Village Food Pantry served an average of 1005 individuals each month with an average distribution of 58,452 pounds of food. An additional 558 homebound clients in Johnson County low-income senior housing apartments received groceries through the Pantry's delivery program. Also, volunteers from Village and the community provided more than 28,465 hours of their time and talents to the Pantry.

Moreover, the Pantry received 701,424 pounds of food this past year including donations from retail establishments such as Trader Joe's, restaurants and grocers, individuals and churches such as Temple B'nai Jehudah, Overland Park Presbyterian, Rolling Hills, Sinai Temple and Colonial Church of Prairie Village. For the Thanksgiving baskets alone, 14,702 pounds went to Village clients.

When it comes to Mission, it takes a "Village" to make a difference. Thanks to the financial commitment and volunteer energies of the congregation, neighbors and partner organizations, Village can devote its resources to serving others and improving the well-being of our community.

Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines

Village Church will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines Kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas on Friday, March 13. There is more than one way to help with our meal at Cross-Lines. We need four to five volunteers to help cook from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and three-four more volunteers to help serve from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. If you can't cook or serve, we also need folks to donate cookies. The cookies can be dropped off at the church Reception Desk between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. If you can help, please contact Marianne Weber at marianne.weber@villagepres.org or 913-671-2333.

Food Pantry's Souper Bowl Sunday Deemed A Huge Success!

The bad weather Feb. 1 did not deter the Pantry's collection of almost 2,000 pounds of canned soup – and for that, the Pantry and its clients are so thankful. Two thousand pounds will go a long way in keeping our soup shelves filled for our clients.

The Pantry is requesting cereal for its clients – boxed or bagged, hot or cold. The Pantry distributes a lot and therefore needs a lot. Remember the Pantry as you shop and bring one item to church each Sunday.

Your generous donations makes this important mission a success.



Hillcrest Transitional Housing Apartments in Johnson County Recover from Fire

For the past year, Village Church has worked with Hillcrest Transitional Housing at their Johnson County site, providing funding to purchase a four-plex and manpower to support clients living there. On Jan. 7 our apartment building experienced a fire. No one was hurt, and all the residents were moved to other Hillcrest apartments in the city.

The four-plex had some smoke and structural damage and will require some repairs and some replacement of its contents. On Jan. 24 and Feb. 7, a group of Village volunteers entered the complex and began salvaging furnishings, cleaning them and placing them in storage while renovations begin to repair the damage. As soon as we have a full inventory of the salvaged items and those that need to be replaced, the Village Mission Office will communicate those needs to Village Church and the other congregations that sponsor apartments in the same building.

Thank you to our Hillcrest volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to help with cleanup and salvage. We hope to start welcoming residents again in a couple of months.

The kitchen appeared to get the brunt of smoke damage.

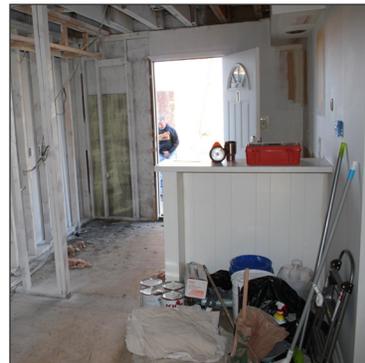


Hillcrest apartment clean-up crew

Front Row: Joshua Kay (Church of the Ascension Catholic Church), Andrew Kay (Ascension), Amy Duran (John Deere volunteer), Luis Duran (John Deere)

Second Row: James Moburg (Ascension), Chris Dhoghe (Ascension), Dave Comer (John Deere), Robert Browning (Village Church), Barry Rogers (Village), Nancy Gatewood (Village)

Back Row: Susan Morgenthaler (Village), Stan Chappell (Village) and Ed Herman (Ascension)



Seeking Habitat for Humanity Volunteers

Once again Village Church has made a commitment to sponsor one or more houses in partnership with Heartland Habitat for Humanity. This will be the 28th consecutive year that Village Church has made such a commitment to Heartland and its predecessor, Kaw Valley Habitat for Humanity, both affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International. At least 44 of the houses constructed during that period were sponsored, all or in part, by Village Church.

