



Dr. Jan Kraybill to Present Final Concert in Village Pipe Organ Dedicatory Recital Series 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 18

What a wonderful tribute to excellence in music at Village Church that the first and last performances in our pipe organ dedicatory recital series are bookended by the only two Fellows of the American Guild of Organists in Kansas City—Dr. Elisa Bickers and Dr. Jan Kraybill. It seems most fitting that Dr. Kraybill present the final concert in the Opus 22 community introduction series after having served as Village's organ consultant since 2008.

An Extraordinary Musician's Early Beginnings

Dr. Kraybill grew up Presbyterian in Colby, Kan. She took piano lessons from age 3 and played in church. "When I was 14 years old, our church organist asked if I'd be interested in learning to play the organ. I thought, 'Yeah, I'll try the organ.' From the very beginning, that sense of power and the amount of colors that are available in the pipe organ really appealed to me."

Dr. Kraybill went on to earn piano performance and music education degrees from K-State, and a doctorate in organ performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Conservatory of Music and Dance. "My first teaching job was in Saint Joseph, Mo. at Bode Middle School. I lasted one year. Turned out that public school teaching, especially in a middle school, took a meaner teacher face than I have. I moved to Kansas City and worked for about 10 years as a piano instructor and then as a freelance musician here."

Her skills and creativity on the piano and organ keyboard transferred well to the computer keyboard. "To make extra money to supplement my income as a musician,



Photo: Floyd Gingrich



Photo: Eric Williams

I ended up working at Marion Merrell Dow (the former Marion Labs) as a word processor in research and development publishing. I soon got bored with the repetitive parts of word processing and began writing little programs for myself that got my work done faster. I started climbing that corporate ladder almost without intending to by being creative in finding ways to make my job easier."

Music and the organ still beckoned her, and she played in churches all during this time and then began work on her doctorate. Eventually Dr. Kraybill became the principal organist at Community of Christ in Independence, Mo., after the retirement of Dr. John Obetz. "The number one item in my job description was to be a resource person for all of the church's musicians worldwide. Frequently I would get called. 'Our organ isn't working. We're not sure if we should buy another one or sink money into refurbishing this one. Can you help?' Pretty soon I had quite a breadth of different situations that I'd helped people to work through. Then, after a while, people outside that denomination started realizing that I had consulted as part of my job, and I started to do it outside Community of Christ."

Today, Dr. Kraybill is the organ conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and organist-in-residence at the international headquarters of Community of Christ. "I inherited the three large organs that I care for now. I didn't have any hand in designing them or choosing the companies that ended up building them, and I'm so grateful to be in charge of their care. For the

Continued

Kauffman Center I was very curious about the process, and I was tangentially involved, but not in any official kind of way, like I was at Village."

On Becoming Village's Organ Consultant

Former Village Music Director Mark Ball told Dr. Kraybill that Village was looking at what to do about its deteriorating pipe organ. "He invited me to apply to be the consultant for that project. We started from, 'Let's look at this music program and decide what it needs now and what we imagine that it might be 10 years from now, 20 years from now, 50 years from now.' Then let's decide what kind of combination of instruments are needed to support that. We went into it with our eyes wide open to all possibilities... I think that was really healthy."

"As a committee we visited the work of a lot of organ builders during that whole process. I remember when we visited a Richards, Fowkes instrument in Dallas. We just absolutely loved it. And now to have those sounds here in the mix of organ sounds in Kansas City is amazing. I'm proud of the organ, but I'm also proud that the committee and a larger group of committees took on a bigger project. When I first became involved it was 'What shall we do about this pipe organ?' By the end, it had evolved into redesigning the acoustics, creating a Welcome Center and more. Now, when you walk into Village on Mission, no matter what door you walk in, the changes are evident. And I think the changes are evident as well in the demeanor of the people who worship there. When you can sing together and hear each other, when you can hear clearly the leadership of the choir and of the instruments that are up front, when you can clearly hear the sermons, it changes your experience of worship and creates a bigger sense of community."

Dr. Kraybill was beaming with pride during Dr. Elisa Bicker's inaugural recital for Opus 22 on Aug. 20, 2017. "I was especially proud of Elisa. She played gorgeously."

A Woman Who Wears Many Hats

Dr. Kraybill is executive director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. She also performs all over the world and leads music workshops. She has four solo CDs to her credit, and a disc of Saint-Saëns' "Organ Symphony" recorded with the Kansas City Symphony was nominated for a Grammy. Her fifth recording will be released later this year.

