Celebration of Faithful Women
Meet This Year's Honorary Life Members

Please join us for Presbyterian Women's Annual Celebration of Faithful Women event on Saturday, March 23, at Village Church on Mission. Registration and coffee begin at 10 a.m. The doors to Friendship Hall open at 10:30 a.m. Cost is $16 per person. Make your reservation online at www.villagepres.org/pw through March 17.

This year, our very own Rev. Jessie Light-Wells will be the keynote speaker. We will honor three Village Church Members – Ann Colston, Susie Dixon and Lucy Tidwell.

Honoree Ann Colston
Ann was born in Lawrence, Kansas. She received her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Kansas State University. Ann’s first job was as a preschool teacher at Adventure World Preschool. She dedicated the rest of her career, until her retirement, to the State of Kansas.

Ann has been a member of Village Church since 1977. She has been involved with an assortment of programs and activities at Village including teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and being a preschool teacher. Additionally, Ann has served on multiple committees including Pastoral Care and Counseling Committee and The Village Youth Committee. She continues to coordinate the Star Families Program and volunteer with Village Church blood drives. Ann has also been actively involved with Presbyterian Women, serving as part of the Advent Dinner Committee and Celebration of Faithful Women Committee.

Honoree Susie Dixon
Susie was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania. She was the first woman in her family to attend college. Susie attended DePauw University, majoring in dietetics and later received a teaching degree from Avila University. A lifelong learner, Susie continued her love of learning by teaching others. Throughout her career she taught first grade, special education and was a substitute teacher for the Johnson County School District.

While attending DePauw, Susie met her husband, Al. They were married for over 50 years and have two children, Darci and David. As a member of Village Church, Susie has been active with the Village Choir as well as teaching Sunday School, and preparing and distributing the weekly pulpit bouquets. Susie became a deacon in the 1990s and served as a Stephen Minister for over 10 years. She has been active in Presbyterian Women for decades.

Honoree Lucy Tidwell
Lucy was born in St. Louis. She received her Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Kansas. Lucy worked for Kansas City Life Insurance Company for 17 years, then left to help her husband in his commercial real estate business. Lucy currently works for Care Haven Homes.

Lucy met her husband, Brant, at the University of Kansas. They were married for 30 years before Brant passed away after a valiant battle with brain cancer. They have two sons, Foster and Calvin. Foster and his wife, Alli, live in Chicago with Lucy’s first grandchild, Theodore “Teddy” Brant. Calvin and his wife, Nicole, live in Kansas City.

Lucy has served in multiple roles at Village Church including Session member, clerk of Session, a board member of the Village Endowment Trust, a member of the Adult Educational Ministry Committee and the 2017 Village Strategic Planning Committee, to name a few. Lucy recently served on the Presbyterian Women’s Board and was chair of the 2018 PW Spring Retreat. She continues to be involved with a small group of women who have provided her great support over the years. As a Village Church member for 35 years, Lucy says she continues to be awed by the amazing people at Village Church.
“Come to the Table,” A Feast for Eyes and Soul
Traveling Exhibit on Display at Village on Mission, March 10-April 21

This Christians in the Visual Arts traveling exhibit titled “Come to the Table” features 34 selected works in a variety of media, from historical pieces by Albrecht Durer, to modernist work by Jasper Johns and Sadao Watanabe, to fresh contemporary pieces created by CIVA artists. This work celebrates both the rich community gathered at the Table of Fellowship and the privilege of meeting with God at his Table of Communion. The table is a rich biblical metaphor seen in passages such as Abraham entertaining angels, the Christ’s Last Supper with his disciples, the great Marriage Feast of the Lamb at the end of time. Indeed, the promise of Revelation 19 is that human history will culminate around a table where the people of God are all present. God’s Table is a place of welcome, justice, abundance and worship.

Collectively, according to the exhibition statement, the works celebrate “the Table: a place of invitation, relationship, abundance, generosity, and reconciliation, where communities gather and where worshippers encounter the grace of God.”

Kim Higgins of the Village Church Liturgical Arts Committee said, “Christine Lewis discovered the CIVA source and the Liturgical Arts Committee decided that this particular exhibit would be a meaningful addition to our Lenten study and worship.”

“Come to the Table” will be on display in the Welcome Center at Village on Mission.

