



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.

MARCH 1, 2016

Welcome Center Set to Open Sunday, March 13

If all goes according to plan, we will open our new Welcome Center at Village Church on Sunday, March 13. It's a project that's been met with a few challenges and weather delays, but we're nearing the end of construction and what a welcomed addition it will be!

About the Design

The Welcome Center provided several challenges that became great opportunities, according to Brian Rathsam and David Evans of Mantel Teter Architects. "The exterior appearance is extremely visible along Mission Road and serves as a compliment to the existing architectural style at Village Church. This iconic building is well known along Mission Road and even serves as a landmark for many people. Since it is so visible, care had to be taken to match architectural style and language. The materials and motif had to be carefully considered and blended, making the new addition appear that it had always been there.

A real sense of 'entry' and identification was absent from the north and west façade at Village Church. This addition provided an opportunity to create an 'Art of Arrival' experience. The introduction of several large glass windows along Mission Road allows the building to be 'open' and outstretched to the community. This openness and transparency allows those passing by to see in and notice activity within the church, a feature that didn't exist previously.

Once inside the building, the arrival experience continues. The new Welcome Center provides spaces for the 3C's to happen: community, conversation

and connection. Various spaces are available for people to have community together, they can have conversations of varying social levels, and

most importantly, they can simply connect in relationship. It was important to create spaces where people would not feel pushed or herded, but rather relaxed and encouraging."

New Location for the Village Cup

"The new café bistro location is flooded with natural light and allows views to both the outdoor



courtyard and Mission Road. Adjacent to the new Welcome Center, this space has seating of all types and is just one of the many spaces that encourage conversation and connection. The outdoor courtyard provided separation from the existing building and allowed us to preserve the windows into the existing Sanctuary. This was a high value to the building committee and all those involved in design. This space provides light into both buildings, while creating a space to use for events and activities on those great weather days! The space was tight for construction and many materials had to be hoisted over the new building addition," adds Mantel Teter's Brian Rathsam.

Chef Emily Berns, director of Food Service, tells us, "We are looking forward to providing the same high-quality brewed coffee and espresso drinks, smoothies and frappes, hot and iced teas with The Roasterie products. We are planning an expanded pastry selection, including gluten-free options.

Continued

There will be electrical outlets for electronic gadgets at nearly every table and natural lighting from the large windows overlooking the new courtyard.

Please note that Village Cup's current location will close at the end of business Sunday, March 6. The Cup will be closed from March 6-12, and reopen like a butterfly on Sunday, March 13. We invite you to come enjoy the NEW Cup experience!"

New Amenities for People with Limited Mobility

"Those needing extra care and assistance will now be able to drive their car under a canopy that covers the entire drive for unloading at the new north entry," says David Evans of Mantel Teter." Folks will be able to immediately enter the building and then have access to the large elevator that serves all floor levels. The elevator cab has access doors on each end, and is nearly 6 feet wide and 8 feet deep, providing lots of room for wheelchairs, walkers and even moving equipment.

In summary, the most enjoyable and notable features of this addition will be the covered unloading canopy at the entry drive, the large accessible elevator, the spacious gathering areas for community, conversation and connection, and the iconic presence that has been reinforced along Mission Road."

A Few Words from Kathy Lueckert, Staff Liaison for Now & Tomorrow Construction Projects

Twice a month for the past 14 months, Kathy Lueckert has attended lengthy meetings in the Pearce Construction trailer in the north parking.

"I'm so eager for the Welcome Center to be open," says Kathy. "I think it will be a wonderful addition to life at Village, and people will love this space. It's going to be spectacular. It will enable us to do so many more things, to extend our presence in the community more than what we've been able to do. The accessibility will make it so much easier for people to be physically present in worship."

"The long portico over the Welcome Center driveway will allow folks to get in and out of the car without getting wet. Then they come right in the entrance on the ground floor and can take the elevator up to the Sanctuary level and enter through west side doors to the Sanctuary, or they can enjoy the Welcome Center and enter the Sanctuary through the Narthex. There are no stairs to impede them doing that. The Welcome Center floor is sloped to match the slope of the Sanctuary floor."