She has played organ on occasion at Village on Antioch. She and her husband live nearby. "I received a call from



Photo: Mark McDonald

Rev. Tom Are in the fall of 2016. He explained that the church was facing some challenges and asked me if I'd ever be interested in playing a Sunday there every so often. I'm proud of the people who remained there and stood for church being open to everyone. It appealed to me that I might be able to help."

The Kraybills have been attending VOA and have made friends in the congregation. "One day after the fellowship hour, we got in our car and were driving home and my husband, Allan, said, 'What would you think if we joined there?' I was ecstatic! We joined the church on Aug. 20, 2017."

Dr. Kraybill is a member of Mensa. In her spare time, she enjoys riding her Harley-Davidson with her husband. "When I'm in a group of bikers (usually mostly guys) and they ask me, 'What do you do for a living?' and I say, 'I'm a church organist.' I get, 'YOU? In a church? I just can't picture it.' It's the same reaction in reverse that I get from church people or classical musicians when they find out I'm a biker."

What to Expect in Her Upcoming Recital

Dr. Kraybill will present a solo organ recital and hymn festival at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 18, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. "I hope I can meet the very high bar that has been set for this entire year, starting with Elisa. And then the breadth and the excellence of the offerings that have happened over this past year have really shown this organ in every possible light. I hope my concert is kind of a summation and a celebration of all of that. There will be congregational hymn singing and choral anthems. There's a reading of a poem that I love by Thomas Troeger titled 'Each Breath is Borrowed Air.' I hope that by the end, we are all aware that this is a great accomplishment, but it is all with gratitude to God to making it possible.

The very last thing is an organ piece called 'The Saint Anne Fugue,' one of the most famous works of Bach, based on melody to the hymn 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past,' expressing total gratitude for all the years to come."

"Jan Kraybill was such an inspiring guide during our organ project and Sanctuary renovation," said Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist at Village on Mission. "Her warm soul and depth of experience gave us the confidence to make the best decisions possible for our church. She has also been so valuable as a musician at Village on Antioch, invigorating the singing life of that congregation. We could think of no better spirit to cap off the dedicatory year of Opus 22. Her 'hymn festival/recital' is not one to miss!"

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert
7 p.m. Sunday, May 6

The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present their 5th and final concert of the season, "Top Of The Pops", at 7 p.m. this Sunday, May 6, in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. Admission is free! This performance will feature music by: John Williams, Sousa, Roger Cichy and more. This concert will also feature guest soloists Dr. Chris White on trombone, and Dr. Zach Shemon on alto saxophone.



VILLAGE CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS
2ND THURSDAY RECITAL SERIES
12:15 P.M. MAY 10 VILLAGE ON MISSION SANCTUARY
Featured Artist **Mark Ball, organist** **FREE ADMISSION**



VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH

Village on Antioch
COMMUNITY FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL
5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 20



JOIN US FOR THE
Service of Installation
for **Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick** Site Pastor at Village on Antioch
7 p.m. Monday, May 21 | Village on Antioch Sanctuary

Food Pantry

Canned Fruit Sunday, the second Food Drive of 2018, is this Sunday, May 6. Mothers know the importance of fruit in our diets, as does the Food Pantry. Each family gets at least one can of fruit each month. Please be generous with your donations. There is no such thing as too much canned fruit at our Pantry.

The Pantry is asking for cereal (healthy or kid-friendly) during the rest of May, as the Pantry can't seem to keep the cereal shelves filled. Also needed are clean, empty egg cartons for 12-18 eggs.

The clients at the Clothes Closet are asking for linens - bed, bath and kitchen. Thank you for always responding generously to our requests.

Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines

On Friday, May 11, Village will cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kan. We need volunteers from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. to serve and clean up. We also need cookie donations that can be dropped off at the church reception desk between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 10. If you can help, you can sign up at www.bit.ly/cross-lines-sign-up.

Village on Mission Deacon Service Day

Twenty-five Village Church deacons participated in volunteer work at two local non-profit organizations on March 24: Avenue of Life (KCK) and Youth Ambassadors (Kansas City, Mo.). For Youth Ambassadors (Junior/Senior High school students), deacons participated in "mock job interviews." Deacons were paired up with students to help students practice an actual job interview and prepare them for future conversations with employers. Deacons were given a list of suggested interview questions, but they could also come up with their own questions. Each interview lasted about 10 minutes. Nine Deacons conducted mock interviews with 60 students.



