One Chapter Ends, Another Begins

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015, was the last worship service in the Village Church Sanctuary as we have known it for many years. The following day crews began clearing the Sanctuary of hymnals, pews, and the old Möller pipe organ.

Our principal organist, Elisa Bickers, wrote this tribute to the old Village pipe organ after she played it for the last time on Easter Sunday.

A Tribute

Village’s 1982 Möller sang her last Hallelujah Chorus and Widor Toccata this morning. While I can barely sit still for anticipation of the new Richards, Fowkes organ that will arrive this fall, I still find myself melancholy over the end of this era. Our Möller has faithfully served this church and community. Even when she was a bit unreliable (most of the time), she was still a stalwart member of this music team, and I am sad to see her go. This week, I made sure to play a wide variety of music on her, from Bach to Pamela Decker, to send her into glory in style. Thanks, Ol’ Wheezy. I will miss you. —Elisa

The Clearing of the Sanctuary

Crews from Pearce Construction, Fry-Wagner Moving and Storage and Quimby Pipe Organs began their work early Monday morning, April 6. As Pearce unbolted the pews, Fry-Wagner workers carried them out the south entrance into awaiting trucks. They became more efficient as the morning wore on, switching from pure muscle to carts to remove the pews. A scissor lift was used to get the balcony pews down to the floor below. Quimby was simultaneously working in the chancel breaking down the organ and removing all but 12 of its pipes.

Oh, the Irony!

The Lenten artwork remained during the clearing of the Sanctuary – ironically commenting on what was happening.

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The Scaffolding Goes Up
Pearce brought in the Sanctuary scaffolding through an east side Sanctuary window. The scaffolding is now up to the ceiling so crews can build the wooden coffering that will greatly improve acoustics in the Sanctuary.

Big Rigger Required
On April 16, Belger Riggers arrived to remove the 12 last and largest organ pipes that will be renovated at another location. These big mahogany pipes, the largest of which is 17-feet tall, weighing 680 pounds, will be the first pipes put back in the Sanctuary when the new pipe organ installation begins.

We’re posting lots of pictures and videos of construction progress on our Village Facebook page www.facebook.com/villagepres.
7 p.m. Sunday, April 26
Helzberg Hall - Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Please join us this Sunday for the Village in the City concert at Helzberg Hall featuring the Village Choir, the choirs of Baker University and Benedictine College and organist Dr. Elisa Bickers. Matthew Shepard is conducting. Admission is free, but tickets are required. If you would like to attend Sunday’s concert but do not have a ticket, come to the Kauffman Center box office at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are being returned all the time, and there will be seats available. The first piece in the concert is ten minutes long, and latecomers will be seated immediately following its performance as well. Bottom line: no one should stay home because they do not have a ticket.

Mark Ball shares more about the upcoming concert.

Q: How did you pick the program for this concert?
A: Matthew, Elisa, and I meet three or four times a year just to dream up public outreach concerts – we usually call them “Sacred Concerts.” We have a schedule of choral works, orchestral works and combined choral/orchestral pieces we want to do, pretty much through 2019. The farther out – the less certain we are of what will be on a specific concert. Then as we get closer to each one, we refine and revise until we think we have the right combination of music and the right forces to do it.

This Sunday’s concert opens with a new piece by Arvo Pärt, Festina Lente for Strings and Harp and Josef Rheinberger’s Concerto in G minor for Orchestra and Organ, which will be played by Elisa Bickers on the magnificent organ in Helzberg Hall. The Vaughan Williams’ Dona Nobis Pacem is a 40-minute work for choir, orchestra and soloists. It is a collection of texts (the majority of them by Walt Whitman) which describe the terrible realities of war and its terrible human costs – and then (using biblical texts) paints a vision of a different world, one where “nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Its title, “Dona Nobis Pacem” comes from the last sentence of the Roman Mass . . . “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace (dona nobis pacem).

Q: How do you pick the choirs you collaborate with each year?
A: We love collaborations with other choirs and orchestras. The opportunity to partner with student ensembles is especially rich. It gives us an opportunity to introduce our way of doing church, and church music, to young people who likely have no idea what goes on at Village Church. The obvious choices are UMKC Conservatory (our closest musical neighbor and always an eager partner), William Jewell College in Liberty, which has a great musical tradition and loves to work with us (Matthew and I are both WJC alumni). This spring we ventured a bit farther out – Baker University and Benedictine College.