If you're wondering where the beam is that we signed last September, Kathy points out, "The beam is one of the door frame beams over the main entrance to the Welcome Center. So when you come in those double doors, you'll be walking under the beam we all signed."

The Welcome Center will be staffed Monday through Friday during business hours. Two different experienced staff members will rotate there as greeters for people coming in that north entrance.

There will also be more handicapped parking

spaces in the north lot. One thing to note about the north lot: on Sunday mornings and days when we have heavy traffic events, the Mission Road entrance will be blocked off. "That's a request of Prairie Village police for safety and traffic reasons," explains Kathy. "So you will come down to 66th Street and enter the lot from 66th Street. But during normal business hours, unless we have a big memorial service or a big community event, that Mission Road entrance will be open."

What will be the most exciting moment for Kathy when we open the doors to the Welcome Center? "Just seeing the expressions on people's faces when they see what a beautiful space it is and how open and how light filled it is. I think we all get starved for daylight and natural light, so many people work in cubicles or don't get a chance to be outside and enjoy the sunshine. That space is so light filled, and I think folks will really enjoy that."



New Village Cup location

**Second Thursday Recital
Saxophonist Megan Sebastian & Pianist Amy (Ludwig) Pennington
March 10 in the Village Sanctuary**

Classical saxophonist, Megan Sebastian, and piano accompanist Amy (Ludwig) Pennington will perform *Vivaldi's Concerto in F Major for Oboe and Piano*, *Rachmaninoff's Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 4*, *Maurice's Tableaux de Provence, Suite for Saxophone and Piano* and excerpts from *The Carnival of Venice*. The 30-minute recital is at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in the Village Sanctuary. Admission is free.

A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Megan Sebastian began her saxophone studies at age 10. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of New Mexico, and her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. While at UT, she studied with the legendary classical saxophonist, Harvey Pittel.



Dr. Sebastian has received numerous awards, including first prize in the University of New Mexico Concerto Competition. She has performed with several professional orchestras including New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Symphony and Santa Fe



Opera. Dr. Sebastian maintains a private saxophone studio in Overland Park.

After starting piano lessons at age six, Amy (Ludwig) Pennington earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Kansas. She served as an educator for KU's Children's Piano Laboratory Program. In 2003, she founded InJoy Music, which offers a bright future for children through Kindermusik classes and piano instruction.

Outside the studio, Mrs. Pennington is a business mentor for new Kindermusik educators worldwide. For five years, she represented over 5,000 educators as the communications advisor for the Partnership of Kindermusik Educators, and enjoyed traveling around the country to speak at Kindermusik Conferences. She has been teaching piano for over 20 years and is a former officer of the Kansas City Music Teachers Association.

**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 to learn more about the Kansas City Wind Symphony.

Food Pantry

As we enter the last few weeks of cold weather, the Food Pantry is requesting all types of rice, dried beans and lentils and all types and shapes of pasta. Let's help provide some hearty, warm meals at the close of winter. We are also in need of personal care products. Did you travel this winter? Do you have unopened, small bottles of shampoo, conditioner or lotion? Food Pantry clients love the variety provided by these small personal care products. Thank you for the many wonderful ways that you support the Village Church Food Pantry!

One Great Hour Offering on March 20

On Palm Sunday, gifts collected for this offering are distributed among the following: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Hunger Program. You will find envelopes for this offering in the hymnal slot for each pew.

Community Garden Spring Kick-Off Breakfast

If you are interested in joining or you are already on the Village Community Garden team, you are invited to a free spring kick-off breakfast and social from 7:30-9 a.m. on Friday, April 1, in Room 232. Cultivate KC will provide a brief talk on urban food production. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org by Thursday, March 24.



The 2016 Village Golf Classic and Celebration Domincana

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 Domincana is just two days earlier on Saturday, May 14. Registration forms can be found at various locations around the church, or you can contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, for more information at andrea.huffman@villagepres.org.