At Avenue of Life (support for homeless families), 16 Deacons painted offices and hallways, sorted clothing in the clothes closet and planted early spring seeds in the raised garden beds. On hearing the news that Avenue of Life had their vacuum stolen recently, Village Deacons Don and Mary Krohn went out and purchased and delivered two new vacuum cleaners to Avenue of Life, later that afternoon. It was a great day! Village staff, Cindy Wilcox and Deborah White, also participated in this event.

Celebration Dominicana

A Benefit for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership (DRMP) of Village Church

7 P.M. FRIDAY, JUNE 15
MADRID THEATRE
3810 MAIN ST
KANSAS CITY, MO 64111

Get tickets and details about sponsorship opportunities at
www.drmp2018.eventbrite.com



For more information please contact Lora Garrison at lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390



Wednesday Night Dinner

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 and dessert is \$7. Salad bar and 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 noon Monday. NEW: Standing reservations are available on a pre-pay basis only. Contact Liz Middleton at liz.middleton@villagepres.org if you are interested in paying ahead for a month or more of your meals.



Our last Wednesday Night Dinner for the spring is May 9, 2018. We resume this fall on Sept. 12.

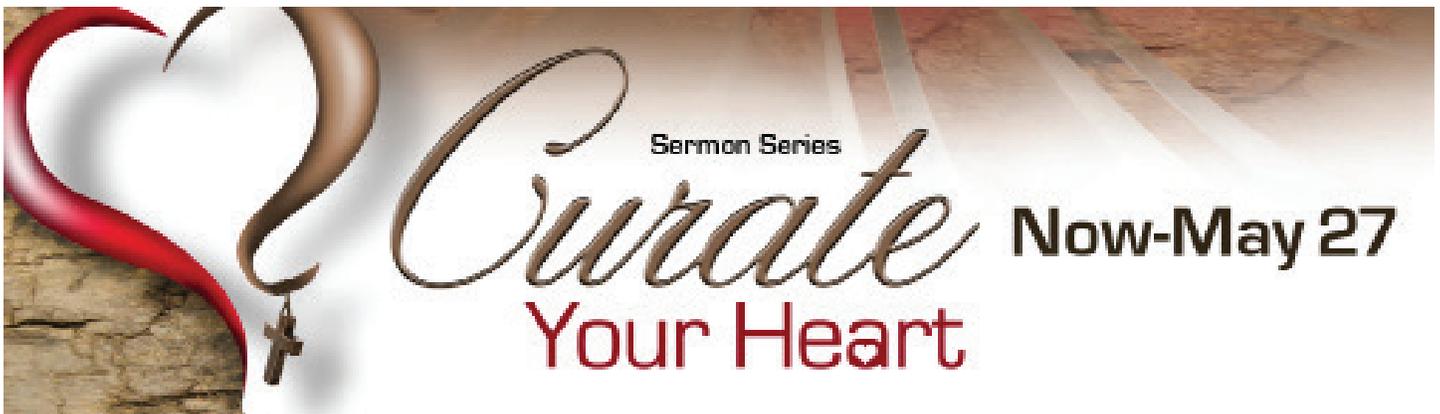
May 9 Menu — Baked ziti with Italian sausage, baked vegetarian ziti, gluten free versions available.

Wednesday Night Classes- Village U

For questions or registration, call 913-671-2333 or email marianne.weber@villagepres.org.
See class description in the Village U Catalog or at villagepres.org.

CL.017 From Eve to Gomer: Women of the Old Testament, 6:30-8 p.m. May 9 & 16, Rooms 132/133

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Some have said we are defined by our work. Some have said we are what we eat. At the deepest level, we are what we love. We can love all manner of things. We love our families and we love vacation. We love our country and we can love good coffee. It seems that love just happens, that love is something into which we fall. But love is also chosen. It is important to ask ourselves if we love the right things.

In this sermon series, Rev. Tom Are is exploring how following the life of Christ is a practice of training our hearts to want what God wants, to love the right things. If we are what we love, then curating our hearts is important work.

- May 6 It's Not Always About Bliss.
- May 13 It's Not Always About Me—Even When It Is.
- May 20 Love Is Not the Only Thing.
- May 27 Do You Have Time, or Does Time Have You?