Q: Have you discussed plans for the spring concert next year?
A: Next spring, we want to focus on concert events in our newly renovated Sanctuary, and with our new pipe organ. So we don’t plan on going back to Helzberg Hall until 2017 or 2018. We do think it is important to have an occasional presence in the city. Village needs to be a “city” church – with a voice and a presence that is heard beyond northeast Johnson County. This is one way we can help do this. We have great ideas in the works for next spring’s concert – including works that will feature the choir, the new pipe organ and the new Steinway piano, which will be arriving in the fall.

Q: Why should I come to Sunday’s concert?
A: Absolutely gorgeous music, rarely performed in our community, in a stunningly beautiful space. The concert is free. The soloists – Elisa Bickers, organ; Devin Burton, baritone; and Alannah Garnier, soprano, are as good as you will hear anywhere. Bev Chapman will speak briefly about the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership – a fabulous organization long associated with Village Church. A retiring offering will be received – ALL OF IT will go to DRMP’s work The concert is funded by Village Church music ministry budget, and by a grant from VPC Endowment Trust.
“Celebration Dominicana” Weekend Events

Dinner and Silent Auction, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9:
Join us for this dinner fiesta at Country Club of Leawood celebrating and benefitting the work of the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership. Members of the Maranatha Band from the Dominican Republic will be joining us to provide live music, so between the good food and the great music this is sure to be a celebration worth attending! You will also have the chance to participate in our Silent Auction, where dinner guests can bid on the many goods and services donated by various businesses and individuals within our community, as well as the chance to Fund-A-Need and enter a raffle drawing for a few signature prizes. We want this night to embody the vibrancy of the Dominican Republic while truly living up to its name as a celebration of the work that Village’s own DRMP continues to do there. We hope you’ll join us for this grand event.
Cost: $45

11th Annual Village Golf Classic, 1 p.m. Monday, May 11: Our dynamic celebration comes to a close with the Village Golf Classic on Monday at Country Club of Leawood. Since 2005, Village Church members and friends of the DRMP have come together for this enjoyable occasion to raise both support and awareness of the needs of our friends in the Dominican Republic. If you play golf, we would love for you to participate in the tournament as an individual or as a team; and we will provide boxed lunches, bottled water, golf cart and snacks. If you do not play golf, we still hope you’ll come watch, support, and enjoy spending the day with friends in the bright sunshine! At 6 p.m. we will come together for our Tee Party where we will be awarding the top team per flight, the closest to pin, and the longest drive, as well as naming the prize-winners from our Mulligan Drawing and our Tournament Silent Auction. This is sure to be a pleasant day, and we hope you’ll be a part of it!
Cost: $160/person - Registration forms can be found on the tables around Village, or online at villagepres.org under the quick link “Celebration Dominicana.”

About DRMP
Each year, five teams of volunteers travel to the Dominican Republic to assist our brothers and sisters with their medical and educational needs. It is this Village Church relationship of over 20 years that continues because of people like you. DRMP teaches childhood nutrition, disease prevention and health care that expands to the whole community in La Romana. We share our gifts as learned non-medical and medical professionals, youth, and volunteers to facilitate and witness a change.
Join us for one or two “Celebration Dominicana” events to help us continue our support for the men, women and children in the bateyes of La Romana.

Register online for either of these two events at villagepres.org and click on the Quick Link “Celebration Dominicana.”
Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work - Housing Assistance

Every year the Mission Office receives thousands of calls and emails from agencies and individuals in Kansas City seeking emergency assistance, generally for rent or utility support. Clients often apply when all other options have been exhausted.

Such is the case for Amanda, a 43-year-old mother of four, who hasn’t worked since last summer due to a disability. She has been waiting since last fall for word on her application for social security disability. The father of her children has been delinquent on child support. Her oldest son also earns some money to help keep the family afloat while also attending high school. With collaboration between agencies like Catholic Charities and Village Church, Amanda is managing to keep her home until her disability comes through.

Richard, a disabled man in his 50’s, lives in Section 8 housing in a retirement community. He gets by on $700 per month social security disability. Health problems and medication costs caused him to fall behind on his bills. Having previously been homeless, money from Village has helped prevent Richard from living on the streets again.