Help Fill Hillcrest's Linen Closet

Village Church Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a linen drive for Hillcrest Transitional Housing. Hillcrest provides temporary housing for homeless families, helping them become self-supporting and self-reliant in just 90 days.

Hillcrest needs new or gently used: bathroom linens, kitchen washcloths & towels and bed linens (queen, full & twin).

Drop off your donations at the receptionist desk at the south entrance of Village Church. The Linen Drive ends April 12.

Questions? Call Deborah White in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org.

Habitat for Humanity and Village Church

If you think you might like to become involved as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, join us for an informational meeting at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, in Room 132 to kick off the 2016 construction season. Representatives from Heartland Habitat and Village Church, as well as members of the Tuesday-Thursday Crew, will be on hand to discuss plans and building sites for 2016. If you would like more information but cannot attend, contact Dave Lillard, 913-649-8930 or lillard@kc.rr.com.

Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines

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, and they can be dropped off at the church receptionist 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.

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 Liz Middleton at 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations.

WND Menus:

March 9 - Chicken Teriyaki, Fried Rice, Steamed Broccoli

March 16 - New England Clam Chowder, GF Vegetarian Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

March 23 - Baked Tilapia, Wild Rice Pilaf, Mini Turkey Corn Dogs

March 30 - Tacos: Beef & Vegetarian, Nachos



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.

SL.002 Lenten Class on Prayer, Rev. Sally Wright, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, now-March 23, in Room 126

BT.007 Parting of the Ways, Rev. Dwight Tawney, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, now-March 9, in Room 127

FL.005 Piecing Your Family Puzzle Together, Char Mitts, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, now-March 16, in Room 132

CC.003 Very Basic Computer Class, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, now-March 16, in Room 316

SI.002a Village Talk with Rev. Dr. Wallace Hartsfield, II, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Village Chapel

BT.008a School of Theology: Religion in America: Billy Graham to Marcus Borg, Gus Breytspraak, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 30-May 4, in Room 132

Wednesday Night Music Choirs-Ensembles

Village Brass Ensemble will rehearse from 7-8:15 p.m. in the Assembly Hall at the Village Church Child & Family Development Center at 99th and Mission Road. More Love Chorale choir will rehearse from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Rooms 132/133.

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.

**“Saving the Monarch Migration”
Presented by Angie Babbit of Monarch Watch
7 p.m. Monday, April 4 • Village Church - Room 127**

The Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of KC and the Environmental Action Committee of Village Church are co-sponsoring a presentation about Monarch Butterflies and their migration by Angie Babbit of Monarch Watch.

Monarch butterflies migrating to and from Mexico have experienced historic population declines over the last two years. Their amazing two-way migration from Mexico to the upper U.S. and southern Canada is threatened by habitat loss. Angie Babbit will explore the reasons for this decline and discuss how anyone—from the beginning flower gardener to the master naturalist—can help boost the monarch population.

Milkweed, the sole food source for monarch caterpillars, has several native varieties that can be both beautiful to the human visitor and a vital habitat for monarchs. Angie will explain the benefits of growing the various species alongside nectar sources, and how the simple act of planting monarch habitat will have positive, cascading impacts.

Learn how to create an official Monarch Waystation and provide habitat for every life stage of the monarch butterfly. The Monarch Waystation program is in its 11th year, and there are over 12,000 certified gardens in North America. However, millions of acres of habitat are needed.

About Our Speaker

Angie Babbit is the communications coordinator at Monarch Watch at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She received her master’s degree in biology from Emporia State University and her bachelor’s in environmental studies from the University of Kansas.

She is also an advocate for the conversion of lawns and gardens to native plantings. She handles much of the communications with the public about monarchs and milkweed at Monarch Watch.

This free public event is the centerpiece of SSC’s April meeting and is being offered under the auspices of Village U. Register by contacting Marianne Weber in the Adult Educational Ministries Office at 913-671-2333 or marianne@villagepres.org.



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 community.

