



## Celebration Dominicana: Now I Get It

By Andrea Huffman, director of international mission

During my first days at Village I remember hearing about this spring event called "Celebration Dominicana," a dinner where friends of the DRMP gather together to celebrate the work they do in the Dominican Republic.

I'll be honest: my initial reaction was less than enthusiastic. I pictured suits at a fancy dinner recounting surgical stories or medical abnormalities. It didn't sound too appealing and it definitely didn't sound like a 'celebration'.

That, however, was before I got the chance to go the Dominican Republic myself and see the DRMP workers in action. It was before I watched a DRMP doctor hold the hands and wear the hats of every single patient in his care, and saw the joy and surprise on his patients' faces as he did so.

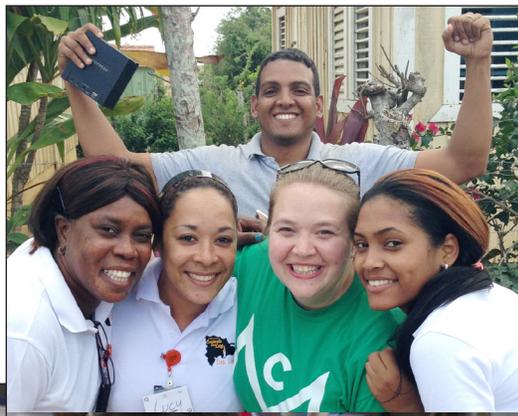
It was before I saw a DRMP pediatrician cradle baby after baby, and watched cautious mamas relax into smiles as they watched her love their kids.

It was before I saw Dominican doctors, with huge smiles and hugging arms, welcome nineteen Village teenagers to come alongside their work, bringing health education to some of the world's poorest people; before I sat through bus rides filled with Spanish singing and American laughter; and before lunches enlivened by impromptu dancing.

It was before I watched the Haitian-Dominican mission center staff wipe their tear-stained cheeks as they said a final goodbye to our March Team Leaders who are retiring after nineteen years of DR trips and DRMP service.

Before I saw it with my own eyes, I didn't get it. The beauty of this Caribbean island, with its lush green fields and flawless beaches, does not compare to the beautiful relationships of mutual care and affection that I witnessed between the DRMP and their Haitian and Dominican friends, colleagues and patients.

"Celebration Dominicana" truly is a celebration: of the vibrancy and vitality of the Dominican Republic; of the lives that the DRMP has changed, and the lives that have changed the DRMP; of the fulfillment that comes from crossing the boundaries of cultures, continents, and social classes to love our neighbors, and the joy that comes from experiencing their love in return.



The Celebration Dominicana fiesta takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, at the Country Club of Leawood. It's an event worth experiencing—for experiences worth celebrating. We hope you'll come celebrate with us!

Call 913-671-2390 for more information.



## 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](mailto:marianne.weber@villagepres.org).

## Food Pantry

This past Sunday was CANNED FRUIT SUNDAY, the second Food Drive of 2015. Thanks to all for your generous donations! Since canned fruit is such a staple in the Pantry's clients' diets, the Pantry is going to continue requesting these items during the month of May. All varieties of canned fruit are needed: pineapple, mixed fruit, mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, etc. Every family receives at least one can of fruit of their choice (larger families receive more), so there is no such thing as too many donations of canned fruit. Plan on bringing at least one can of fruit on each of your visits during May.

For the Clothes Closet, the demand for X-Large clothing for men and women is always high, and the stock is always minimal. All donations are greatly appreciated - as are donations of shoes - all sizes, men, women or children - and household linens.

Your donations make our Food Pantry/Clothes Closet the successful mission that it is. Thank you.



## DRMP Seeking Volunteer Accountant

The Dominican Republic Medical Partnership (DRMP) is looking for an individual willing to volunteer their time as an accountant/bookkeeper for the organization. Minimal time required (less than 10 hrs. /month), and must know QuickBooks. Contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, at [andrea.huffman@villagepres.org](mailto:andrea.huffman@villagepres.org) for more information.