UPCOMING SERMONS

March 10 First Sunday of Lent: Rev. Len Carrell is Preaching

Lenten Sermon Series: Character Is Always Chosen

The scriptures are filled with lists of virtues, stories of heroes, models of maturity. Character is a matter of spiritual formation. One of the things we learn is that character must be chosen. It does not simply evolve or emerge. Some teach that if we do what is good for ourselves, then “the good” will show up. Jesus taught the opposite; we must choose what is good for the community for “the good” to show up.

March 17 Character Requires Vision (to know what matters most)
March 24 Character Requires a Choice
March 31 Character Requires Courage
April 7 Character Requires Hope
April 14 Palm Sunday
April 21 Easter
MISSION

Food Pantry

The Village Church Food Pantry is so thankful for all the hearty soups and crackers that were received during February. Both VOA and VOM donated 975 pounds of soup on "Souper Bowl Sunday" and those generous donations continued during the rest of the month. For March - toothpaste and tooth brushes and shampoo, for which there is always a need, are the requested items. Spring is on its way and the Clothes Closet is thinking about those "March Showers" and is requesting raincoats, umbrellas and light jackets.

Do You Like to Get Your Hands Dirty?

After a cold, snowy winter, it’s time to “sprout” into action with the Village Community Garden at 99th and Mission Road. Village needs volunteers to help plant, weed, water and harvest during 2019. Depending upon the weather, we hope to plant some of our cooler weather crops such as spinach and lettuce beginning in March. Garden produce is donated to the Village Food Pantry for our clients. If you would like to join the community garden team, please call Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or email deborah.white@villagepres.org. We will then contact you as we get closer to the planting season with a sign-up list of times to help.

SESSION RECAP

Village Church Session Actions…

At the Feb. 4 Meeting of the Session, The Elders of the Church…

• Heard Elder Randy Jackson’s faith story and most meaningful scriptures and welcomed him as a new elder on Session.
• Heard a report from Will Brechtspraak, director of music ministry, about visions for how the church’s music ministry can be more invitational and missional.
• Heard a report from Judy Frame, chair of the Endowment Trust Board. At the end of January 2019, the Village Church Endowment Trust fund was over $22 million dollars. This year, over a million dollars will be given from the trust for mission and ministry at Village Church and beyond.
• Ratified the election of Bruce McClelland, Robbin Reynolds and Kimberly D. Tranbarger as new board members for the Endowment Trust.
• Senior Pastor Tom Are gladly reported that the Sanctuary ceiling repairs are completed and expressed appreciation for the patience and support of the congregation in these weeks.
• Approved the 2018 Church Statistical Report. This report is required by the Presbyterian Church (USA) denominational office. Village Church reported 4,789 active members. Last year, 2018, 164 new members joined, and 106 members were removed (74 due to death).

What is the Session? The Session is the governing board of the congregation. The 29 elders are elected by the congregation. Each one serves for a three-year term. Currently the Session is comprised of 13 women and 16 men. Two of the elders are young people. The Session meets monthly except for July. The Rev. Tom Are, Jr. as senior pastor, is moderator of the Session. Pastors and directors also attend the meetings and may speak but not vote.

MISSION

Food Pantry

The Village Church Food Pantry is so thankful for all the hearty soups and crackers that were received during February. Both VOA and VOM donated 975 pounds of soup on "Souper Bowl Sunday" and those generous donations continued during the rest of the month. For March - toothpaste and tooth brushes and shampoo, for which there is always a need, are the requested items. Spring is on its way and the Clothes Closet is thinking about those "March Showers" and is requesting raincoats, umbrellas and light jackets.

Do You Like to Get Your Hands Dirty?

After a cold, snowy winter, it’s time to “sprout” into action with the Village Community Garden at 99th and Mission Road. Village needs volunteers to help plant, weed, water and harvest during 2019. Depending upon the weather, we hope to plant some of our cooler weather crops such as spinach and lettuce beginning in March. Garden produce is donated to the Village Food Pantry for our clients. If you would like to join the community garden team, please call Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or email deborah.white@villagepres.org. We will then contact you as we get closer to the planting season with a sign-up list of times to help.
Te Deum Antiqua - “Convent Music”  
7 p.m. Sunday, March 10 - St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

For this concert, the women of Te Deum Antiqua will explore the music of 16th and 17th century Italian cloistered nuns and the sacred riches that came from this period. Tickets are $15 a person. (available at the door or at te-deum.org). St. Paul’s Episcopal Church is located at 11 E 40th St. in Kansas City, Mo.