Contact Trevor Fletcher at 913-530-3864 or tfletcher32@hotmail.com for more information.



Taizé Worship Service

Join us at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, in the Chapel for Taizé evening worship. This quiet, reflective service includes song, silence, scripture and communion. Come and worship in a new way.

Share the Joy!

Taking an Easter lily to members who are unable to attend church during Lent or Easter is a tradition at Village Church. If you are interested in helping deliver a lily or two after the last Easter Sunday service, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org. You'll be contacted the week before Easter with specific information. Your gift of time is much appreciated!

Easter Lily Memorials

You may purchase a potted lily in memory or honor of a loved one by sending a check for \$10 payable to Village Church (include the memorial/honoree name with the check). Send your check to the church, Attn: Janice, with "Easter Memorial" referenced on both the envelope and the check. Your information must be received by noon on Friday, March 18, to be included in the April 5 *Good News* listing of donors.



Growing Through Grief – New Series Begins April 6

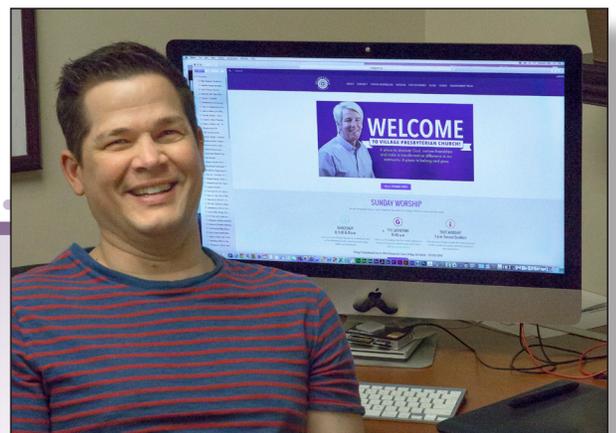
If you are grieving the death of someone you loved, please know you are not alone. Growing Through Grief is a five-week class where you can learn more about the grieving process, meet others who understand your struggles, and be reminded that God is with us through even the hardest of moments. You'll receive your own copy of *Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart*, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. This book is optional yet helpful to read. The series and book are offered at no cost. The next series is from 6:30-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday, April 6-May 4, in Room 124. Registration is required. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

Searching for a New Job?

The Village Church Career Center now offers a Job Search Program that can be delivered directly to you via email. If you would like to know more or want to receive this excellent information, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

Widowers' Support Group

If you have lost your wife and are looking for encouragement and support, join us from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month. This group meets in Room 230 (the Heritage Dining Room) and is facilitated by Rev. Len Carrell.



Check Out the NEW Village Website

We launched our new website design on Feb. 16. Our marketing & communications team has spent the last several months working on a major facelift for the Village Church website.

Design and Digital Media Manager Cyrus Logan says, "Visually, it's much more vibrant and there have been changes to the information architecture to make the website more user-friendly. We've added new content, new photos and new features and at the same time, consolidated some information."

It's what they call a "responsive design," which means the screen appearance and text size adjusts to whatever electronic device you are using.

Check it out at www.villagepres.org!



Tickets Now on Sale for PW 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 available in Friendship Hall between Sunday services March 6. Online registration is now open 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.

WOW Lunch at Houlihan's

Ladies, wear your St. Patrick's green and join WOW (Women of Wisdom) for a spring lunch at noon on Thursday, March 17. We'll gather at Houlihan's, Town Center, 4900 W. 119th. A casual restaurant, Houlihan's specializes in American food, including homemade soups, salads, sandwiches and lunch entrees. All ladies are warmly invited. RSVP by March 16 to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, 913-432-4321.



Visiting Scholar
Amy-Jill Levine PhD.
New Testament Professor &
Influential Author Presents

"Jesus the Jewish Storyteller: Hearing the Parables Anew"

March 4 & 5
At Village Church

Tickets available at villagepres.org



7-9 p.m. Friday, March 4

Session 1: Parables, Pearls and Prodigals-Reception and book signing follow the program. Books available for purchase courtesy of Rainy Day Books.