According to research from United Community Services of Johnson County, 55,000 or 26% of Johnson County’s 220,400 households are cost burdened, meaning that housing expenditures exceed 30% of household income. In addition, fewer than 14,000 houses are valued at less than $100,000. A home at this price would require a minimum of $800 for mortgage, insurance, taxes and utilities, and require an annual income of at least $32,000 in order to spend less than 30% on housing. For Johnson County renters, fewer than 2,100 apartments rent for less than $500 per month. Assuming an additional $100 for insurance and utilities, a renter would need to earn at least $24,000 a year to afford an apartment at this rent. Unfortunately, 75% of all of the Johnson County apartments rent for more than $750, and would require annual income of more than $34,000 to avoid being cost burdened.

The lack of affordable housing is a major factor contributing to poverty in Johnson County. As a result, when a head of household is laid off or faces an unexpected medical crisis, he or she may have no alternative but to seek safety net services to help make ends meet. For Village Emergency Assistance, these Johnson County individuals and families accounted for nearly 74% of the assistance requests received by the Mission Office during 2014.

Thanks to funds from Village Church members through annual giving, we can help bridge the gap between stable housing and homelessness. If you have any questions about the Village Emergency Assistance program, call Deborah White in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369.

Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines

On Friday, May 8, Village Church will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines Kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. We need four to five volunteers to help cook from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and three to four more volunteers to help serve from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. If you can’t cook or serve, we also need folks to donate cookies. The cookies can be dropped off at the church reception desk between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 7. If you can help, please contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or at marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

Village Choir Sings National Anthem at Sporting Park

Our Village Choir sang the national anthem at the FC Kansas City National Women’s Soccer League season opener at Sporting Park on Sunday, April 12. The game was nationally televised on ESPN2. FC Kansas City won the 2014 NWSL championship.
MISSION

Spring Cleaning?
As the temperature starts warming up so does our desire to clean house. The Village Clothes Closet accepts freshly laundered, gently used, in-season men’s, women’s and children’s clothing. Small household and kitchen items, small kitchen appliances and linens are also accepted. Due to lack of available space, furniture is not accepted. If you have gently used furniture or large working appliances that need a new home, consider donating it to one of the area organizations listed below:

Heartland Habitat for Humanity ReStore (http://www.heartlandhabitat.org/restore) is a public retail outlet that sells quality new and used surplus building materials and appliances that are priced at 20% to 80% off retail. Village Mission partners with Heartland Habitat to build houses in our community. All items in the store are donated, including fixtures, furniture, appliances and construction materials. Your donation may be tax-deductible; and all profits from ReStore go to further Heartland Habitat for Humanity’s building projects in Wyandotte, Leavenworth and Johnson Counties in Kansas, and Clay and Platte Counties in Missouri. Heartland Habitat ReStore is especially looking for:

- Wood and Lumber - At least six feet (no nails, brads, rot)
- New Carpet or New Carpet Remnants Only
- Tile (New and Boxed)
- Furniture (Clean, No Heavy Wear or Repair Needed)

You can schedule your donation pick-up by calling 913-596-6597 or 913-648-6001.

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Thrift Store in Kansas City, Kansas is always in need of furniture and large appliances (in good working condition) such as stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers. The store helps low-income families purchase household items at a minimal cost. They will come to your house and pick up your large household items. Call 913-281-2274 to schedule a pick-up at your home.

Blessings Abound (http://www.blessingsaboundkc.org/) at 9622 Nall accepts new and gently used in-kind donations including stain-free mattresses. These donations are either resold or redistributed to other ministries in need such as transitional housing programs and multi-cultural ministries. Proceeds go to Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries. Call 913-648-0700 to arrange donation pick-up for large items.

Catholic Charities TurnStyles accepts new items along with most gently used donations. All proceeds support programs and services of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. See http://www.catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles/ donate for what they accept. Call 913-909-2735 to arrange pick-up of large items for a minimal fee.

Faith Hope Ministries in downtown Kansas City, Missouri collects furniture, household items and clothing for homeless individuals and families moving into permanent housing. See http://www.hopefaithministries.org/gifts-in-kind/ for more information or call 816-471-4673 to arrange a pick-up.