In addition to funding, Village Church has been a consistent source of volunteers for the construction of these houses. Today, most of the Village Church volunteers are members of the Tuesday-Thursday Crew which, as its name implies, works on Tuesdays and Thursdays, further implying that most of these volunteers are retired. Saturday volunteers are organized from time to time for those who are employed or otherwise engaged during the work week but want to be involved in the construction of safe, affordable housing for families who would not have access to it otherwise.

If you think you might like to volunteer, stop by one of our information tables between services on Sunday, Feb. 22, or Sunday, March 1. There will be an informational meeting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, in Room 233. Representatives from Heartland Habitat and Village Church, as well as members of the Tuesday-Thursday Crew will be on hand. Join us and learn more about the opportunities for volunteers.

If you would like more information, contact Dave Lillard at 913-649-8930 or lillard@kc.rr.com.



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. 18** - Teriyaki salmon fillets, mac/cheese
- Feb. 25** - Tuna/noodle casserole, chicken cacciatore



Village University Classes

John Knox and the Scottish Reformation

Rev. 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 share slides from his European travels. 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25- April 1, in Room 232.

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.

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



Calling All Artists!

The annual art event at Village "Art & Hors d' Oeuvres," is from 5-7 p.m. Friday, May 1. All mediums of art are welcome from photography, painting, weaving, mixed media and beyond. Contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or Stacy Fischer at 913-671-2334 if you would like to display your artwork or get more information.

COMPUTER MINISTRY

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

MENEILLY CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Village Church Invites You to the

Meneilly Center Campus Completion Open House

5:30-7 p.m. • Monday, Feb. 23

Tillotson Building • 9960 Mission Road



Renderings of the new Village Church Child and Family Development Center

This year we will fulfill our promise to our neighbors at 99th & Mission Road 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 Campus 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!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Second Thursday Recital – March 12

Guest Artist: Violinist Sarah Titterington Ibbett

Please join us from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the Village Chapel for Second Thursday Recital with violinist Sarah Titterington Ibbett. Sarah will play violin and Baroque violin in a program of Bach and Vaughn-Williams, accompanied by Mark Ball on piano. The concert is free and open to the public.

Sarah enjoys a versatile performing career in Europe and North America. She has performed with a variety of London's top ensembles, including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Florilegium, the London Handel Orchestra and the Hanover Band. She has also played with many ensembles in North America, including Apollo's Fire (the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra) and the Classical Music Consort in Toronto. She has performed many times on BBC Radio 3 in the UK and on National Public Radio in the U.S.



Emergency Contact Information

Did you know that Village keeps track of emergency contact information for each of our members? While we hope never to need it, it is one more way we care for our church community. Emergency contact information has been helpful when there is an illness or injury at church, or when a member has been hospitalized or has moved and we need help finding their new location. If you are willing to share an emergency contact with us, please contact Sandy Perry with that person’s name, phone number, and relation to you at 913-671-2327 or sandy.perry@villagepres.org.

Thank You to Our “Inactive” Stephen Ministers

For years, Village has had a vibrant Stephen Ministry program. Each January, new Stephen Ministers are commissioned. And each January, some of our long-serving Stephen Ministers decide to move to “inactive” status. This doesn’t mean they are no longer Stephen Ministers. After all, once a Stephen Minister, always a Stephen Minister! We give great thanks for their years of ministry and for the caring and compassion they have shown. Moving to inactive status in 2015 are: Phil Aiken, Janet Baird, Ann Bohrn, Denise Bruner, Roxie Curtis, Neal Douthat, Jean Liggett, Sherry Manis, Sue Meredith, Marilyn Mitchell, Dan Robeson and Helen Taliaferro. Well done, good and faithful servants!

And All Be Made Well *A Healing Blessing*

That each ill
 be released from you
 and each sorrow
 be shed from you
 and each pain
 be made comfort for you
 and each wound
 be made whole in you
 that joy will
 arise in you
 and strength will
 take hold of you
 and hope will
 take wing for you
 and all be made well.

– Jan Richardson

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

This Isn’t What I Expected

We dream. We make our plans. We prepare. We check our GPS and chart our course. But sometimes life throws us a curve. Sometimes our work fails to provide the fulfillment we expected. Sometimes our dreams reach beyond that which is realistically possible. Sometimes God proves to be different than we expected. Every one of us knows disappointment like this. Christian faith provides no sanctuary from life’s disappointments. But it does offer strength and direction — and most importantly, hope — when our life proves to be not what we expected.