9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 5

Session 2: Tax Collectors, Priests, Levites and Samaritans
Session 3: Vineyard Owners and Day Laborers

AARP 55 Alive Driving Class will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, April 14 & 15, in Room 232. Classes will be taught by veteran instructor Alan Shirling. The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you are an AARP member) per person payable to AARP. Bring a brown bag lunch or eat out. To enroll, call Marianne, 913-671-2333.



Upcoming Village U Classes:

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, Cynthia Gillis, 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. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in Room 232.

Village Talk - Host Rev. Brian Ellison welcomes Rev. Dr. Wallace Hartsfield, Jr., pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, a vibrant congregation in the urban core. Dr. Hartsfield, who also teaches Old Testament at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, is a sought-after speaker/preacher and a professional musician. He and Brian will delve into the challenges of race and social justice in the Kansas City metropolitan area. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Chapel.

Interior Design Pro Tips - Learn tips that you can use in your dwelling to improve the function of your space and make it feel even more like home. Topics to be covered include: space planning, elements and principles of design, color theory, fabrics, furniture and measurement rules. Taught by Sean Droessler. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 29, in Room 127.

School of Theology - Religion in America: Billy Graham to Marcus Borg - The class is an exploration of developments in mainline and evangelical Protestantism in the latter half of the 20th century focusing on Billy Graham and Marcus Borg. Readings will include Grant Wacker's highly praised book on Graham and American culture, *America's Pastor* and Borg's classic, *Meeting Jesus Again*. Classes will include discussions of videos and readings including some of Graham's most famous crusades and Borg's two appearances at Village Church. Taught by Gus Breytspraak. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 30-May 4, in Room 132. Class will not meet on April 13.

Register for Village U classes at www.villagepres.org or contact Marianne Weber at marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes Highlights

9:30 a.m.

Faith Journey is beginning a new study in March looking at faith's role in various aspects of today's world. How do the concepts of compassion, community and civility that Jesus taught inform our behavior today? Cherie Brown, Mary Snyder and Kathy Ray will each be exploring this using three books-*Jesus, Pope Francis, and a Protestant Walk into a Bar: Lessons for the Christian Church* by Bill Tammes, *Another Kingdom* by Walter Brueggeman and *Who Speaks for God?* by Jim Wallis.

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 BC 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. Now through 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.

Village Forum welcomes Elizabeth and Jay McKell who recently returned from six months in Paris where Jay served as the visiting pastor at The American Church in Paris. The focus of his ministry was on Marriage Blessing Services but they experienced much more: a diverse, unique and invigorating congregation, French cooking, art galleries and museums, shopping in the markets, and, of course, the terrorist attacks on Nov. 13. All of this will be the focus of this two-session conversation. Week One we will talk about marriage there and here and the unique worshipping community that is now misnamed The American Church. Week Two we will tour the city and talk about the November attacks as well as compare the European and American responses to the Middle Eastern refugee crisis. March 13 & 20 in Rooms 126/127.

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. Room 124.

New Village Little Ones

Join Children and Family Ministry in welcoming the following little ones born recently: Jaxson Denis Jimenez (Elizabeth Roach and Denis Jimenez, parents) and Malachi Moyer (Valentine Agbor and Jennifer Moyer, parents). A rose will be placed on the communion table March 20 in honor of these precious little bundles.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Each year we pass out the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks, and each year children are encouraged to collect coins and fill their banks. We collect the Fish Banks on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. A fresh idea to help fill those banks to host a neighborhood bake sale or used book sale with the proceeds going into the Fish Bank. You could also visit the online Presbyterian Giving Catalog at <https://presbyteriangifts.org/>.

Story Time and Crafts!

We gather the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. for Story Time, finger plays, songs and movement activities in the Children’s Library and crafts in Room 203. Themes vary month to month. Email Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2355 for more information.

