



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.

APRIL 7, 2015

Celebrating 20 Years of the Village Church Child and Family Development Center

In September of 1991 the Village Church congregation responded to a survey asking them to share their hopes and dreams for the church family. Second on the list of 19 dreams was a church-sponsored day care program... To that end, the Day Care Task Force was created and chaired by Carol Cowden, then director of Children's Ministry.

By October of 1992, a proposal for a Village Church Child Care Center was approved by Session.

Lack of money and space limitations were delaying factors at that time. But God had a plan.

Dr. Bob Meneilly received a call when the KU Regents Center (former Linwood School) at 99th and Mission Road became available. Much work would need to be done to the building to accommodate young children.

Judy Cooper was appointed director of Children's Ministry when Carol retired in 1992. Carol would continue to muster support for the all-day child care program. By May of 1994, Session voted its approval for a Child and Family Development Center that would accommodate 70 children ages 1-5, using High Scope Curriculum, the same curriculum used in the Village Church Preschool.

"We were able to show that there was a significant need to have quality child care available in Johnson County, especially for infants," said Carol. "I believe we helped the Session see this as a mission of the church."

Within three years the center began taking infants as young as six weeks old. "This was one of the first child care centers in the area that would care for infants," said Judy Cooper. "The goal of the center

was to provide a safe, nurturing and loving atmosphere for children while they were separated from their parents."

Madelyn Collins, daughter of Kathy and Jeff Collins, was the first child to enroll at the Village Church Child and Family

Development Center. "I needed to know that she would be safe, loved and in the care of people I admired," said Kathy. "Nothing is more stressful than leaving your child with 'strangers' when you're a new mother. You are insecure enough the way it is—the last thing you need is one more level of stress to creep into your thoughts on a regular basis. But I never worried when my kids were at the VCCFDC. I knew they were in the right place."

Continued



Linda Alley couldn't wait to get her two-year-old daughter Kristen enrolled at the new center the moment she heard it was a go. "The center was modeled after the city and country's best day care facilities, the advisory board was a plus, and having it be a part of Village all combined together made it the top place we wanted for our daughter," said Linda.

"When Judy Cooper called and told me they were ready to take names and reservations, I couldn't get to the church fast enough!"

The Village Church Child and Family Development Center opened on April 3, 1995.

"The thing I remember most is that my best friend at day care was Jason Sabin," recalls Maddie Collins. "He and I hit it off immediately. We were toddlers at the time. Today, we are 21, and still best friends. I'm studying in Australia right now, but Jason and I still 'talk'(text) every day. Next semester, we start our senior year in college, and will live three doors apart. And it all started with 'water days' and naptime in the Bears Room!"

In 1996, Judy Cooper hired Rosemary Marshall as director of the center. She has served as director ever since. Rosemary began her career at Village in the Child Care Department in 1985. "Rosemary has a gift of offering loving care for the children and also relates well to the parents," said Judy. "The Center is aptly named Child and Family Development Center. Rosemary provides many opportunities for the families to be involved with the children in the Center setting. She is conscious of a parent's feelings when they find it necessary to leave a child in her care. One child took his first steps at the Center. Rosemary, knowing how important it is for a parent to witness that first step, didn't tell them it happened at the Center. She just told them to 'watch carefully, the child is just ready to walk.' That way the parents could see their child's 'first' step. We are so very fortunate that Rosemary has been a constant figure at the Center for all these years."

Two of the first children enrolled at the VCCFDC.



Kristen Alley then and now.



Maddie Collins then and now.

Today, the Center is licensed for up to 93 children. It has evolved from four classrooms to six, with a year's wait list for all six classrooms. Tuition allows the Center to offer scholarships to families in financial need. "We play and imagine with 90+ kids year round, spending an 8 to 11-hour day Monday through Friday, with children who continually provide the most joyous and

sometimes frantic noise from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.," said Rosemary. "I am most proud of the dedication of the church, the staff, the support personnel and our children and families who have been an amazing part of this wonderfully blessed experience during the last 20 years."

Village will soon break ground on a new Child and Family Development Center. The new facility will accommodate up to 132 children. It features nine classrooms with

bathrooms in every classroom, enhanced security and handicap accessibility for the first time in 20 years. "I think the most exciting component of the new facility for my staff is the idea of having running water and a restroom in each classroom," notes Rosemary.