Front Porch Alliance and Robotics at Faxon
Front Porch Alliance has begun a pilot Robotics program at Faxon Elementary in Ivanhoe! We have formed teams with the entire 5th-grade class and their teacher, and the kids are using First Lego League Robotics materials and “Challenges.” They are loving it!

We are recruiting volunteer coaches to meet for an hour mid-day Tuesdays and Thursdays until late May. This spring we have an experienced coach and two volunteers, and next year we hope to have enough coaches to expand Robotics to more grades. This is a great opportunity to participate, and see if you would like to be a coach for the fall semester.

Please contact Barbara Beddingfield, FPA executive director, at 816-921-8812.
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
The Clothes Closet is requesting donations of X-large sized clothing – clean, gently used for men and women. There is always a demand for these sizes and, unfortunately, there is seldom a big selection. Shoes for all ages and sizes are also needed. Perhaps you bought some new ones and could donate the used ones to the Clothes Closet. Linens, a necessity for all, are requested – sheets and pillowcases, blankets, towels and washcloths.

Sunday, May 3, is Fruit Sunday for the Village Church Food Pantry. Fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple - please bring a variety of canned fruit to church and help keep the shelves full for our Pantry clients.

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.

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.

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 26. For additional details, contact Ann Colston at 913-722-0165 or acolston1113@gmail.com.

Furnish to Finish – A Fundraiser for our Mission Work in Kenya
This Friday, April 24, you will have the opportunity to come and learn more about our on-going mission work in Thwake, Kenya.

Reverends David Nzioka and Kirk Perucca will share an update, focusing on the work being done to complete the new Children’s Home. Twelve young girls and a house mother will live there. The building is completed but now they need all the things that truly make a house a home. You can make this possible with your thoughtful and prayerful donations.

Join us and enjoy dessert at 7 p.m. on April 24 at Neema Community Church, 9898 W. 95th Street in Overland Park. No ticket is required. The evening is free and we look forward to seeing you then!

If you'd like to know more, or cannot make it but want to help these girls, please contact Rev. Dr. David Nzioka at 913-271-3549 or Linda Alley at 913-636-2020.
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. A full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar/dessert only is $6. Cost for children age 3-10 is $3 and children under age 3 eat for free.

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

Village University Classes

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.

Village Talk - Please join us from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, in the Village Chapel. Steve Kraske, KCUR radio host and commentator, will be Rev. Brian Ellison’s guest.

The Reformation in Germany - Led by Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee, will trace the beginnings of European reform under Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon 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.

Keeping Kids Safe Online - This class was rescheduled from an earlier date. Learn more about possible dangers of internet usage, practical safety tips and tools and the cybercrime reporting process. This presentation covers electronic safety concepts, including gaming systems, music devices and other wireless/internet communication. Presentation designed by Sunflower House, Overland Park Police Department and FBI Cyber Crime Task Force. This program is appropriate for adults only. This training is approved for 2 clock hours, KDH&E. Taught by Detective Marcus Fizer from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, in Room 230.

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

Village Church Night at Sporting KC - Join the Village Church at the Sporting KC Soccer Game at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. Tickets are $33 a person and include bus transportation to and from the game at Sporting Park. 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.

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.
Friendship – An Expression of Faith!

Too much alone time can kill you. That’s the conclusion of a study from Brigham Young University, which found that isolation and loneliness are as bad for a person’s health as is smoking 15 cigarettes a day. This conclusion was based on 35 years worth of studies on loneliness which found that those who feel lonely have a 26% greater risk of premature death, regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status and pre-existing health conditions. Being socially isolated is even more damaging to a person’s health, increasing the risk of early death by roughly 30%.

“We are predicting a possible loneliness epidemic,” the study’s co-author Tim Smith told ScienceDaily.com. As alarming as this information is, a remedy is ours to embrace. It is not a pill or a workout or a change in our diets. The remedy is called friendship. Think for a moment about the people around you, particularly those seldom seen, the shut-in, the introvert, the stranger, the new neighbor. Ask yourself how you might be a friend to them. It is just possible that a phone call or a visit might brighten both their day and yours. You might even be a life saver!