Second Thursday Recital March 14 with Soprano Rachel Priest

Please join us from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary for our March 14 Second Thursday Recital with soprano Rachel Priest. Admission is free.

UMKC Conservatory Singers in Concert
7 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 – Village on Mission Sanctuary

This select chamber ensemble is dedicated to performing music of the 16-21st centuries at the highest possible artistic level. Admission is free.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert, 7 p.m. Sunday, March 24

The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present their fourth concert of the 2018-19 season at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 24, in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. Admission is free. The program will feature chamber music selections by Robert Spittal and Karel Husa, along with powerful hymn influenced band works by Donald Grantham, Claude T. Smith, David Gillingham and David Maslanka.

Organist Dexter Kennedy, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 – Village on Mission Sanctuary

Please join us for this concert by organist Dexter Kennedy, co-presented by Village Church and the Kansas City Chapter of the American Guild of Organist (AGO). It’s at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. Admission is free.

As the winner of the Grand Prix d’Interprétation at the 24th Concours International d’Orgue de Chartres, Dexter Kennedy has established himself internationally as “one of the greatest organists of our times” (Iceland Monitor). Praised for his “prodigious technique and grand style musicality” in “The American Organist,” Dexter Kennedy currently serves on the music faculty of the College of Wooster (Ohio) as Instructor of Organ and Harpsichord.

“In Paradisum”
Fauré Requiem and Poulenc Organ Concerto
3 p.m. Sunday, April 7 - Village Church on Mission Sanctuary

Please join us for our spring concert featuring Dr. Elisa Bickers performing Poulenc's “Organ Concerto” and the Village Chamber Choir and soloists singing Fauré’s “Requiem.” The concerto spans the spectrum of human emotion: pain, beauty, grief, love and calm. The concert then culminates with one of the most beloved, poignant, and beautiful Requiems ever composed.

Child care will be provided with a reservation by March 31. Admission is free.

A free-will offering will be taken for the Avenue of Life, which offers a myriad of social services in Kansas City, Kansas. Avenue of Life shares in the city and county-wide mission to end homelessness for families and children in Kansas City.
Remembering Mark Ball
Beloved Village Church Music Ministry Director, Friend and Colleague

Rev. Tom Are delivered the heartbreaking news to the Village Church congregation on Sunday morning, Feb. 10, that Mark Ball had suffered a massive heart attack on Saturday, Feb. 9, and did not survive. Mark’s life was cut short suddenly, two days after he turned 60. It was a somber Sunday morning in worship services at Village on Mission, Village on Antioch and at Southminster Presbyterian Church where Mark currently served as director of music ministry and organist. He served as director of music ministry at Village Church from 2001-2016.

Here are a few excerpts from his obituary published in the “Kansas City Star” on Feb. 17:

Mark was a dearly loved father, grandfather, husband, son, brother, uncle, friend, teacher, mentor and colleague and will be missed by so many. Most people knew Mark for his extraordinary musical gifts. He led and nurtured church music in the Kansas City area for more than 40 years… Mark was presently an adjunct member of the Music Faculty at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. (Mark received his Bachelor’s in Music from William Jewell).

Mark had an extraordinary knowledge of the importance of sacred music in the theological traditions of the church. As many can attest, he was a wonderful teacher and choral director. Mark often said he believed everyone had a voice and he could teach them to sing. He played both organ and piano with an awe-inspiring blend of technical competence, passion, and emotion… It made him happiest teaching children and adults to sing and leading congregations in song for the proclaiming and learning of the faith.

Mark also produced many memorable and creative musical performances over the years. Some concerts combined choirs from different churches and from musical programs at local colleges and incorporated orchestras formed by some of the best musicians in the area and beyond. These musical experiences were profound for everyone involved.

At Mark’s celebration of life service at Southminster, Matthew Shepard led the combined choirs of Southminster and the Village Choir in Brahms’s “Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee.” Elisa Bickers and Sean Tatsch (both Village Church staff members and friends of Mark) performed an organ/piano duet of Haydn’s “The Heavens are Telling” from “The Creation.” Sean and Mark had been rehearsing this piece to perform at an upcoming concert. Elisa graciously agreed to play it with Sean at Mark’s memorial service.