A Special Message from Rev. Tom Are, Jr., Senior Pastor

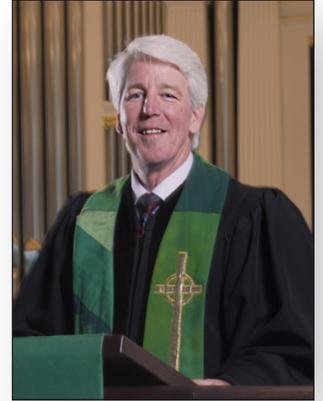
Dear Village Family,

The weather is just warming, but I want to tell you a bit about this summer at Village. I will take a trip to Kenya with a group from Village. I will return in early June, and when I do I will begin a sabbatical, taking some time off until September. When I first came to Village to serve as your senior pastor, you generously agreed to grant a sabbatical every five years. I was supposed to take it last summer, but we were just beginning our ministry at Village on Antioch and I wanted to be present as we did. So, with the permission of the Personnel Committee, I postponed until this summer. Now that Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick is at Antioch and Dr. Nishioka is leading the staff at Village on Mission, the way is clear.

To take some of the load off our pastors, four guest pastors will preach this summer. You will greatly enjoy hearing these friends, Rev. Anne Apple, Rev. Matt Gaventa, Rev. Sarah Wiles and Rev. Pen Peery. They are all wonderful preachers and friends of the church. More is said about them below.

I am looking forward to a low-key schedule and doing some reading, writing and visiting my family. It's been over a year since I have seen my mother and almost that long since I have seen my dad. I will also have a chance to preach at the Shallowford Church in Atlanta. That was my church family growing up. Since they knew me as a teenager, I probably have some repair work to do! I am grateful for this time away to rest in body and spirit and look forward to the fall.

Shalom,
Tom



June 3 - Rev. Anne Apple, associate pastor for pastoral care and evangelism, at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Sermon title: An Invitation to Remember (Mark 2:23-3:6)

The Rev. Anne Apple is a teacher, pray-er, connector, collaborator and preacher who loves dreaming up a good meal and calling people together around a table; as well as delighting in the solitary work of writing, disappearing into a good book or poem. Anne is married to Jim, and together they parent two young adult children, Betsy, (married to Daniel Eldridge, living in Raleigh, N.C.) and James, living in Starkville, Miss.; and a high school student, Abigail.

Before moving to Memphis, she served as pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Ala. She is a graduate of Rhodes College and Columbia Theological Seminary and has done doctoral course at the University of South Alabama. She is an adjunct professor at Memphis Theological Seminary and serves on the board at Montreat Conference Center and is commissioner to the upcoming General Assembly in St. Louis.



June 24 - Rev. Matt Gaventa, senior pastor, at the University Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas.

Sermon title: Best Position Player (Luke 23:33-43)

Matt Gaventa is senior pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, and previously served as pastor to Amherst Presbyterian Church in Amherst, Va., and as chaplain to Sweet Briar College. Matt is an acclaimed writer and preacher whose work has been featured in *Working Preacher*, on the *Day 1 Sermon Broadcast*, and in *The Christian Century*, for whom he co-hosts the podcast *Technicolor Jesus*. Matt holds degrees from Georgetown University, the University of Iowa, and Princeton Theological Seminary, and is the 2012 recipient of the David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award from Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. He currently lives in Austin with his wife, Sarah, and their son, Charlie.

GUEST PREACHERS THIS SUMMER

July 1 - Rev. Sarah Wiles, pastor at Bethany Presbyterian Church, in Tacoma, Wash.

Sermon title: Brotherly Love (Genesis 4:1-16)

Rev. Sarah Wiles is the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Baptist preachers. She grew up in North Carolina, earned her M.Div. at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and has lived in Los Angeles and Ann Arbor, Mich. Since 2011 she has been the pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Wash. She and her husband, Joseph, and twin four-year-olds have fallen in love with the wild beauty of the Pacific Northwest. She is an ardent fan of cooking, running and action movies.