"It has been a long journey to reach this point," said Judy. "When Rosemary was hired, I reported to her that we would have a new center in about three years. That's what I had been told. Well, here we are, it's finally going to happen. I am overjoyed with the plans I've seen for the new Center.

Our outstanding program will be housed in a state-of-the-art facility. This will be such a boost to the staff, the parents and most of all to the children. I am so grateful to Tom Are and to the church for caring so much about children and seeing this project through to fruition."

"I am so proud of the Child and Family Development Center," said Carol Cowden. "It has been extraordinarily committed to providing quality child care from the start. Twenty years of warm, loving, safe care for hundreds of children - what a gift to our community."

Resources: *The Village Church Story* by Phyllis Matchette and the Preliminary Proposal for a Village Church Child Day Care Center.

Thwake Fundraiser April 24 Furnish to Finish

A desk to sit at and study. A bed to sleep in. A table to pray at before having dinner.

You can make all these things possible for a dozen children by supporting the latest mission work in Thwake, Kenya.

The Children's Home is almost finished but now it needs all the things that make a house a home – furniture, bedding, pots and pans, and more.

Please join us to learn more about the Thwake Village Partnership and our mission work in Kenya at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 24, at Neema Community Church, 9898 W. 95th Street in Overland Park. The event is free. We will collect a Free Will offering to help complete the Children's Home and continue with medical mission work at the Clinic.

If you'd like to know more, please contact Rev. Dr. David Nzioka at 913-271-3549 or Linda Alley at 913-636-2020.



Village Church Blood Drive April 28

Village will host a blood drive from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, in Rooms 132 and 133. To make an appointment online, visit esavealifenow.org and use sponsor code of "villagepres," or stop by our registration table in the foyer outside Friendship Hall from 9 a.m.-noon on April 19 or 26. For additional details, contact Ann Colston at 913-722-0165 or acolston1113@gmail.com.



This Village crew helped clean up apartments and put furniture back in our Hillcrest Transitional Housing four-plex on Saturday, March 21. The families moved back in on March 23 after a fire in January forced families to temporarily relocate. We welcomed a father and his 3-year-old son to our Village-sponsored apartment. Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers!

Women Build Week May 2-9

Habitat for Humanity is seeking women to help with Women Build Week May 2-9. Women Build is about empowering women to take action against poverty housing conditions while learning new skills and opening new doors of opportunity. Women Build brings together women from all walks of life to address in a concrete way the housing crisis facing millions of women and children in our community and across the globe.

Ways you can help are to be a volunteer, be a lunch angel or donate. No previous experience is necessary – just a willingness to learn and help our community. Contact Joe Carignan at joe@heartlandhabitat.org or 913-238-6501 for more information.

Food Pantry

The Village Food Pantry knows that breakfast is one of the most important meals of the day, if not "the" most important. This month the request for the Pantry's clients is for all varieties of cereal – boxed or bagged, preferably healthy whole wheat and low sugar (but everyone needs a sweet treat occasionally), instant hot cereals (oatmeal packets, cream of wheat, etc.), containers of oatmeal, etc. Four Sundays in April - please donate four cereals from your family to four of the Pantry's families. Everyone benefits from that act of generosity! The Clothes Closet is accepting spring clothing – cleaned and gently used – all sizes for children and adults. Thank you!



Register Now for Celebration Dominicana May 9 and 11

Help raise funds for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership, an international mission of Village Church, by participating in Celebration Dominicana on May 9 and 11. A Benefit Dinner with live music and an auction will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Country Club of Leawood. Then the 11th Annual Village Church Golf Classic will start at 1 p.m. Monday, May 11, also at Country Club of Leawood. Get all the details about each event and register online at villagepres.org and click on the Quick Link "Celebration Dominicana."

Village Youth Spend Spring Break on Mission Trip to La Romana, Dominican Republic

During Spring Break, March 14-21, 19 high school youth and four adults again traveled to the Dominican Republic to participate in a mission trip. The group focused on three projects while they were there: helping to finish construction of the Kilometer-6 school, assisting in the English classes at the school, and partnering with DRMP (Dominican Republic Medical Partnership) to work in three different bateys.

On the construction site, work revolved around finishing the second floor (which students are currently using despite not being done) as well as painting the exterior of the school. Using rollers and slightly sketchy scaffolding, we were able to make the building feel more like a home, giving it both life and color.