Mark’s family kindly asks that honorariums for Mark be made to the established college fund for his daughter, Charlotte (529 fund through Edward Jones; financial advisor, Justin Scicluna, 913-262-1414); Southminster Presbyterian Church; or to an arts organization of your choice.
Rev. Len Carrell
Tennessee Bound

Rev. Len Carrell has served as associate pastor in Pastoral Care at Village Presbyterian Church for three years and nine months. In his first “Good News” interview in the summer of 2015, the former New York actor said, “When I went to Austin Seminary I used to think, ‘I need to set aside this acting thing. That part of my life is over. This new thing has happened, and I need to just fully embrace this new calling.’ But the more and more I did that, the more and more I saw I got it wrong. God called this crazy actor guy to go out and serve the church with all those gifts. All these things have prepared me for what’s about to happen in my life. And it’s hard to accept that sometimes. But I’m trying to learn that’s exactly who God called.”

God is now calling Len to something new. “I got a call from a member of the search committee at the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Tennessee, who got my name from Ted Wardlaw, the president at Austin Seminary. They were looking for a pastor and head of staff. Ted told them he didn’t know where I was in my calling now. He said, ‘Len’s at a great place. But he’d be a great fit. You should talk to him.’

When I got the phone call from First Presbyterian about whether I’d be interested in the position, I said, ‘Absolutely not. I have no interest. I’m not sure I’m ready for a move like this at this time. In many ways because our daughter’s a teenager. A big part of coming to Village was the great experience that Caitlin was going to have in her middle school years into her high school years. Even though I told them I wasn’t interested, they didn’t listen to me. They were very persistent. This guy kept calling me. ‘I just wanted to see how you felt today, Len.’ He and I have actually developed quite a rapport with one another. He’s become a good phone friend in many ways.”

“I also had many conversations with my mentor, Tom Are, in this. He has always helped me to be mindful that discernment doesn’t happen in a bubble or a vacuum. So when First Presbyterian called me a couple more times, I said, ‘You got my name from somebody I respect and I love, and that must mean that he has a lot of respect and love for you. It wouldn’t be fair to NOT have a conversation with you.’

We talked over many months. Around Thanksgiving they said they wanted to talk to my references, which meant that I had to let people that I work with here, like Tom and Rodger, know. They invited Tanisha and me to come visit them on Epiphany Sunday of all days and to preach. Tanisha and I knew when we left there that we would not be going home by the same road.”

“The Tuesday after I had come to visit them, they called and extended the call. I’m floored by how God works in these ways. I wasn’t looking for this. I’m happy here. But I’m so happy that this experience is happening, too. I’ve never gone through the experience of leaving the place I love to go to a place and people I’m falling in love with. I’ve gone through the experience of falling in love with the church and being called. That was Village Church. You will always be that in my history of being a minister in this denomination. I’m confident that what I’ve learned here is going to be so important to put into practice there.”

About Len’s New Church

First Presbyterian Church is in the downtown area of Columbia, Tennessee, steps from the town square. It’s about 30 minutes south of Franklin, Tennessee. The church is right across the street from President James Polk’s historic homes. It’s a PC (USA) congregation of 400+ people. They just celebrated their 200th anniversary.

“There’s a lot of energy in that town,” noted Len. “They described what they’re going through in this old historic town as a population tsunami.”

“One of the first things that really inspired me about who they were as a congregation was they introduced me
to this homeless man named Melvin. Melvin has taken up residency in their work shed that’s in their parking lot. He just started living there years ago. My response to them was ‘So you adopted Melvin?’ And they responded, ‘No. He adopted us.’ I think that is amazing.”

**Reflecting on His Time at Village**

“Pastoral Care is not an easy job at Village Church. There are too many dark valleys that we’re being called into. There are too many places sometimes you just don’t want to be, but that’s where God is leading you. I will tell you that that is where I’ve also found my joy here, to be able to be with families that are hurting. It’s not always easy; but it is life affirming in many ways. In the midst of standing at shadow’s edge, there can be light also. There’s a lot of love in the room. That has been the best part of my calling at Village Church.”

On occasion, Len has used his acting and musical talents at Village. He played Goliath and the voice of God in our summer drama and music camps for children. “This summer in worship I sang ‘Beautiful City’ from ‘Godspell.’ I enjoy being able to use those gifts. What I needed to learn here in many ways was how to use those gifts in ministry. It doesn’t look the same as singing on a stage.”