July 8 - Rev. Pen Peery, senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Sermon title: To Whom Can We Go? (John 6:56-69)

Rev. Pen Peery is in his sixth year serving as the senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Charlotte, N.C. He is a native of Charlotte and a sixth-generation Presbyterian minister. In addition to being the son of two Presbyterian ministers and brother of Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin, Pen's wife, Lindsey, is also a minister. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Columbia Theological Seminary. He is currently studying for his Doctor of Ministry degree. He has served congregations in Richmond, Va. and Shreveport, La. Pen and Lindsey have four children. He is a member of the NEXT Church strategy team with Rev. Tom Are, and the board of trustees of Columbia Theological Seminary with Dr. Rodger Nishioka.



The remaining summer sermons will be preached by Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Rev. Len Carrell, Rev. Hallie Hottle and Rev. Zach Walker. Rev. Brandon Frick will be preaching each Sunday in June at Village on Antioch.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Village Church will switch to its summer worship schedule on Sunday, May 27. We will worship at 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the Village on Mission Sanctuary, with The Gathering (alternative worship) at 5 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Each worship service will include Time With Children.

Village on Antioch will worship at 10 a.m. starting Sunday, May 27. There will be no formation classes for children or adults at Village on Antioch during the summer.

Our radio broadcast at 8 a.m. Sundays on 1660 AM, KMBZ, the Business Channel, will be a week delayed pre-recorded worship service starting June 3.

We return to our regular worship schedule starting Sunday, Sept. 9, when Rev. Tom Are is back from sabbatical.

EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Susie Allen
 Faye & Charles 'Hap' Anderson
 Sue Arnold
 Barbara & Paul Arther
 Fred Baker
 Mac & Lucille Beall
 Mort Beck
 Sally Billingsley
 Melissa Bilyeu
 Pearl
 Mary Jane
 Margaret Bonavia
 James & Anna Bothwell
 Dick Bradley
 Judy Brook
 Angela Browne
 Phyllis Brownlee
 Blanch, Jerry & Bill Cerny
 Addison Cox
 Pat Crawford
 Frank Creason
 Betty Davison
 Robert Dick
 H. H. 'Hop' Dickenson
 Antoni Diehl
 Harold & Julia Diehl
 Toni Diehl
 Bert & Ethel Dowden
 Nancy Rogers DuBois
 Marvin Field
 Jim Foster
 C. Wayne Fritz
 E. Mae Fritz
 Rick Gannon
 Virginia Gray
 John Wesley Green
 Deke & Dottie Harberts
 Doyle Hargadine
 George Haydon
 Sally Haydon
 Caryl & Roger Herman
 Bruce Janecek

DONATED BY

Ginny & Scott Beall
 Melanie Anderson Wall
 David & Sally Scott
 The Arther Family
 Gloria Baker
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 Ginny & Scott Beall
 Andrew & Mary Erin Billingsley
 The Trager Family
 Jim & Connie Bolton
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 Melinda Tiemeyer
 Sybil Diehl & Family
 Ginny & Scott Beall
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 Ginny & Scott Beall
 Jim & Peggy Gray
 Ginny & Scott Beall
 Ginny & Scott Beall
 Sharolyn Molle
 Ann Creason
 Charlotte & Bruce Davison
 Dick & Liggett Families
 Polly Dickenson
 Sybil Diehl & Family
 Sybil Diehl & Family
 Ginny & Scott Beall
 Bill & Marion Dowden
 Krista & Barry Rogers
 Martha Field
 Sandra Foster
 Krista & Barry Rogers
 Krista & Barry Rogers
 The Onyszchuk Family
 Jim & Peggy Gray
 Barbara & Donald Wigger
 Amy Harberts
 Dortha Hargadine
 David & Sally Scott
 David & Sally Scott
 Don & Bev Freberg
 Jean Janecek

IN MEMORY OF

Roger Ketterman
 Romney Ketterman
 Marjorie "Mardie" Kirkwood
 Cindy Kueck
 Pat Kunin
 Helen Lamb
 J. T. Lamb
 Edith & Earnest Lee
 Julie Lee
 Norma Jean Liggett
 Doris Bryan Long
 George & Bernice McCordic
 Tom McIntire
 Tom McIntire
 James B McLaughlin
 Ella & Floyd McNaughton
 Lonnie Markley
 Max & Annabel Miller
 Mary Montgomery
 Jerome Mook
 Melinda Nedbalek
 Nina Anderson Olberding
 Our Parents
 Edward F Owen
 Douglas Gordon Petty
 Frances Bryan Richards
 James Lyle Rogers
 Ann Perry Schumacker
 Ellie & Jim Skidmore
 Ann Taylor
 Lowell Thomas
 Lowell Thomas
 Freddie Tiemeyer
 Frank Tolsdorf
 Patricia Volk