## The Pursuit of Happiness Through Volunteering

By Deborah White, director of mission

*"A happy man lives well and does well."* -Aristotle

Recently, I have been reading a book called *A Path Appears* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, printed this past fall. The text has highlighted many measurable ways to create positive change, particularly for those suffering around the world. When I hit the chapter on the "Neuroscience of Giving," I wanted to share the following passage:

While some scholars are looking at evidence that altruism may make us happier, others have been conducting research suggesting that giving may also make us healthier, perhaps by reducing stress. A 2006 study [source: *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, November 2006] found that people who are generous have lower blood pressure than those who are not.... Another study [source: *Journal of Health Psychology*, May 1999] followed nearly 2,000 people - all over the age of 55 - for five years, examining which factors were associated with lower mortality in that time period. The researchers found that the risk of mortality dropped by 29 percent for those attending church services, by 30 percent for those exercising four times a week, and by a remarkable 44 percent for those volunteering for two or more organizations. A University of Texas study of Americans over the age of 65 likewise found that those who volunteer are less likely to suffer depression and are more likely to live longer.

Ultimately, by taking deliberate steps, we have the capacity to change the world and ourselves. Numerous volunteer opportunities exist within the Kansas City community and within our own church. If you are interested in learning about ways you can help others on your own time frame or within a structured shift, call Cindy Wilcox in Connectional Ministry at 913-671-2331, Sandy Perry in Pastoral Care at 913-671-2327 or me in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369. You will also find a listing of many volunteer opportunities at [villagepres.org](http://villagepres.org).

## Witness Offering

May 24, Pentecost Sunday, is time for the traditional Witness Offering. This offering is divided among Village Church (40%), Heartland Presbytery and General Assembly for children at risk, ministries with youth and ministries with young adults. Offering envelopes are available in the Friendship Folders during Sunday service or at the Village reception desk.

## Tuesday-Thursday Crew Could Use A Few More Pairs of Hands

The Heartland Habitat for Humanity site for the first 2015 Village Church house began installation of the floor system on Tuesday, April 21. This site is located at 2061 Osage Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas.

If you are interested in volunteering with the construction of this house, the Village Church Tuesday-Thursday Crew welcomes your help whenever you can join us for the day, or even just a few hours. The Village crew expects to be working at the Osage site every Tuesday and Thursday for the next two or three months, until the house is completed. Choose your days and hours. You do not have to notify anyone or keep a schedule. The crew starts work around 8:15 a.m. and tries to end their day by 3 p.m., with a morning break at 10 a.m. and lunch at noon. Most volunteers bring a break-time snack and a sack lunch. Close-by food service is limited and lunch-time camaraderie is good for the soul.

The Tuesday-Thursday Crew is an ecumenical group of volunteers, including several Village Church members, who enjoy working together to build decent, affordable housing for folks who would not have access to it otherwise.

Heartland Habitat for Humanity provides full-time site supervision, necessary tools, materials and supplies. You may want to bring a tool belt, tape measure or favorite hammer if you have them already, but it is recommended that you not acquire anything until you have been on site a few times. Work the first few days will be primarily erecting and securing prefabricated systems; i.e., flooring, walls and roof structures. The ground will be rough and uneven, maybe damp and slippery. There will be air hoses and electrical cables underfoot. Sturdy shoes with thick soles are recommended.

If you have any questions regarding the Habitat project, call Dave Lillard at 913-649-8930.

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

### Save the Date: Annual Village Church Ice Cream Social

Please join us for our 40th Annual Ice Cream Social from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, June 28, in Friendship Hall.

It's also a celebration of Pastor Jay McKell's service to Village Church! (Jay's last day at Village is July 1).

New this year is a photo booth and Kona Ice Truck that will have flavored, shaved ice drinks. We'll also have our old favorites: a petting zoo, popcorn, clowns, balloon figures, inflatables and a 15-foot slide, face painting, food, fun and of course all the ICE CREAM you can eat! Admission is \$2 a person. Everyone is welcome, so bring friends and family. Contact [Cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:Cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org) for more info.



Note: There is no car show this year (construction has taken up our front lawn).



## 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.

**May 13**—BBQ pork & chicken, baked beans. **The last Wednesday dinner is May 13.** “Morning Stars” children will perform. **Dinners resume on Wednesday, Sept. 9.**

### Village University Classes-Spring 2015

**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.

**School of Theology** – Religions of the World, Part II-Continuing to explore major religions of the world, Part II 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 is God in each. Taught by Rev. Dr. John P. Borden. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, in Room 132.

**The Reformation in Germany** – This study traces 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 show slides from his travels to the places German reformers lived and worked. 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, in Room 127. Child care is not available.



Go to [www.villagepres.org](http://www.villagepres.org) for more details about Wednesday Nights @ Village.