Club V6/6th Grade Fellowship

Mark your calendars for the next fellowship event for 6th grade. From 7-11 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 6th Graders will meet at Urban Air Indoor Trampoline Park for a night of fun. Call Cheryl (913-671-2355) for more information. The event will have a DJ, free pizza and activities for kids such as a dodgeball tournament, foam pit challenge or a slam dunk contest.

There will be no Kids’ Kingdom, Preschool Church School or Club V6 (6th Grade) on Easter Sunday. This gives our volunteer teachers and you a chance to worship with your family.

Morning Stars Children’s Choir



Our 3rd-6th Grade Morning Stars children participated in the Chorister’s Guild Children’s Choir Festival at Southminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Jan. 31. Four area church choirs combined for an afternoon of working with clinician Gretchen Harrison, and ended the day with a worship service where they sang four songs.

Mark Ball’s Pint-Sized Music Lesson

Village Church Music Director Mark Ball introduced preschoolers to a musical instrument in January. Mark was happy to give them a mini concert on the Mason and Hamlin baby grand piano in the Chapel. He let each child who wanted to play the piano. Teachers are building upon the musical experience with other activities.



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

Ginger 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.



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT



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

MARCH 1, 2016
Vol. 53, No.5

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT KC,MO

LENTEN 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.

- 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

Holy Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday
Worship Service
7 p.m. March 24

Good Friday
Worship Service
7 p.m. March 25

Easter Services
Sunday, March 27
8, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

A free shuttle bus will run from the Blue Moose/Missouri Bank parking lot from 8:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Easter morning.

The church will be closed Monday, March 28.

VPC Service Times

Traditional — 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary

The Gathering — 10:45 a.m.
In Friendship Hall

Radio Broadcast
Sundays at 8 a.m. on
1660 AM KMBZ,
The Business Channel

www.villagepres.org

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

IN MEMORY

Ardis Davis
Kent Mathews
Margaret “Margaret Ann” Webb
Mary Lee Woolsey
Bobby Work

Rev. Hallie Hottle Pastor of Young Adult Ministry

Hallie's Faith Journey

"I grew up in Monmouth, Ill. My family is all in Monmouth. My Dad's mother lived across the street. My mom's parents lived on the other side of town on a big piece of land where we'd go and play all the time. Our family was close. My sister Hannah is four years younger than me. She is now a physical therapist in Indianapolis. I have a brother who is 10 years younger than me who is in college right now in Louis University in Chicago. This move from my first call in Miami Shores Presbyterian in Miami to Village Church brought me just a five-hour drive from Monmouth, which has been really great because right before I was to start at Village Church, my mom learned she has had a recurrence of metastatic breast cancer. I'm so grateful for how Village has been so far in letting me go home as I've needed to. She's not doing great, but we're hopeful we'll find the right combination of doctors."

Her Call to Ministry

"It was actually a surprise for me. We grew up in a Presbyterian Church and were always active in part of it. But when I went away to college, I assumed that was the end of my churching time and ended up at a small liberal arts school that was historically Presbyterian in Cedar Rapids, Iowa called Coe College. And while I was there, I started taking religion classes, but wasn't really involved in any kind of ministry. I was studying psychology and thought I wanted to do something in counseling. The summer before my senior year of college I had internships and other things set up, but all my plans kept falling through. Nothing was working out. Then the pastor of my home church in Monmouth called and said the Presbytery was starting this program where they chose a few churches every summer that would have to hire college students to come and work for them and it would be paid. And he said, 'I don't want to find someone to do this and your mom says you can't figure out what you're doing, so just come home and do it for me.' And because I had nothing else to do I said, 'OK fine. I'll do this.'"



The pastor was starting his doctorate that summer so he left, which

I didn't know when I showed up. So he handed me a *Book of Common Worship* and put me in a renovated closet that was an office and said, 'Good Luck!' and left for the summer. I just had to do things and figure it out. I was preaching and was leading worship, was meeting with people and counseling with people, that I shouldn't have been doing. I was a college student and was not equipped.