Seek someone out this week. Make a new friend. Remembering that old hymn What a Friend We Have in Jesus, share Easter’s promise of new life by being a friend to others. —Rev. Jay McKell

Easter Lilies Abound

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the 75 volunteers who delivered 213 lilies on Easter Sunday. They delivered to 3 hospitals, 52 facilities, 58 homes and 32 different zip codes. Showing up at someone’s door with the gift of your smile, your presence and the grace and love of God is beyond description. For those who could not be with us for Easter, it is a caring expression from their church community that they are never forgotten. A special thanks to Ruthie Kline who facilitates this complicated ministry; we simply could not do this without her!

Could you use some fresh ideas for your job search?

Then join us for the start of the next Career Center series, beginning May 11, 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 232. This series will kick off with one meeting at Village Church on May 11. Following that meeting you will be provided with email lessons focused not only on your job search but on your emotional balance during your job search as well.

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, please contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or at sandy.perry@villagepres.org.

Divorce Support Group

The next six-week series begins Thursday, 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, please 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. Join us as the topics interest you. The next two presentations are as follows:

April 23: Dory Sabata, outreach coordinator for American Stroke Foundation: “Dealing with the After Effects of Stroke”

May 14: Penny Shaffer, program director of Health & Human Services, Johnson County Community College, “Understanding the Culture of Those We Want to Serve”

Is Listening Your Gift?

Here’s your chance to see if Stephen Ministry is a way you can serve God. Register for one of Rev. Jenny McDevitt’s two identical informational classes: either Wednesday, May 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room 206 or Thursday, May 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Room 132. Call Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327.
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.

Fossil Fuel Divestment Workshop Addresses Controversy

On Friday evening March 13 and Saturday morning March 14, the Environmental Action Committee of Village Church, the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of KC and Earthkeepers of Heartland Presbytery co-sponsored a Fossil Fuel Divestment Workshop featuring Rev. Peter Sawtell of Eco-Justice Ministries.

Both sessions were attended by 25 people who came to learn more about this complex and controversial issue that is challenging individuals and organizations to stop investing in fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and to start reinvesting in projects and companies that are sustainable and restorative to God’s creation.

The Fossil Fuel Divestment movement has spread worldwide and has involved educational institutions, denominations, seminaries, churches, local and state governments, as well as individuals. Last June, the Presbyterian Church’s 221st General Assembly approved Overture 15-1, which calls for the church to categorically divest from fossil fuels within five years.

Promoting divestment within PC(USA) is a group called Fossil Free PCUSA. In addition to working at the denominational level, it plans to work at local and presbytery levels as well. They plan to reach out to congregations, develop an educational curriculum on climate justice and divestment, train local leadership on this issue, and ensure ratification of the Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture by at least 50 presbyteries before the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. To learn more, contact Nicola Juricak (816-500-0458) or Jerry Rees (913-568-4250).

Easter is not a day. It’s a turning point. Easter is the day we set aside to reflect on the day God set aside to breathe a permanent hope into human history. Easter is the day God set aside to reveal that the love of God is stronger than the powers of death. The promise of the resurrection is not limited to life beyond the grave; the resurrection begins shaping our lives today. The Apostle Paul once wrote, If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. For the six Sundays following Easter, we will reflect on how and why faith is not in vain.
Amazing Graces Spring Event: Create An Herb Garden
All women are invited to create their own mini herb garden at Red Cedar Garden with owner Ricki Creamer at 10 a.m. this Saturday, April 25. Lynn Soulier from Gardens of Delight will enlighten us as to the 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). To reserve your spot, call Ann Flanders at 913-558-2155.

Operation Breakthrough Kids Receive Hard Hats in Recognition of Village Church Construction
Village Church provided pint sized hard hats for Operation Breakthrough kids on April 8, in recognition of our Sanctuary and Welcome Center construction.
We’re still seeking volunteers to read to Operation Breakthrough kids from 9:30-11 a.m. on Wednesdays through April 29. This program needs 40 volunteers (men and women) and 80 books per week on Wednesdays. Consider donating your time and preschool level books.
Contact Cindy Whitham at ciwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062 for more information. Call Pam at 913-671-2352 to make a child care reservation by the Wednesday prior to the day you plan to volunteer.