In the English classroom, Kevin Dolan (aka, Dino O'Dell) worked with students to use song and storytelling to teach counting and conversation skills with all the age groups at the school.

Finally, work in the batey communities focused around DRMP initiatives with three stations: hypertension (where we took measurements, distributed medication and showed an education video about blood pressure and self care), nutrition (where local residents learned how to put together healthy meals balancing protein, vitamin/minerals, and energy) and hygiene (in which younger children learned the importance of simple techniques to avoid the spread of germs and disease).

When asked to reflect on their experiences over the week, some of the students replied:

"Everyday we experienced people living in poverty, yet they were some of the most joyful people I've ever met. I often think material items will bring me happiness and make me content, but I am so thankful that the Dominican people remind me that joy comes from each other."

- Anna Dierks, sophomore at Shawnee Mission East

"To see true joy from people who have gone and continue to go through such great struggles was truly humbling. Everyone was so welcoming and hospitable when they had every reason not to be – what a gift."

- Joe Stokes, junior at Shawnee Mission South

"The kids always wanted to play, and through my weak Spanish skills, I was able to get to know some of them. Carlos, Geoffrey and all of the Dominican people we worked with will always hold a special place in my heart."

- John Foster, senior at Shawnee Mission East





VILLAGE IN THE CITY

INSPIRING MUSIC FOR AN APRIL EVENING

7 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
4.26.15

**KAUFFMAN CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**
Helzberg Hall

FREE ADMISSION*

Featuring:

Dona Nobis Pacem – Ralph Vaughan Williams
Organ Concerto no.2 – Josef Rheinberger
Festina Lente – Arvo Pärt

Performed by:

The Village Chamber Choir & Orchestra
The Choir of Baker University
The Choir of Benedictine College
Matthew Christopher Shepard, Conductor
Elisa Williams Bickers, Organist

*There is no admission charge, but **TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.**
Get your free ticket at kauffmancenter.org or by calling **816-994-7222**.
A Retiring Offering will benefit the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE! We expect every seat will be filled. Please reserve your tickets thoughtfully. We ask that you return any unneeded tickets as soon as possible.



Due to construction, parking loss, safety issues, as well as noise interference, the Second Thursday Recital Series will resume in September.

Mark Ball, director of music ministry, says he hopes to reschedule our previously scheduled artists. Thank you!

David LaMotte Concert & Worldchanging Workshop April 10 & 11

David LaMotte, award-winning singer/songwriter, activist, and advisor to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, will perform a free concert at 7 p.m. Friday, April 10, in Friendship Hall. Saturday morning from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., he will lead conversation based on his latest book, *Worldchanging 101: Confronting the Myth of Powerlessness*, and help us explore the ways that all of can make a difference every day. Please pick up your free tickets at the Receptionist's Desk at the south entrance of the church or in the Adult Educational Ministries Office.



Wednesday Nights @ Village



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. The dinners offer an opportunity for all ages to enjoy a well-balanced meal that is convenient.

April 8 – Dinner tonight has been CANCELLED due to construction traffic.

April 15 - Beef tips over noodles, vegetarian entrée, green vegetable

April 22 - Beer battered cod, red beans & rice (vegetarian), chicken tenders, coleslaw

April 29 - Baked ziti with meat, baked vegetarian ziti, gluten-free versions available

Upcoming Village University Classes

Village Talk-Please join us from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, in Friendship Hall, when Rev. Brian Ellison’s guest is Dr. Bernadette Gray-Little, chancellor of the University of Kansas system, who will speak about “Education in the 21st Century.” Since arriving at KU in 2009, Bernadette Gray-Little has focused on advancing KU’s mission of lifting students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world.



School of Theology – Religions of the World, Part II-In this session we will focus on eastern religions—Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism—plus several lesser-known religions and the phenomena of cults. We will look at the question of where God is in each. Taught by Rev. Dr. John P. Borden. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 15-May 13, in Room 132.

Leaving a Spiritual Will or Spiritual Legacy-Journalist and Presbyterian Elder Bill Tammeus will share the difference between a spiritual will and spiritual legacy and help participants begin to create a spiritual will. We’ll talk about the five things dying people want to share: “I forgive you,” “please forgive me,” “I love you,” “thank you,” and “goodbye.” 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 22, 29 and May 6, in Room 126.