- Feb. 22 This Isn’t the Journey I Expected
- March 1 When Life is Broken
- March 8 When My Faith Fails Me
- March 15 When God Fails to Protect Me From the World
- March 22 When Jesus was Disappointed
- March 29 Starting Over: A New Temple
- April 5 Easter- Starting Over: A New World

Fossil Fuel Divestment Workshop
Presented by Rev. Peter Sawtell
7-9 p.m. Friday, March 13
8:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 14
Village Church, Rooms 132/133

Inspired by the movie *Do the Math*, there is a growing movement to divest from fossil fuel companies. Educational institutions, denominations, seminaries, churches, local and state governments and individuals are being challenged to stop investing in fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and to start reinvesting in projects and companies that are sustainable and restorative to God's creation. When your investment choices hope for good returns from the companies that produce burnable carbon, you're not very likely to be an advocate for policies that cut their profit margins.

The case for fossil fuel divestment goes something like this:

- We cannot become carbon neutral while still invested in carbon companies.
- Episcopal priest Bob Massie says: "If one is opposed to climate change, it is morally wrong to hold stock in—and thus to benefit from—corporations whose purpose is to make it worse."
- Bill McKibben, environmentalist and founder of 350.org, puts it even more succinctly: "If it's wrong to wreck the climate, it's wrong to profit from that wreckage."

The Environmental Action Committee of Village Church, the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of KC, and Earthkeepers of Heartland Presbytery are co-sponsoring a Fossil Fuel Divestment Workshop featuring Rev. Peter Sawtell of Eco-Justice Ministries. During his return to Village Church, Rev. Sawtell will present two sessions:

Friday evening: Fossil Fuel Divestment and Shareholder Action: What's the Point?

Climate change is real. The increase in CO2 levels due to fossil fuel combustion is one of the main external forcing mechanisms contributing to the alarming levels of greenhouse gasses in the earth's atmosphere today. Come and learn how investment decisions—by you, your church, and other institutions—will reduce humanity's climate impacts. We'll look at what can be accomplished by intentional investment, divestment and shareholder actions, including recent decisions by religious denominations.



Rev. Peter Sawtell

Saturday morning: Fossil Fuel Divestment: Steps to Guarantee Success

Finances are complex. However, responsible investing is not only good for your pocketbook, but also for the earth. Come and learn how divesting financial portfolios from fossil fuel focused companies—or even raising the topic—is important for dealing with climate change. You'll learn what it means for individuals and institutions to divest, how to have the most impact from divestment decisions, and who can help you work for environmentally responsible investment. We will be looking at both personal investments and the movement for institutional divestment. This session will include segments by Jim Horlacher, MBA, AIF, an accredited investment advisor and financial planner who specializes in socially responsible investment strategies.

About Rev. Peter Sawtell

Rev. Peter Sawtell is founder and executive director of Eco-Justice Ministries, an independent, ecumenical agency that helps congregations work toward social justice and environmental sustainability. He has been a keynote speaker and workshop leader at ecumenical and denominational conferences across the United States, and was invited to southern Germany in 2014 for a 10-day speaking tour on environmental ministries. He has worked with the national United Church of Christ on implementing the denomination's decisions on fossil fuel investment policies.

Registration

This workshop is being offered under the auspices of Village University. It is FREE AND OPEN to everyone. There will be a free will offering after each session. So we can estimate attendance, please register in advance by contacting Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org. Walk-ins are welcome.

Still Time to Get Your John Bell Visiting Scholar Event Tickets for Feb. 20 & 21

Rev. Diane Quaintance shares a few words about John Bell

An elder and I spent the afternoon taking communion to church members who are unable to come to worship any more. The last person on our list was in the Care Center at Lakeview Village. His wife met us near his room and said that he couldn't speak, but that communion had always been one of his favorite services of worship.

I talked to him for a few minutes – telling him about what was going on at the church, and affirming his long membership and his activity through the years. The elder, his wife and I said the Lord's Prayer together, I said the Words of Institution, and touched his lips with the bread and a bit of juice on my finger. All the while he lay with his eyes closed, seeming not to know that we were in the room.