“Jenny McDevitt gave the charge to the congregation when I was installed here ‘Len will sing to you. Let Len sing to you.’ And I’ve always let that be a part of my ministry. Sometimes I don’t always have the greatest prayer in the moment that I need the greatest prayer. But I’ve had moments when I’ve cried with people before surgery. I’ve had moments when I’ve cried with people when they’ve gotten a hard diagnosis. And usually the only thing I can think to say is a song. And it’s usually ‘Be Thou My Vision.’ That’s always been one of my favorite songs. Sometimes in the hardest moments, that’s kind of our only prayer, too. God, be my vision.”

**How He’s Changed**

“I’m different in many ways since I first came to Village Church. I’m learning to find my voice. When you’re trying to make the next best choice when it comes to a committee detail or an event or this or that, you can get bogged down in the details, all the moving pieces. It’s humbling to be able to say, ‘You know what? This is about YOU. This is about us together, community.’ Village has really helped me come to understand that. That has been a growing part of me, to not lose focus of what our real focus is, and it’s each other. We experience who God is in those relationships, and in those moments when you’re really with and for someone. That’s what God modeled for us in Jesus. And I think we model it and we experience God in those moments.”

Len has officiated 150 funerals at Village Church. “I think one of the best things anybody ever told me after a memorial service was ‘I was so moved by how you would look me in the eyes.’ Another person came up to me and said, ‘I’ve never been to a funeral where I’ve seen that.’ I asked him, ‘What do you mean?’ He said ‘You’re not a preacher. You’re a reacher.’ I so love that because you do, you reach out. It feels like that anyway. That might be where my gifts for preaching lie. I’ve learned that. I didn’t know that before.”

**To the Village Church Congregation**

“I never thought I was going to be a pastor. That was a really long journey. I’m never going to forget that this is the first place that affirmed that calling for me. You sent me to be ordained at my home church in New York City and brought me back here and installed me. Then you baptized me by fire and smoke and water and ice and everything else. I am grateful to all of you for that.

There isn’t a part of my life that hasn’t prepared me for this moment. I could also say there’s nothing about my life that says I should be here in this moment. But there’s nothing in my life that hasn’t prepared me to take this next step. I want Village to know that they were not just ONE of those steps, but probably the BIGGEST step that I took in being in this calling to word and sacrament, to proclaim the Gospel, to love one another and to be transformational in our communities.”

Len will be preaching at Village on Mission on Sunday, March 10. Please join us for Len’s farewell reception following the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 17, in Friendship Hall.
Taizé Worship Service
6:30 pm. Tuesday, March 12

Taizé is held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Village of Mission Chapel. This is a beautiful, moving service; one filled with candlelight, scripture, song and moments of silence. Communion is always served. We encourage everyone to come to our next Taizé service on Tuesday, March 12. It will be our last led by Rev. Len Carrell.

Prayers are Powerful

Each week the church publishes a new prayer list with names of members, family, friends, and neighbors who could use a prayer. We lift up those who have suffered a loss of a loved one, persons in the hospital or rehab or on hospice, men and women who serve in our military, and those who could use a prayer for any reason. If you would like to place someone on the prayer list, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or at linda.alley@villagepres.org. Our process is to have a person’s name appear for one month; if you would like to have someone listed for a longer period, just let Linda know.

Women of Wisdom Lunch at the New Plaza III

Women of Wisdom (WOW) invites all ladies to a noon lunch on Tuesday, March 19. We’ll be dining in a private room at the new location of Plaza III Steakhouse, 12631 Metcalf in Overland Park. With the same great American food, lunch there will be fine dining in a stunning atmosphere. RSVP by March 18 to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608. Come and bring a friend. All women are welcome!

VOA PW Spring Luncheon to Recognize Mary Beveridge as Honorary Life Member
11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Village on Antioch

Mary Beveridge is known as a wonderful, bright, joyful Presbyterian woman. She enjoyed a long career as a teacher in public schools, and still teaches, whenever someone takes the time to listen. She has a son and a grandson and takes pleasure in learning about and taking care of others.

Mary is wise academically, politically and socially. She taught Sunday School for many years. Mary coordinated many Presbyterian Women activities, including Lenten breakfasts. She has been a member of Mariners couples groups in her churches and is a member of many Bible studies.