### Age 60’s Dinner at Olive Garden

Join us for dinner at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, 6750 W. 95th Street, in Overland Park (95th St. & east of Metcalf) at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 21. Visit [www.olivegarden.com](http://www.olivegarden.com) to check out their menu.

Reservations are under “Village Church.” Each person is responsible for his/her own tab. RSVP to Stacy at 913-671-2334 or [stacy.fischer@villagepres.org](mailto:stacy.fischer@villagepres.org).

### Let’s go to the Ball Game!

Join the Village Church group to watch the Kansas City Royals take on the Cleveland Indians 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3. The bus leaves the south parking lot of the church at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 each and include the cost of the bus ride to and from the stadium. Call the Connectional Ministries office at 913-671-2334 to reserve your ticket today.



*God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers. ~Jewish Proverb*

Remember your mom on Sunday, May 10 by honoring her with a Tribute Gift to Village Church Endowment Trust. Your gift to our Endowment Trust makes a difference to children in our church, our community and our world, today and into the future.

You can make a Tribute Gift online by going to Village Church’s website, [www.villagepres.org](http://www.villagepres.org), After completing the form and receipt of payment, we will send a card directly to your mom.

For more information contact Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325.

## 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, contact Sandy Perry at 913-671-2327 or at [sandy.perry@villagepres.org](mailto:sandy.perry@villagepres.org).

## 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:

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

**May 28:** Lucy Bloom, director of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives, Kansas Department for Children and Families: "Human Trafficking and its Presence in Kansas City."

## Easter Us a prayer by Walter Brueggemann

You, God, who terrified the waters,

Who crashed your thunder,

Who shook the earth, and

Who scared the wits out of chaos.

Our lives, addressed to you,

Have this bittersweet taste of

Loud-clashing miracles and weak-kneed doubt.

So we come in our bewilderment and wonderment,

Deeply trusting, almost afraid to trust much,

Passionately insisting, too timid to insist much,

Fervently hoping, exhausted from hoping too much.

Look upon us in our deep need.

You defeater of death, whose power could not hold you,

Come in your Easter,

Come in your sweeping victory,

Come in your glorious new life.

Easter us,

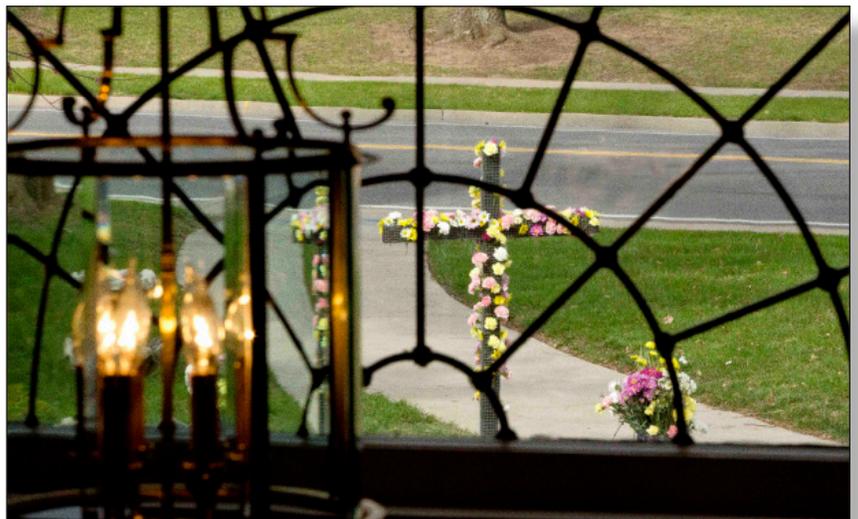
Salve wounds,

Break injustice,

Bring peace,

Guarantee neighbor,

Easter us in joy and strength.



## EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

### IN MEMORY OF

### DONATED BY

All Who Have Served our Country.....Mark & Melissa Anderson  
 Charles 'Hap' Anderson ..... Melanie Anderson Wall  
 Roy & Katherine Anderson .....Mark & Melissa Anderson  
 Barbara Arther .....The Arther Family  
 Mae & Lucille Beall.....Ginny & Scott Beall  
 Mort Beck.....Ginny & Scott Beall  
 Jane Beeler .....Marilyn McCrory  
 Myra Keck Betters ..... Her Family  
 Elaine Billington.....Wilbur Billington  
 Marian Billington .....Wilbur Billington  
 Matt Boggan .....Sandy & Bob Burdick  
 Paul Bower.....Tina Bower and Janet & John Butcher  
 Beulah & Lee Bronson .....Jaye & Sandi Ediger  
 Jim Bronson .....Jaye & Sandi Ediger  
 Judy Brook .....Ginny & Scott Beall  
 Wyatt William Carter.....Janet Stauffer  
 Blanche, Jerry & Bill Cerny.....Ginny & Scott Beall  
 Margaret Coleman .....Sandra Coleman  
 Ad Cox.....Ginny & Scott Beall  
 Lucy Crawford Clark.....Harolyn O'Brien  
 Pat Crawford .....Sharolyn Molle  
 Larry Culbertson.....Nancy Culbertson  
 Barclay Cunningham.....Elizabeth Cunningham  
 Tom Cunningham.....Elizabeth Cunningham  
 Pamela Darnell.....Michael, Rachel, Eric & Dale Darnell  
 Pamela Darnell.....Michael, Rachel, Eric & Dale Darnell  
 Sara Chappell Deines.....Peggy & Stan Chappell  
 Henry 'Hop' Dickenson .....Polly Dickenson  
 Al Dixon.....Susie Dixon  
 Bert & Ethel Dowden.....Bill & Marion Dowden  
 Virginia & Ed Ediger.....Jaye & Sandi Ediger  
 Marvin Field .....Martha Field

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 James Heeter .....Judy Heeter  
 Edward Hills.....Marian, Mark & Matt  
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 Sarah Susan Hitchcock .....Chuck & Jenny Hitchcock  
 Raleigh Hoel.....Verna Hoel  
 Brodie Johnson .....Richard Johnson  
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 June Kessler .....Katherine Kessler  
 Roger Ketterman.....Romany & Cora Ketterman  
 Juanita Kilbourne.....Wallace Kilbourne  
 Dr J Tenbrook King.....Mark & Melissa Anderson  
 Marjorie (Mardie) Kirkwood .....Tom Kirkwood  
 Phil Kline.....Ruthie Kline  
 Phil Kline.....The Kids  
 Phil Kline.....The Grandkids  
 Phil Kline.....The Great Grandkids  
 Helen Lamb.....Donna Wilson

## EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF	DONATED BY	IIN MEMORY OF	DONATED BY
JT Lamb .....	Donna Wilson	Donald W Peck .....	Donis Peck
Edith & Earnest Lee .....	Donna Wilson	Delores Rector .....	Elizabeth Cunningham
JT Lamb .....	Donna Wilson	Rosemary Rhoades.....	Wallace Kilbourne
Harry & Vernia Lay.....	Verna Hoel	Ruth & Greg Rick, Sr .....	Bill & Roxann Holland
Edith & Earnest Lee .....	Helen Mercer	Ann Perry Schumacher.....	Bob & Judy Perry
Julie Lee .....	Fay & Carter Harrison	Bill Schumacher .....	Jennifer & Mike Stradinger
Julie Mercer Lee .....	Helen Mercer	Diane Schumacher .....	Jennifer & Mike Stradinger
Jim Lord .....	Susan Lord	Jim & Ellie Skidmore.....	Nancy Skidmore
Wayne & Edith Love .....	Dick & Barbara Love	Mae Slater .....	Ellie & Bob Slater
Gary W McKillip, (Capt USAF) .....	Mary McKillip and Matthew G McKillip	Ed Slentz, Dorothy Slentz & Kay Milling .....	Jean, Jim, Paul & Patty
Jim McLaughlin.....	Annette McLaughlin	John Spaugh .....	Alice Spaugh, David,, Cindy and Katie Henderson
George & Bernice McCordic .....	Bill & Marion Dowden	David Staehr.....	Lee & Michele Staehr
Kristin Ann McCrary.....	Darla Hajinian	Ray Stallbaumer.....	Lee & Michele Staehr
Floyd & Ella McNaughton .....	Martha Field	James A Stauffer .....	Janet Stauffer
Elizabeth Stevenson & William Bryce McQuiston.....	Sallie McQuiston	Stephanie Stephenson .....	Brad & Carrie Kruse
Lonnie Markley .....	Beth & Melinda Markley	Maxine Briscoe Stewart.....	Judy Heeter
Michelle Masterson .....	Ellie & Bob Slater	Verl & Raylene Stokes.....	Dick & Barbara Love
Mindy Masterson .....	Ellie & Bob Slater	Eric Thaheld.....	Jaye & Sandi Ediger
Missy Masterson .....	Ellie & Bob Slater	Brant Tidwell .....	Lucy Tidwell
Eugene May .....	Lillie May, Diane, Barbara & Robert	David Wall .....	Melanie, Nate and Gwen
William W Meier .....	Barbara Barickman-Meier	John Whitcher .....	Judy & David Wiseman
Memory of Family .....	Carolyn Stauffer	Kelli Diane White.....	Jackie & Duane White
Memory of Our Parents .....	Fay & Carter Harrison	Merle & Ruby White .....	Jackie & Duane White
Sylvia Metheny .....	Judy Heeter	H C Wilson .....	Donna Wilson
Max & Annabel Miller.....	Annette McLaughlin	Rodney Wilson .....	Donna Wilson
Mary Jean Montgomery.....	Robert Montgomery	Rodney Wilson .....	Ginny & Scott Beall
Lillian & Samuel Morris .....	Marion Goodwin	Bob Zender.....	James & Peggy Gray
Eva Munk .....	Jennifer & Mike Stradinger		
Edward Fred Owen .....	James & Peggy Gray		
Nina Anderson Olberding .....	Melanie Anderson Wall		
Greta Patten.....	John & Sandy Linson		
Gloria Pearson.....	Bill & Roxann Holland		