The Reformation in Germany-This three-week study led by Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee will trace the beginnings of European reform under Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon and explore the later stages of German reform inspired by Martin Bucer, John Calvin and the Heidelberg theologians. 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, April 29-May 13, in Room 127. Child care is not available.

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

Village Church Night at Sporting KC

Join Village Church at the Sporting KC Soccer Game on Sunday, May 3, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$33 a person and include bus transportation to and from the game. The bus will leave promptly at 2:30 p.m. from the south parking lot at Village Church. Contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331 to reserve your tickets.

Tell Me More About This Church: Conversation with Tom Are

“Tell Me More About This Church” is a special opportunity for those newer to Village Church, to spend time with Senior Pastor Tom Are and learn more about Village Church. This class will be offered in two parts from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 8 & April 15, in Room 127. Dinner will be provided. To register, please contact Stacy at stacy.fischer@villagepres.org or 913-671-2334 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org. Child care is available for this event, with 7-day advance notice reservation. Make your child care reservations by contacting Marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org or 913-671-2322.

Easter Thoughts from Rev. Jenny McDevitt

One of my favorite verses of a favorite Easter hymn goes this way: Christ is risen! Earth and heaven never more shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone! I love the image of shouting down the "grim, demonic chorus." It is Easter Day that makes such a thing possible. It is my deepest held conviction that resurrection is real. It is real for you, no matter what the circumstances of your life. And so it is my prayer that you will recognize within you the strength to stare down all the places of pain, disappointment, or despair in your life and say, in a shout or in a whisper: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" If you need or would appreciate prayer, support, presence, or other resources as you seek to do just that, give us a call. Christ has risen while earth slumbers; Christ has risen where hope died, as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied. Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer; let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!

Home Communion

Home Communion will take place this spring during the weeks of April 13 and April 20. Fourteen two-person teams will deliver home communion and companionship over those ten days. Two off-site worship services with receptions will be held at The Forum and Claridge Court. Two off-site worship services with Connection Luncheons will be held at Tallgrass Creek and Lakeview. The Share-A-Song Choir will share their gift of song at all four off-site events as well.

Growing Through Grief – New Series Starts April 15

Following the death of a loved one, it is vital to process the constellation of thoughts and emotions that arise. The Pastoral Care & Counseling Department offers a five-week series called Growing Through Grief, intended to educate participants about the grieving process and to support those who are heartbroken. The series is offered at no cost. Registration is required.

April 15-May 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m. every Wednesday in Room 124. Contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or sandy.perry@villagepres.org to register.

Divorce Support Group

The next six-week series begins April 23 and runs through May 28 (6:30-8 p.m. every Thursday, in Room 206). The group is facilitated by Village Church member Peg Borden and covers myriad topics including: understanding grief, working with emotions, parenting, self image, conflict resolution and much more. To register, contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or sandy.perry@villagepres.org. Child care is available by reservation only. Contact Marjean Lindquist at 913-671-2322 for child care.

Stephen Ministers Offer Continuing Education Opportunities

These presentations are open to the congregation as well as the public and take place from 5-6 p.m. in Room 132. Please join us as the topics interest you. The next two presentations are as follows:

April 9: John Carney, CEO/Center for Practical Bioethics: "Caring Conversations"

April 23: Ernest Jones, Prison Ministries/Salvation Army: "Caring for those Incarcerated and for those whose Loved Ones are Incarcerated"

Could you use some fresh ideas for your job search?

Then join us for the start of the next four-week Career Center series from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning Monday, May 11, in Room 232.

This free class will show you how to plan and conduct your job search in today's job market. Many experts have estimated that up to 80% of today's open jobs are not being advertised. Do you know how to find these jobs? We will show you how to find these job openings and how to approach these employers. We will show you the difference between just "looking for a job" and "conducting a planned step-by-step job search".

If you are not happy with the success of your job search or you know someone who is struggling in their job search, we would love to have you join us. To register, contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or at sandy.perry@villagepres.org.

SPRING EVENT

Amazing Graces

create an

Herb Garden

AT RED CEDAR GARDENS

WITH
OWNER

Ricki Creamer

4/25

10:00 a.m.