Mary is a life-long learner, with theology being one of her passions. According to the PW’s March “Messenger” newsletter, “In Mary’s many leadership roles, she is always there to challenge us, as well as encourage us . . . Mary was a dynamic supporter of the alliance between Presbyterian Church of Stanley and Village Presbyterian Church. She used her voice to maintain a ‘socially-just stand’—We are in awe of this small in stature woman, who stood side-by-side with fellow PC(USA) members, working for justice and peace, and supporting the mission of the church worldwide.”

Cost for the VOA PW Spring Luncheon is $12 a person. Contact Laura Patton at laura.patton@villagepres.org or at 913-681-8180 for reservations.
Holding Faith: A Practical Introduction to Christian Doctrine - What do you believe, why do you believe it, and how does it affect your life? These are three foundational questions that form the basis for Christian doctrine and will be examined in the “Holding Faith” book by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Rigby. Books must be purchased and can be found on Amazon. Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka 10:30-11:30 a.m. Upcoming sessions include March 14, 21 and 28.

Register online for Village U classes at www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes

Village U classes include:

Men’s Breakfast and Bible with Rev. Tom Are - Join Rev. Tom Are for a morning Bible study where he reflects on passages from scripture. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast. Invite a friend and join the fellowship Tuesday mornings. To make a reservation for breakfast, please call 913-671-2333. Cost: $6. Child care is not available. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, March 12-26, Room 228.

The Book of Esther: For Such a Time as This – The Book of Esther is an exciting, fast-paced story that has captured the imagination of Jews and Christians over the centuries. The story forms the basis of the Jewish festival of Purim. It includes all the elements of a contemporary romance novel. We have a young and beautiful heroine (Esther); a wicked, scheming villain (Haman); a wise older uncle (Mordecai) and a bumbling, self-absorbed king (Ahasuerus). In the story, good triumphs over evil and all ends happily. Unique in scripture because the book never mentions God (not even once!); nevertheless, we have much to learn from Esther and her courage and faithfulness. Participants in this course will explore this story of palace jealousy and intrigue and how Queen Esther comes to power “for such a time as this” to save her people. Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka 6:30-8 p.m. Begins Wednesday, March 13. Rooms 132 & 133.

Seeking Village U Instructors

Adult Educational Ministries is planning for the fall term of Village U. If you are interested in teaching a course, know someone who may be interested, or haven’t taught in a while and have a great idea for a course, please contact Sunni in Adult Educational Ministries at sunni.battin@villagepres.org.

Adult Sunday School Class

9:30 a.m.

Village Forum – Beginning this Sunday, March 10, Village Forum will be discussing Father Richard Rohr’s video series “Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy: Richard Rohr on the Legacy of St. Francis.” Father Rohr is a globally recognized ecumenical teacher bearing witness to the universal awakening within Christian mysticism and the Perennial Tradition. The short videos have sessions on Atonement Theology, Eco-Spirituality, The Cosmic Christ, Orthodoxy vs. Orthopraxy and Mysticism over Moralism. Discussions will be facilitated by Gus Breystspraak and other class members. Rooms 126 and 127.

Single Adult Ministry Speaker Series Wrap

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, with Lisa Ball

Lisa Ball’s presentation on “Traveling Single” originally scheduled for Feb. 12 is rescheduled for Tuesday, March 12, in Room 230 at Village Church on Mission. Lisa is a travel designer. She will offer travel suggestions for singles wishing to embark on group or solo travel. She will have destination ideas as well as travel safety tips for traveling on your own. Don’t stay home. Get your bucket list ready and discover the world. Single adults is for age 40 and up.
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Lenten Earth Care Pledge

Of the many actions that persons can take to help reverse climate change and help heal the planet, reducing food waste was rated third most effective and eating a more plant rich diet was fourth in impact.

This year, the Village Church Environmental Action Committee invites all to participate in the Lenten Earth Care Pledge. The pledge asks participants to choose among several practical diet options during the season of Lent (March 10-April 20). Last year, 208 pledges were received representing 467 people who changed their eating habits during Lent. A number of those individuals have shared that they have made those changes permanent.

Lenten Earth Care Pledge cards will be available on March 10, the first Sunday in Lent. Pledges can also be done online at www.villagepres.org/environmental-action.