WOW Luncheon At Cheesecake Factory
All ladies are welcome to join Women of Wisdom (WOW) for a spring luncheon at noon Monday, April 27. We will meet at the Cheesecake Factory, 6675 W. 119th in Overland Park. Choose 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 this Friday, April 24, to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kcrr.com, or 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, or 913-432-4321.
Highlights of Sunday Morning Offerings for Adults
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.

Village Forum in Room 126
Rev. Dr. John Borden will lead a lively discussion – “John on John” – on the last Gospel. Sundays, now through May 10.

Cloud of Witnesses in Room 127
The Reformation in Germany - This three-week study will trace the beginnings of European reform under Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon 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 - The class is studying A Layman's Guide to Process Theology by Lindsey Pherigo. Facilitated by Don and Barbara Wilson and class members. Now through May 31.

Social Witness Task Force and Good Jobs & $15 For All
Members of Village's Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force gathered with hundreds of low-wage workers Wednesday, April 15, at Theis Park in support of what has become a growing national movement called Good Jobs & $15 For All.

Samm Skare and the Presbyterians were actually called out from the podium by Terrance Wise, a fast food worker and member of Stand UP KC. Terrance spoke at Village last fall at our forum: “Faith and Fairness, a Conversation about Income Inequality.” Terrance is active in the movement for obtaining a living wage for area fast food workers. “We were honored to stand with him and the crowd at Theis Park representing the working people of our nation who deserve an income off which they can live and support their families,” said Charlotte Davison, a member of the Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force.

You Overwhelmed Us!
That's the word that came to mind as members of the church's Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force mailed more than 450 post cards written by church members to Kansas legislators urging their support for legislation that would require background checks on all gun sales in the state. For three weeks those on the Task Force who were staffing the information table in Friendship Hall were inundated with members eager to express their desire that we curb gun violence in this country. Unfortunately while all this was occurring at Village Church, legislators approved a bill lifting all restrictions on carrying guns in the state. We still have work to do. Thanks to the encouragement received from the church, the Task Force is committed to continuing their efforts to witness to our faith in the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Charlotte Davison, Josephine Njoroge, Kathleen Morrow, Bob Fletcher, Jim Ensz, Vicki Ensz
Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast with Chris Cakes
Please join us from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 3, in Rooms 232/233. In I Thessalonians Chapter 3, Timothy writes, “How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?”
We are all thankful for the love and labor all volunteers in the teaching ministry have provided this school year. Be sure and thank a teacher. Better yet, if you have been involved in teaching children, youth or adults, breakfast is on us. Come and get your free pancake breakfast on May 3.

Village Moms – Story Time and Crafts
Don’t miss the last story time before our summer break. We’ll gather for story time in the children’s library and have craft time and maybe some May Day surprises. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 5. Call 913-671-2355 or email Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org for more information.

New Children’s Books Focus on Mission Topics
In the past several months, Cheryl Couch-Thomas, Karen Lundgrin and Deborah White have worked together to acquire 23 new books for the Children’s Library that focus on mission topics such as generosity, hunger, homelessness, community gardens, service work, diversity and poverty. These books, for preschool age to 6th grade, are now available for families to check out.
Here are Cheryl and Deborah with the Beary Good Reader and the books they have purchased.

6th Grade Promotion Sunday
This year we are going to do something all together new. All 6th graders and their parents are invited to attend a Welcome to Middle School on Sunday, May 31. Details will be arriving to an email inbox near you soon!

Vacation Bible School & Traveling Day Camp
Adult & parent volunteers are crucial to make these very important ministries a success. Volunteer opportunities in all areas. Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.
There are still openings in several camps this summer (except for Week Six, July 6-10). Call 913-671-2359 for more information.
GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA monthly 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208-1799 Periodicals Postage paid at Kansas City MO POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208-0050

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Village Commitment Corner

Because of your generosity…

…the brass ensemble plays once a month in worship (and performed in all three Easter services in the Sanctuary). Matthew Shepard conducts the 18 musicians, who practice every week and perform at various services and events throughout the year.

VPC Service Times
Traditional — 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
In Friendship Hall
The Gathering — 10:45 a.m.
In the Youth Loft/Room 333

Radio Broadcast
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on 1660 AM KMBZ,
The Business Channel

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

villagepres.org