Speaker

Lynn Soulier

from Gardens of Delight will enlighten us as to
medicinal and culinary uses for herbs

To create your own container herb garden,
soil, pots and a wide selection of herbs will be available for purchase
at Red Cedar (or you may bring your own container).

R E S E R V A T I O N S

Your \$10 check to Kathy Collins,
4716 W. 86th Street, Prairie Village, KS 66207
by April 18th.

Car pooling available,
just note on your reservation
if you would like to meet
at the church and do so.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Celebration of Faithful Women March 28

Carla Bock, Charlotte Hall and Susan Latas were honored as PW Honorary Life Members at the Celebration of Faithful Women luncheon. Each honoree received this pin. The overall design is of a butterfly, the symbol of newness in Christ. The caring, supportive hands represent building an inclusive community of Presbyterian Women. The leaf represents growth of our personal and corporate response to Jesus Christ as we nurture our faith. The dove indicates our work for peace in our own lives and throughout the world, shown in the globe. At the center of the design is the cross, by



which our sins are forgiven and we are freed to live in Christ, who is the center of our lives.

Look for more pictures from the luncheon on the Village Facebook page.

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WOW Luncheon at Cheesecake Factory

All ladies are welcome to join Women of Wisdom (WOW) for a spring luncheon at noon on Monday, April 27. We will meet at the Cheesecake Factory, 6675 West 119th in Overland Park, where there is ample parking. We'll enjoy choosing from over 200 menu selections and top off our lunch choosing from the more than 40 cheesecakes and desserts. Join us for fabulous food, fun and fellowship.

RSVP by Friday, April 24, to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, or 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, or 913-432-4321.



Susan Latas



Charlotte Hall



Carla Bock



Guest speaker Dr. Elisa Bickers leads a group sing at the Celebration of Faithful Women.

THE MENEILLY SOCIETY

Any time a member makes a provision for Village Presbyterian Church Endowment Trust in their estate plan, it is a time for deep appreciation and gratitude. An estate gift represents a most meaningful and significant depth of dedication and commitment.

By becoming a member of the Meneilly Society, you help ensure a bright future for Village Church. Through God's grace and your generosity, Village will be able to serve our members, our community and our world for generations to come.

For more information, contact Molly Sirridge, 913-671-2325, molly.sirridge@villagepres.org.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

AARP 55 Alive Driving Class will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, April 16 and 17, in Room 233. 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.

Breakfast and Bible with Buddies: A Bible Study for Men with Tom Are

Join Rev. Tom Are for a six-week morning study from 7-8 a.m. on Fridays, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8 and 15. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast (\$6). Tom will offer a reflection on passages from his favorite Gospel-The Gospel of Mark. There will be time for discussion as well. So, invite a friend and join us Friday mornings after Easter. To make a reservation for breakfast, please contact marianne@villagepres.org.

Highlights of Sunday Morning Offerings 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.

Cloud of Witnesses in Room 232 The Witness of the Psalms

The Psalms have richly informed both the congregational worship and the daily life of Christians. These two sessions will explore ways of "listening" to the psalms as scripture, poetry, and prayer. Careful examination of particular psalms will nourish our study of ways that psalms "speak" to us. Class participants are encouraged to bring their own Bibles because a diversity of translation will enrich our study. Taught by Dr. Kris Kvam, professor at St. Paul School of Theology. April 12 and 19.

The Reformation in Germany in Room 127

This three-week study will trace the beginnings of European reform under Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon and explore the later stages of German reform inspired by Martin Bucer, John Calvin and the Heidelberg theologians. Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee will be using slides from his travels to the places German reformers lived and worked. April 26-May 10.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Inquirers in Room 124 - Now through May 31, the class is studying *A Layman's Guide to Process Theology* by Lindsey Pherigo. Facilitated by Don and Barbara Wilson and class members.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Nominate Your "Green Saint"

The Environmental Action Committee of Village Church needs your help. Surrounded as we are by the manifestations of climate change, environmental degradation, and dwindling natural resources, EAC would like to award recognition to Village members who demonstrate exceptional dedication to earth consciousness in their thinking and living. These are people who practice, model, and teach faithful and responsible stewardship of God's creation by adopting sustainable practices and technology in their daily life, by sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm to influence others, and by supporting environmental programs, legislation and organizations.