I wound up having to take an adult mission trip to New Orleans. And it was some time on that trip I realized 'I'm going to end up doing this aren't I?' Our pastor came back and said, 'So are you applying to seminary?' He had this all set up. He knew what he was doing. And I said, 'No, I don't want to.' And he said, 'That's too bad. God wants you to!'

So I went back to college after that summer and started applying to seminary. I only applied to schools I didn't think I could get into, because I still didn't know if I wanted to do this. So I applied to Princeton, Harvard and Yale. I thought 'I'm not going to get into any of these.' My undergrad degree wasn't in religion; it was in art and psychology. I thought 'Surely they'll just reject me and I can be done with this adventure!' And I got into all of them.

Then I thought, 'I can't afford it. I have no money saved.' And then Princeton, who really helps Presbyterian students, came and said, 'We'll pay for everything.' And I said, 'Dang it! I am NOT getting out of this thing, am I?' So I went, thinking I'd do college chaplaincy and work

with university students and just kept tripping more into the church. I worked in 5th Avenue church in New York while I was in seminary and loved it. The person I worked for at the time was Paul Rock who is now working at Second Presbyterian Church here in Kansas City. He was very much part of the reason I ended up wanting to be in a church. By the time I was finishing seminary I was only looking at churches. I'm still just kind of tripping into the next thing and figuring it out when I get there. 'Surely this isn't what you want God? Oh, it is! Okay, I don't know why, but we'll see what you have planned here.'

Miami Shores, The Matchmakers

Hallie met her husband, Nick Dorn, in Miami. "He was from Miami Shores where I was serving. He grew up in that church. He'd been away for 15 years. I knew his family. He was living up in Boca Raton at the time. As soon as I got to the church, our head pastor's wife said, 'I have someone you need to meet.' I said, 'OK, I don't think I'm interested.' For a year she was on me that I had to meet this person, and I wouldn't do it. I'm not being set up by my church; that's a terrible idea. Finally, she got his family involved; and they were inviting Nick down on the weekends saying they needed help with the yard. So he was coming down and they'd bring him to church. And it became this hilarious thing. I knew what they were doing. He had no idea. He thought he was this innocent bystander in the whole thing. And they ended up getting us together. And the first time we went out for dinner, which took several months, I thought, 'Oh shoot! This is going to work, isn't it?' And it did. No one knew we were dating. We kept that very quiet, and then announced a year later we were engaged. It was very funny because everyone in the church took credit for setting us up.

We got married in the Miami Shores Church and celebrated our one year anniversary in December. We got married on 12-13-14. My husband is kind of a nerd. Our first date was on 10-11-12. So he proposed on 11-12-13. So we had to get married on 12-13-14.

Nick has spent his career in education as a high school history teacher in independent schools, also working an assortment of administrative positions. His most recent job was as a principal for a middle and high school charter school in Miami. He's excited to explore education in Kansas City, but also to look into potentially working for a nonprofit of some kind.

Hallie and Nick have three dogs. Hallie has two tiny dogs named Ernie and Oliver. Nick has a big dog named Esmerelda. They love to spend time outdoors going to dog parks. "Eating is our favorite past time. And Kansas City has so many great places to eat."

What Drew Her to Village?

"I got to a point this past year at Miami Shores where I felt like it was the end of call. And at the same time, a good friend of mine who does young adult ministry at 5th Avenue Church in New York called me and said, 'Village is looking for a young adult minister. You have to do this!' I haven't gotten to do specialized ministry. And if I could do specialized ministry I would want it to be with young adults because I think we're strange people, this generation. We think and see the world differently because of the quickly changing culture we experienced

as we grew up. It's not our fault, we were just made this way. And the church needs to be able to speak a language that we can understand and respond to."

"We're going to have some Young Adult gatherings the first three Thursdays in March at the Blue Moose in Prairie Village Shopping Center starting at 6 p.m. It's a time for young adults to come and connect with me and each other and talk about what they want in this new ministry here at Village. Email me at hallie.hottle@villagepres.org or text or call me at 305-790-3050. I'd love to hear from you!"