Whenever I do home communion, I end the ritual by singing "Jesus Loves Me." So I began to sing. The elder and his wife joined in. When we got to the refrain – "Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me" we heard another voice, almost a whisper, singing the words with us... it came from the man lying in the bed.



Photos by A. Spurr

John Bell reminds us that people may forget what they hear preached, but they remember what they sing.

On Feb. 20 & 21, we all have the opportunity to sing our faith with one of the world's most well-loved hymn writers. You will remember what we sing together.

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

9 & 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Village Presbyterian Church

Tickets are available at kauffmancenter.org or by calling 816-994-7222. Ticket pricing for this event is \$35* for both days or \$21* for Friday night and \$14* for Saturday.

A bus from church to the Kauffman Center is available at no charge. Call Marianne at 913-671-2333.

The bus will leave the church promptly at 6 p.m. from the south parking lot.

* A surcharge by the Kauffman Center is included in the ticket price.

Operation Breakthrough Seeking Reading Volunteers

For six weeks each spring and fall, we host children from Operation Breakthrough for our reading program. Every week the children are given two books to take home for their very own. On Wednesday, March 11, we will have the opportunity to tour Operation Breakthrough to learn about their programs and gain insight into the children we want to serve.

Join us as a reading volunteer from 9:45-11 a.m. Wednesday mornings starting on March 25 thru April 29. There will be an orientation meeting at 8:45 a.m. in Room 307 before the children arrive on March 25.

If you are interested in joining this volunteer group or have questions, please contact Cindy Whitham at ciwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062. Child care may be arranged by calling Pam at 913-671-2352 one week in advance for both the above tour and weekly volunteering.

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 lives 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 interesting.

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, KDH&E. Taught by Detective Marcus Fizer. 6-7:30 p.m. tonight 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.



Cloud of Witnesses in Room 15

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.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Inquirers in Rooms 126-127 - The class will complete Rev. John Dominic Crossan's DVD series on the Historical Jesus. Facilitated by Don Wilson, Richard Lumpkin and Diann Markley. A review of previous sessions will be provided. The last segment of Crossan's instructional video will be viewed and discussed on Feb. 22.

March 1 through May 31, the class will study *A Layman's Guide to Process Theology* by Dr. Lindsey Pherigo. Facilitated by Don and Barbara Wilson and class members. The class will return to Room 124 for a study series characterized by an in-class reading of Dr. Pherigo's original guidebook with integrated whole-class discussion.

Highlights of Sunday Morning Offerings for Adults

Village Forum in Rooms 126-127
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.

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 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.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



A lot of moving of dirt at the construction site last week, partly for the installation of the new storm sewer pipe. This week, Pearce Construction has started demolition of the existing choir rooms and offices. Next week they will install micro piles, which will help support the weight of the new pipe organ.

SAVE THE DATE

**Rob Fohr To Speak on “Young Adult Involvement in the Church”
March 31 at Village**

Rob Fohr is the mission catalyst for the Presbyterian Mission Agency. One of his primary responsibilities is providing leadership for the agency-wide goal of connecting with young adults.

Please join us for dinner and Rob’s presentation, “Young Adult Involvement in the Church,” starting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, in Friendship Hall. Dinner is from 6:30-7 p.m. Rob will speak immediately following dinner. Admission is free. Contact Elizabeth Nolen to make your reservation at elizabeth.nolen@villagepres.org.

Rob also oversees the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Research Services department. Included in his other responsibilities is helping to implement



the 221st General Assembly’s “Living Missionally” initiative that focuses on equipping churches for mission engagement in their local communities. He served in the PC(USA)’s Young Adult Volunteer program in Buenos Aires, Argentina (’05-’06), and met his spouse, Christine Coy Fohr, through the YAV program. Rob is a ruling elder, currently serving on the session of Highland Presbyterian Church (Louisville). He holds a master of arts in religion from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a bachelor of business administration from

Abilene Christian University, and is a proud father of a 6-month-old baby girl named Madeline.

**Annual Youth Chili Cook-Off
5:30-7 p.m. 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.

Tickets are \$10/person in advance (\$12 at the door) or \$30 per family. All proceeds go toward youth mission trips in 2015. Tickets are on sale now and are available Sunday morning, Feb. 22, in Friendship Hall.

Contact Rev. Zach Walker in the Youth Office at zach.walker@villagepres.org for more information.