You probably know one of these "green saints" walking among us. Please nominate one or more deserving members for EAC's 2015 Earth Steward Award. In addition to adults, we would also like to recognize the environmental efforts of our youth, children and entire families. We encourage nominations in these categories as well.

To nominate a green saint, contact Jerry Rees at 913-568-4240 or ReesVeenstra@aol.com.

SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY

Stand Up KC

The CEO of America's second largest employer makes \$9,000 an hour while many who work for him make \$7.50. If you believe such economic inequality is harmful and contrary to your Christian values, join with Village's Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force and participate in a rally advocating for a livable wage of \$15 an hour on Wednesday, April 15, at Theis Park (47th and Oak) starting at 4 p.m. with a BBQ and DJ, a rally at 5 p.m. and a march at 5:30 p.m. Contact Task Force members (listed on the west bulletin board outside Friendship Hall) or Jay McKell at 913-671-2347 for more information.



Children's Palm Parade - March 29, 2015.

Village Moms – Storytelling and Crafts

Join us for story time and crafts! We always meet the first Tuesday of month throughout the school year.

Our next meeting will be 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, in the Children's Library.

Contact Cheryl at cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org for more information.

The Flowering of the Cross

Members of the Children and Family Ministry Committee were on hand at the south entrance and west entrances to help with flowering of the cross. Check the Village Church Kids Facebook page for more images of this traditional favorite and pictures from the Palm Sunday Palm parade.



Mark Your Calendars NOW!

Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast with Chris Cakes. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 3. Join us for this annual tradition! Tickets are \$5 at the door.



Let's Play This Summer!

There are still openings in several awesome week-long Creations By Kids camps, and openings for Vacation Bible School and Traveling Day Camp. Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.



Join us for Art & Hors D'oeuvres from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, May 1, in Friendship Hall. Admission is free. The event showcases artists of all ages, amateur to professional, including our own Village Church Preschool. We'll also have a "Jazz Jam" with Kansas City's own Elder Statesmen of Jazz with light refreshments and more. Parking is available in the south lot and at Prairie School. Call 913-671-2331 for more information.

Watercolor Displayed on "The Bridge"

Artwork from the Village University watercolor class will be on display on the Bridge on the second floor of the church now through May 13.



PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT KC,MO

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Generosity at Work

In early January of 2014, my good friend and fellow Stephen Minister, Sandy Linson, lost her mother. Jenny and I lost our oldest daughter, Sarah, earlier that same month. Neither of us realized that their memorial services were scheduled the same day, ours in the morning and Sandy's mother in the early afternoon. That simple coincidence seemed to form a mutual bond of support between us, and it is one that has continued for the entire year. I suspect it will always be present. Cards, personal notes and emails were exchanged throughout the months that followed.



Chuck Hitchcock

Jenny and I attend the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings and usually see Sandy and her husband John as they depart the 8 a.m. service. We exchange hugs of support for one another, and it serves as a constant reminder how special both of these people were in our lives. There will never be a day that we don't miss and think of them.

In the months that followed Sarah's death, Sandy sent a book to us titled "Healing After Loss." It's filled with daily meditations for working through grief. We need our friends and family to comfort us, to buffer against loneliness, to share our memories and our grief. And Sandy was certainly an important part of that support network.

I was asked to share an experience where I could see generosity at work in the church, and I can present no better example of that than the love, concern, and generosity given to us by Sandy Linson.

God bless.
Chuck Hitchcock

Special thanks to Chuck for sharing. Your Village Commitment Committee

VPC Service Times

Traditional — 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
In Friendship Hall starting April 12

The Gathering — 10:45 a.m.
In the Youth Loft starting April 12

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. M-F
6–7:30 p.m. Thursday night
9:30–11:30 a.m. Sat. morning

IN MEMORY

Mary Adams
Annabelle Botz
Robert Cree
Lewis Dysart
Anoush 'Andy' Gharavi
John 'Jack' Gurche
Carol Larson
Wilhelm "Bill" Leuszler
Grace Zimmerman

The Parade of Pews and Pipes

Village Church was closed the day after Easter, but it was far from a day of rest for the church. It was a well-orchestrated dance among workers from Pearce Construction, Fry-Wagoner Moving and Storage, Quimby Pipe Organs and Village Church, as the Sanctuary is in the process of being cleared for the start of renovations.