 Harvey C. Wilson
 David Wall
 Rodney Wilson
 Napier Wright
 Bob Zender

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 David & Sally Scott
 Judie Thomas
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 Krista & Geoffrey Tolsdorf
 Charlie Volk, Charlie & Jan Volk,
 Mary Volk Peacock
 Donna Wilson
 Melanie, Nate & Gwen
 Ginny & Scott Beall
 Bob & Judy Perry
 Jim & Peggy Gray

Welcome Rev. Becky Chamberlain Interim Associate Pastor in Pastoral Care

Rev. Becky Chamberlain is now serving as interim associate pastor of pastoral care at Village on Mission. She retired from parish ministry in 2013 after serving The Presbyterian Church of Traverse City, Mich. for 13 years as their associate pastor for congregational care.

Rev. Chamberlain was educated at Bradley University, and for over a decade, worked in the administration of the university. Sensing a call to ministry, she sought theological education at McCormick Theological Seminary where she obtained her M.Div., and later earned a Certificate in Spiritual Formation from Columbia Seminary.



She was ordained in 2000 at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, where she worked in their Elim Davies Social Service Center and following graduation, as mission associate, prior to her call to Traverse City.

From 2013 to 2015, Rev. Chamberlain served as Faith Community liaison at Ghost Ranch, a PC(USA) education and retreat center in Abiqui, N.M., on the edge of the Colorado Plateau. She moved to Kansas City in 2015 to be near two daughters and their families, including five grandchildren. Since moving to Kansas City, Becky finds joy in gardening, walking her little dog "The Foz," new friends, reading, spiritual formation, music, good movies, and of course, family. She gives thanks for this opportunity to serve Village Church. Her heart's desire is to embody the love of Jesus Christ wherever her feet take her.

"We are delighted that Rev. Chamberlain has agreed to join us to fill some of our pastoral care needs while we await the calling of our next associate pastor for pastoral care," said Rev. Tom Are. "She is delightful and a great fit for the Village family."

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW Luncheon May 23 at Cheesecake Factory in Overland Park

After adverse weather caused cancellation of an earlier WOW lunch at Cheesecake Factory, Women of Wisdom again invites all ladies to this fun restaurant at 6675 W. 119th, in Overland Park at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 23. Please note the earlier start time which is necessary to reserve a table. Good food, signature cheesecakes, warm fellowship and spring weather await! RSVP to Diane Lee, 913-432-4321, or dianelee@att.net by Tuesday, May 22.

Upcoming Village U classes:

Intermediate Google Sheets – This class is recommended for those who have a basic understanding of Excel OR Google Sheets. Topics include filtering and sorting data, creating charts and graphs, and utilizing functions to easily perform mathematical and statistical calculations. 1-2:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, OR 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, May 10, in Room 316.

From Eve to Gomer: Women of the Old Testament – Some of their names are recorded in the Old Testament and some of their names are not. Some of them have leading roles in the story of the Hebrew people and some of them are mentioned only in passing. Yet all these women play a part in our history. Participants in this course will explore these women and together, we will learn more about each of them and how together, they have influenced our life and witness as followers of Jesus Christ. Taught by Dr. Rodger Nishioka. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, May 9 and 16, in Rooms 232 & 233.



Adult Sunday Morning Classes:

9:30-10:30 a.m.

The Faith Journey class is studying Marcus Borg’s book, “The Heart of Christianity- Rediscovering a Life of Faith.” Led by Kathy Ray in Room 230.

Foundations of Faith – This class is studying the significance of Jerusalem, the holiest city for the three Abrahamic faiths of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Taught by the Rev. Dwight Tawney, the class enjoys thoughtful discussions and conversation prompted by this beloved teacher who served as one of the pastors here at Village Church. Room 15.

Growing Together – If you are interested in biblically-based lessons that help you increase your impact on others in your life, then you should drop into Room 124. You will find a small group exploring the Acts of the Apostles. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre, the group is asking where we are called as apostles and what that even means.

Village Forum – Now-May 20, Rev. Dr. John Borden will teach Early Christianity and Beginning of the Church, examining such topics as the world of the ancient Middle East, the thought, religion and culture in the time of Christ and the early church. Room 126.