God has entrusted this amazing creation to our care. In response to God’s extraordinary gift, let us act as good stewards during Lent and beyond!

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Weekly Wednesday Dinners

Dine before or after your class. Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a well-balanced, convenient meal. Full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar & dessert is $6. Children ages 4-10 are $3 and children age 3 and under are no charge.

Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by Monday noon.

Standing Reservations, for more than one date, only available on a Pre-Pay basis. Contact Liz Middleton liz.middleton@villagepres.org if you are interested in paying for a month, several dates, or the rest of the meals through May 8, 2019.

Menu:
March 13 – NO Wednesday Night Dinner (Spring Break)
March 20 – Corned beef & cabbage, buttered new potatoes, baby carrots, vegetarian entrée, dessert
March 27 – Tacos: beef and veggie, soft and hard shells, Mexican rice, dessert
April 3 – Pork loin roast, scalloped potatoes, vegetarian entrée, green vegetable, dessert

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Village Presbyterian Church joyfully welcomed 19 new members in February.

The following folks joined the church at Village on Mission:

David Cooley
Anne & Dan Durrie
Jean Griffith
Cara & Derek Hannawald
Jean Hartley
Susan & Eric Johnson
Parker LaBach
Leia Mojica
Matt & Carron Montgomery
Mary Porto
Ray Ruecker
Julie & Justin Welsh
Matt & Emily Wopata
Children’s Summer Camps Registration
8 a.m.-noon Monday, March 18, for Village Church members, current preschool, KDO and Village Church Child & Family Development Center families.
8 a.m.-noon Monday, March 25, for community families. Registration will be at Village Church on Mission.
Vacation Bible School registration will be online beginning May 13. Get details about Children and Family Ministry camps and registration forms at villagepres.org/summercamps2019.

The Fish Banks are Back!
Children in Sunday school (ages 2-6th grade) received their fish banks on March 3 and will be encouraged to collect coins throughout Lent. Fish banks are available in the Children and Family Ministry office or in your child’s Sunday school classroom.

Did you know that money collected in the fish banks goes to help feed the hungry, help people build their livelihoods and respond to disasters? One Great Hour of Sharing is changing lives, changing communities and changing the world.

Learn more at www.PresbyterianMission.org/ministries/specialofferings

Upcoming Family Worship Sundays
Due to Shawnee Mission School District’s Spring Break schedule, there will be NO Sunday school on Sunday, March 10, and Sunday, March 17. Child care will be available for infants through 4-year-olds. Regular Sunday school will resume on March 24.

Baptisms
Future baptism dates are March 17 and May 12. To register your child for a future baptism date, visit www.villagepres.org/baptisms. Call the Children and Family Ministry office at 913-671-2350 with any questions.

Liz Longley in Concert at Village Church on Mission
7 p.m. Thursday, March 21 - Friendship Hall
Liz is a Nashville-based musician known for her stop-you-in-your-tracks voice and accomplished songwriting. Her music has been featured on TV shows such as ABC’s “Beauty & The Beast” and Lifetime’s “Army Wives.” She is currently recording her sixth album with five-time Grammy nominated producer, Paul Moak. We are glad to host her only KC performance this tour. Admission is free. Visit www.vpcthegathering.org/concert for more information and to RSVP.

Daily Bible Readings
Subscribe now to receive Daily Bible Readings written by our Village Church pastors. These are offered for your own personal daily devotion. You are invited to read the text, think about the reflection and questions, and allow these to lead you in a time of prayer. Sign up to receive Daily Bible Readings emails at www.villagepres.org/subscribe.
2019 COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

A New Friendship Blossoms at Village!
by Cindy Wilcox, director for Connectional Ministry

Deacons Brian and Laura Ann Bowen, along with their 5-year-old daughter, Caitlin, were greeting everyone several Sunday mornings ago near the Children’s Library. A new visiting family, Trent and Bonny Green, along with their girls, Elana and Josie, approached them to ask about Sunday School classes. Before the adults could answer, they realized that Caitlin had already invited Josie to attend her class that Sunday. Since then, Caitlin and Josie find each other every Sunday, share a hug and head off to Sunday School. They are both so happy they have found a new friend. In fact, all the Greens have felt the love of Village and have decided to become members and make Village Church church home.

Your Stewardship is HEART at work. Thank you!