Early in the morning, Pearce Construction unbolted all 81 pews from the floor, using a scissor lift to move the pews in the balcony to the floor below as Fry-Wagoner took the pews out of the back of the Sanctuary and out the south entrance doors. Simultaneously, Quimby began disassembling our pipe organ and began taking pipes out of the building. The last pipes to be removed will be 12 of the largest pipes that are solid mahogany boxes, the largest of which is 17-feet tall and 680 pounds. Those 12 Apostles, as we affectionately call them, will be refinished and reused in our new pipe organ.

Once the Sanctuary is completely empty, Pearce will start building scaffolding so work can begin on the Sanctuary ceiling.

Meanwhile, this Sunday, April 12, we will begin having our traditional worship services in Friendship Hall at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. The Gathering will move to the Youth Loft for the duration of construction. Livestreaming will continue.



Elisa Bickers removed the first organ pipes from the Sanctuary on March 19. She just returned from a visit to organ builders Richards, Fowkes & Co. in Chattanooga, Tennessee to check up on construction on our new pipe organ. Some pipes from the old organ will be used in the new organ. See the back page of this insert for more details.



A Fundraising Update on the Now & Tomorrow, Village Campaign

Seven months ago, Village kicked off the largest capital campaign in its 66 year history. The goal was to raise \$23.25 million for a new pipe organ, acoustical improvements to the Sanctuary, a new Welcome Center and a new Child and Family Development Center at 99th and Mission Road, plus a \$3 million mission endowment for local and Presbyterian missions.

The mission component of the campaign is expected to be fulfilled with gifts and bequests to the endowment over a five year period as well as designated gifts from the campaign. This leaves \$20.25 million to be raised for the new organ and building projects.

Now & Tomorrow, Village Church Campaign co-chair Greg Maday tells us where fundraising stands today: "Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, we have raised 96% of the needed dollars for construction, just \$830,000 short of our building goal. If you haven't had a chance to contribute or if you wanted to wait until we got closer to the end, then now is the time to consider a gift or pledge that can be fulfilled over the next three years.

For those of you who have already given or pledged, thank you! If you can and feel compelled to make an additional gift or pledge, it would be greatly appreciated. To the extent that you are able, please make a pledge or gift that helps us achieve our goal and let's let Village keep being Village."



Jim Borthwick Revealed

Jim Borthwick has been a member of Village Church just three months shy of 50 years. He's been a tenor in the Village Choir for the past 15 years. He spent 50 years as an attorney and partner at the Kansas City law firm of Husch Blackwell, working primarily in civil litigation.

In May of 2009, Jim Borthwick was approved by the Village Session to serve as chair of the Pipe Organ Committee.

"Dwight Tawney gave my name to Tom Are," said Jim.

"Tom called me in and said, 'We'd like to name a chair for a committee to study what to do about our pipe organ.' And the way he described it, it sounded like a job that would take about six months. I agreed, and here I am six years later."

During his law career, Jim represented the Kansas City, Missouri School District in its highly controversial school desegregation case. "That took eight years of my life, this has only taken six," he chuckles.

When the time came for the Pipe Organ Committee to merge with the Sanctuary Renovation Committee, Jim agreed to be chair of this joint committee. Over the past six years, Jim has worked on this project nearly every week, logging thousands of hours at meetings. He's been at the church half a day every day for the last six months.

"This is the most complicated and difficult project for our church in this decade. That's why I wanted Jim Borthwick to serve as chair," said Rev. Tom Are. "He not only works to

ensure we do things right, he works to ensure we do the right things. Many folks can do that, but when the right thing is not obvious and requires listening and insight, imagination and intelligence, Jim Borthwick is an obvious choice. There will be generations of the Village family who will owe a debt of gratitude to Jim."

"Jim is amazing," said Mark Ball, director of music ministry. "He has provided tireless leadership for our two committees, patiently guiding the process, research, discussion, doing the job of a moderator – helping us avoid extremes or disasters or dangers. His long experience as a lawyer has served us well; nothing gets past him.

Perhaps most importantly, Jim is a man of deep faith and love for the church. He has helped us stay focused, reminding us that many generations to come will discover faith and friendship, and experience the love of God in powerful ways in the rooms we are building and rebuilding."

Jim admits, "Even though it's taken a long time, it's been consistently interesting. The past year-and-a-half have been unexpectedly time consuming and difficult because of the problems that have arisen in our design process, particularly in the last six months.