10:45-11:45 a.m.

Psalms for Life – Dr. Rodger Nishioka is teaching a class on the Psalms. The Psalms are sources of inspiration and instruction. We will explore some of the most popular such as Psalm 23 to the most challenging. This class is for the novice and seasoned Bible reader and runs now through May 20 in Rooms 132 and 133.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Good News for the Earth. Good News for us all.

During Lent, 208 Village households (467 individuals) demonstrated their love for God’s earth and God’s people by taking part in the Village Lenten Meal Pledge sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee. They pledged to eat a vegetarian meal once a week, choose meats with a lower carbon footprint (e.g., chicken and fish) and to reduce food waste in their homes (since wasted food has a carbon footprint, too). By choosing a vegetarian meal over a 4 oz. serving of beef, each person saved 6.5 pounds of CO2e per meal. This means our Village family saved over nine tons of carbon! If you take into account that most Americans eat much larger meat servings, typically 8 oz., the carbon savings would be over 18 tons. This is the equivalent of taking an average car off the road for between 23,000 to 46,000 miles, depending on the amount of beef consumed.

Our congregation marked Earth Day this year with a 24-hour prayer vigil, also sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee. Although the footprint of prayer is hard to measure, participants are hoping for a large impact from this day of prayer. If you would like more information about the work of the Environmental Action committee, contact Dr. Rodger Nishioka at rodger.nishioka@villagepres.org.

6th Graders Move-Up to Youth Ministry

On May 6, the 6th graders and their parents will attend a Sunday Brunch where they will meet the Youth staff and learn what they can anticipate as they join the Middle School Youth Ministry. They are eligible to attend all middle school youth events starting June 1. We love our 6th graders and celebrate their graduation and new beginning!

Mother's Day, May 13

Celebration of our Mothers and Baptisms will highlight this special day at Village. In appreciation and celebration of each mother on this Mother's Day, we will present a flower as she enters the Sanctuary.

Family Worship Sunday, May 27, Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday School is NOT scheduled for children in our Preschool or Kids' Kingdom programs. Child care IS available for newborns – 3 year old's.

New Baby

We welcome Mildred Noel McCabe to our Village Church Family. Her parents are Leigh and Benjamin McCabe. A rose will be placed on the communion table to commemorate Mildred Noel's birth.

VBS and Traveling Day Camp Volunteers

Enrich your Summer and impact others - Come and join our VBS and Traveling Day Camp Volunteers and Village Ministry! To learn more, call our office at 913-671-2350.



Celebrating 30 Years of Teaching at Village Preschool



We hope you will help us celebrate Debbie Spurlin's 30th year of teaching here at Village Preschool. Debbie has taught over 950 students and worked for five directors throughout her years as a preschool teacher. She has given so many children and families a wonderful start to their educational journey.

Debbie approaches teaching with a big heart and plenty of fun. It is not unusual to find her 'having her hair done' in the House Area or 'buying ice cream' on the playground.

Her thorough knowledge of the HighScope curriculum has led her to be a mentor to us all. If you have been lucky enough to have a child in Debbie's classroom, you already know what lasting connections she makes with her families. As we celebrate Debbie's 30th year of

teaching, we are simultaneously celebrating her retirement; 2017-2018 will mark the final year in Debbie's teaching career. Her genuine smile and contagious laugh will be missed throughout the preschool hallway. Debbie's dedication to the education of our youth is unmatched. We wish her all the joys of becoming a grandparent and hope she knows how many lives she has touched throughout the years.





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

MAY 2, 2018
Vol. 56, No.5

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Awe Moment #4



There is an old man, in his early 90's who lives on his own, still in his family's home of 75 years. The house is in desperate need of repair. He lives on a very low income. He has no family, children or any living relatives. He is scared of being alone, afraid of falling and it is impossible not to be frightened for him.

But he has the most incredible neighbors. Instead of complaining, they look in on him every day and

have made copies of his keys in case there's an emergency. Instead of demanding his house be condemned, they pitch in to fix it up. They have created a caring coalition around him. These neighbors are saints – having eyes of compassion to care for the most vulnerable and weak among us and to respond in love.

This story was shared by Pastoral Care and Counseling Ministry.

Your generosity brings our mission to life and we are grateful.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VILLAGE ON MISSION

Traditional – 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

The Gathering – 5 p.m.