Photos from 2013 Youth Chili Cook-Off.

VILLAGE CHURCH PRESCHOOL 40th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Dozens of helium balloons filled the Preschool hallway the last week of January, as Village Church Preschool marked its 40th birthday. Children decorated their classrooms and doors and participated in a combined art/music workshop, which included colorful birthday art projects and learning to sign the *Happy Birthday* song.

On Monday evening, Jan. 26, current staff hosted an Open House for former teachers and administrators, including founders Bill Foster and Jane Wilson. The Preschool Open House included hallway and resource room displays to highlight the past and also give a glimpse into the program today.

Preschool Director Terri Gaeddert, Assistant Preschool Director Debbie Smith and the rest of the Village Preschool Staff shared, "It was clear to all that 40 years has not dampened the enthusiasm or lessened the love that Village Church Preschool inspires. We toasted (symbolically) Village Church and the incredible environment this church has created for young children through the development of the Preschool program, the Child and Family Development Center, the church childcare department and Kid's Day Out, CBK summer camps and of course, the Sunday School and nursery provisions. Your commitment to quality early childhood development and to young families is important and so very appreciated."



Preschoolers enjoy the birthday fun.



2015-2016 Preschool Staff L-R: Back Row: Renee Reimer, Stacey El Attar, Kate Willaredt, Sarah McKee, Pat Munsch, Anita Menke, Debbie Smith, Beth Richardson, Sue McGinness, Debbie Spurlin

Front Row: Stephanie Lieserowitz, Jill Kirkland, Martha Sparks, Julie Hauber, Terri Gaeddert, Mary van Thullenar (not pictured: Joy Anderson, Jenny Hull)



Village Preschool Founders Rev. Bill Foster and Jane Wilson.





Guests reminisce about old preschool days at Village.



Preschoolers create a birthday mural. Birthday art projects are all on display on the church "bridge" this month.

THE VILLAGE CHURCH



● ▲ ■ PRESCHOOL ■ ▲ ●

"Do you notice anything different about this?" This is the kind of question we often ask the Village Church Preschoolers, and today we are asking you as we unveil our updated Village Church Preschool logo! In honor of the Preschool's 40th Birthday, Cyrus Logan, design and digital media manager for Village Church, has re-colored and stylized our logo to more uniformly coordinate with the church publications and the Village website redesign Cyrus is building.

We've always felt a strong attachment to the original logo (designed by Liz Middleton and enhanced by a former preschool parent) and so Cyrus was careful to retain its essence as he gave us a fresh new spin. We were so excited by the outcome that we purchased t-shirts sporting the new design for all of this year's students as a 40th birthday party gift. Keep your eyes open for another iteration of this logo that will be visible soon.

Village Moms & Story Time

Village Moms is trying a new thing. 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. Contact Cheryl at 913-671-2355 or Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org.

Communion Education Class

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. To enroll, email Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2355.



Family Lenten Practices

Each day there is either a prayer [P], service/almsgiving [S] or fasting [F] activity. These simple activities can be adapted for all ages. Prompts are given for prayer days and fasting days. On service days, a simple service activity is featured.

To download your calendar, [click here](#).



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.

Rev. Jay McKell consults with the Village Children's Library mascot, Beary Goodreader.



ENDOWMENT TRUST

Support Village Church into the future...

You have the power to play a vital role in helping the mission and ministries of Village Church far into the future through the Meneilly Society. When you plan a gift that will support Village Church Endowment Trust after your lifetime, you are committing to Christ's works through Village Church.

To be part of the Meneilly Society you need only to include a charitable gift in your estate plan:

- gifts in your will or living trust
- charitable remainder trust
- retirement account beneficiary designations
- life insurance beneficiary designations

If you have already included Village Church in your estate plan, please let us know so you can become a member of the Meneilly Society.

Contact Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325 or molly.sirridge@villagepres.org for more information.

GOOD NEWS



GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA monthly 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208-1799 Periodicals Postage paid at Kansas City MO POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208-0050

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT KC,MO

Village Commitment Corner

Because of your generosity...



... 243 people in 22 Core Connections groups are making and deepening friendships while strengthening their faith through conversations about a study topic. Each group has trained leaders and a DVD video study that was developed specifically by Pastor Tom Are for these groups.

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