After the Session had approved the budget for the capital campaign, we found out the proposed ceiling in the Sanctuary was going to be too heavy for the roof to support it. Ever since then, we've been trying to find a solution that

stays within our budget, keeps us on schedule, and gets the best acoustics we possibly can. I bet you I have said 15 times, 'We're going to get this figured out next week!' And it just doesn't happen.

Just to give you an example, one time one of the solutions was going to be that we would build a prefabricated coffer that we could just put into place. A coffered ceiling has always been the design for the Sanctuary; we just needed to figure out how to build it. We got all that work done and then the manufacturer gave us a price that was going to be a million dollars over our budget. We thought we had a solution—something shot it down—and we had to move on and start over. So it's been very difficult and we're still working on it. We think we've got it solved now," he said, crossing his fingers.

After hearing how Jim has spent the last six years serving Village Church, you might be surprised to learn why he joined in 1965. "One of the major reasons I joined Village Church was to 'get lost.' My wife and I would go around to other churches and visit and they'd all say, 'Oh we need you!' and they'd almost grab you and say, 'We've got a place for you!' You knew the moment



you walked in that you were going to get involved, and I didn't want to do that. We wanted to go to a church where nobody knew who we were. And for 10 years, we stayed invisible. And then I would say since then, I've been very unsuccessful," he said with a smile.

On a more serious note he went on to say, "I owe a great deal to Village Church in my own personal life. I think Village Church has been a great asset to this community. I'm very proud of that and I want that to continue. That's one of the reasons I've been doing this.

It's a feeling of great satisfaction to know that before this year is over, we will be where we want to be, where we've been aiming for the last six years. If we do our job, this will be a great improvement and everybody will say, 'This looks wonderful and this sounds wonderful!' If people say that, then we did our job right."

"Our congregation has been extremely well served by Jim Borthwick," Mark Ball said. "His leadership has been an essential part of the success of this effort."

Once the new pipe organ arrives later this year, it will take four-six weeks to put in all the pipes and then several months to tune it. Then will come the defining moment for Jim. "When the organ builder finally says 'I have finished tuning this organ!' and the Sunday morning following that I hear the organ play in worship, THAT will be the pinnacle for me."

A Doctor's Check-Up for the New Village Pipe Organ

Dr. Elisa Bickers, our principal organist, just returned from a trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee to check up on the progress of our new Village pipe organ being built by Richards, Fowkes & Co.

The Doctor's Findings

"All of the small and 16 foot flue and reed pipes are complete. They are beginning to set up the instrument in a 25 foot tall erecting room. The entire shop has tripled in size since I was there last, mainly to make room for the construction of big instruments like ours. The whole place smells like freshly sawed wood and musical potential."

A Sight to Behold

"When I walked into the erecting room and saw the base of our instrument and its manuals in place, my heart skipped a beat! In less than a year, that skeleton will grow to be a full, tremendous pipe organ, custom-made to fit our worship needs. It is an awe-inspiring sight to see the many parts scattered around the shop, and to know that someday soon they will all come together to become the best instrument in this city. We are going to be blessed by it, that's for sure."

Elisa has made two trips to the organ builders since construction began. She anticipates going back at least three more times. "This is not because we don't trust the builders to do their job. It's because this is a partnership between builder and church, and my job is to know both ends of that partnership inside and out. My visits are collaborative. I listen to pipes and comb through drawings with the builders and we dream up ideas and solutions together."

The Future of the Old Village Möller Pipe Organ

"We have worked hard to see that virtually none of the instrument will go to waste. There are several ranks in our current instrument that will be fixed up and repurposed for the new instrument. Not only does this provide a neat link to our musical past, but it also saves us money. The largest pipes in the organ are being reused in our new instrument. Those are the big square pipes you can see in the corners. They are made of really high quality mahogany. The largest is 17-feet tall and weighs 680 pounds. It will take special rigging machines and laborers to safely remove them, with the guidance of Bruce Fowkes of Richards, Fowkes and Co. Once those monsters are removed, they will come and live in my basement while the Sanctuary is being renovated. The organ builders will repair and repaint them in my basement, and then they will be the first pipes put back in the Sanctuary when the organ installation begins."

Elisa shares organ drawings she brought home with her two-year-old daughter Isabel.



Elisa examines the organ swells and choir chests.