In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH

Traditional - 9:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

14895 Antioch Rd.

Overland Park, KS 66221

See page 7 for the summer worship schedule effective May 27.

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

9:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday

www.villagepres.org

IN MEMORY

Sophia Myers

Nadine Kunz

Frank Wood



Village Pastors Share Book Recommendations

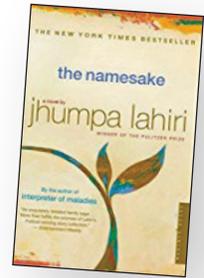
Many of you have asked what books our Village Church pastors are reading. Here are a few titles our pastors recommend.

From Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor

The Namesake. Jhumpa Lahiri. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2003



Pulitzer Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri offers this coming of age novel about Gogol Ganguli, son of Ashoke and Ashima. The novel explores the normal father and son issues that arise when a young man seeks his own place in the world. But these issues are further complicated by the reality that Ashoke immigrated from Bengali. As a second-generation immigrant, Gogol discovers that there is too much of India in him to be fully at home in America, and too much America in him to be fully at home in India. It echoes theological tones, as our home is the kingdom of God, and therefore, we are never fully at home in this culture but live as a sort of immigrant in this world.

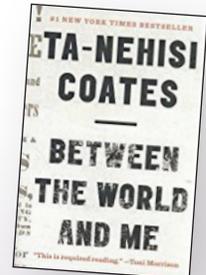


From Rev. Len Carrell, pastor for pastoral care

Between the World and Me. Ta-Nehisi Coates. New York: Penguin Random House, 2015



This title, "Between the World and Me," comes from a 1957 poem by Richard Wright in a book entitled White Man Listen! In the 80's and 90's, one of my favorite playwrights was August Wilson because of his passionate portrayal of the black experience in America. Someone told me I had to read Coates' book. Coates addresses his memoir to his young son. It is his story and the story of our nation and our current crisis between race relationships. It tells how America has built this idea of "race," a falsehood that is damaging to us all but falls most violently on black women and men. So, I listened!

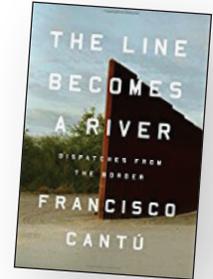


From Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor for young adult ministry

The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border. Francisco Cantú. New York: Penguin Random House, 2018.



What has most startled me when traveling to the U.S./Mexico border is the sheer amount of “stuff,” information, history, humanitarian issues, that I wouldn’t know had I not traveled. Even as a seeker of information, much of it is hard to find, if available at all. We have had a blind spot when it comes to our southernmost border, and I am hopeful that blind spot is beginning to attract some light. This new book is the best telling, through both personal narrative and careful research, I have found. It’s an easy and inviting read, at times grabbing at your heart, and at times portraying nightmarish images. Our southernmost border isn’t a political issue. It’s a place, where people live and work and struggle. If you’re like me and have found yourself wondering why you don’t know more about it, start here.

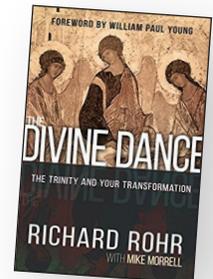


From Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate

The Divine Dance. The Trinity and Your Transformation. Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2016.



The church continues to evolve in its understanding of the wonderful and perplexing doctrine of the Trinity. I read this book in preparation for a Village U course I taught on the Trinity. Franciscan priest Richard Rohr and writer Mike Morrell have teamed together to share new thoughts about how God is the three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They give us the image of a God who is in community as the three persons of the Trinity. Further, this community that is God is constantly engaged in a kind of dance as each person in the Trinity not only shows us who God is, but also responds to one another. The tone is more conversational and reflective than dogmatic and systematic. I found this to be engaging and provocative reading.



From Rev. Zach Walker, pastor for youth ministry

Canoeing The Mountains. Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory. Tod Bolsinger. Grand Rapids, MI: InterVarsity Press, 2015.



This book came suggested from several friends who also work in leadership contexts. I was surprised at how helpful and insightful it was when thinking about group dynamics and operating in new and diverse settings. I was particularly drawn in by the analogy to Lewis and Clark’s leadership styles and how those were at play in their own explorations. Bolsinger explains that sometimes our past experiences can actually be a hindrance when we need to imagine radically different futures that require us to develop new methods, habits and a willingness to chart new territory.