## Operation Breakthrough: We Made a Difference- One Child at a Time!

During this school year, we completed two six-week sessions of reading, talking and singing with our preschool buddies from Operation Breakthrough in order to build early literacy skills and positive relationships.

This long-running program continues to work because of our loyal group of men and women volunteers who are reading buddies each week. This amounts to 720 volunteer hours and 960 donated books read to and given to the children. This year the books read during story time were also given to the Operation Breakthrough teachers so that they might read them with their classes at school.

This year our relationship with Operation Breakthrough was strengthened which gives us a better insight into the needs of the children and their community. In September and March, key staff members from the school spoke to the volunteers. A tour of their facility helped us reconnect with the children before the spring session started and learn from Sister Berta Sailer and the staff about the positive impact of the reading program.

Additionally, Village provided extra classroom space for this program. By having more rooms to use, we were able to divide the group and lower the noise level, which in turn improved the focus on reading and the connection with the children. We continue to gain new volunteers from church membership and the community each session. We hope to see you join our group next fall.



## SAVE-THE DATE • March 4 & 5, 2016 Visiting Scholar Event with Amy-Jill Levine, Ph.D.

Back by popular demand, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine returns to Village Church as the 2016 Visiting Scholar. Dr. Levine is a New Testament scholar and influential author, a university professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter professor of New Testament Studies and professor of Jewish Studies at Divinity School and College of Arts and Science at Vanderbilt University.

She is a self-described “Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt.” She is also an author of many articles, books and essays including *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*.

Check [villagepres.org](http://villagepres.org) for updates on ticket information.

## Women with Spirit Family Brunch in the Courtyard

Stop by the church courtyard with your kiddos for fellowship, refreshments and fun from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 17. Drop by before or after the worship service to meet other Village Church families! RSVP to [brandidavis@kc.rr.com](mailto:brandidavis@kc.rr.com).

## WOW Luncheon at the Bristol

Women of Wisdom, WOW, will begin the summer with lunch together at the Bristol at 119th and Nall in Leawood. We'll meet at noon on Wednesday, June 3. The Bristol is a stylish, upscale seafood grill in Town Center Plaza. Offering the area's freshest premium seafood, the lunch menu also includes soups, starter salads, and sandwiches. We welcome all women of PW to join us for this lunch time feast. RSVP by Tuesday, June 2, to Marvie Sneegas, [sneegi@kc.rr.com](mailto:sneegi@kc.rr.com) or 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, [dianelee@att.net](mailto:dianelee@att.net), or 913-432-4321.

## Gathering Together in Peace

By Rev. Diane Quaintance

Spend time with David LaMotte and you will touch the world. Village Church had the privilege of hosting David, a friend of Jenny McDevitt, April 10 & 11 for a Friday night concert and Saturday morning workshop. The audience was unanimous, "You've got to bring him back!"

David has spent more than twenty years on stage as a folk musician, playing acoustic guitar and singing. His skill dazzled even the most skilled musicians among us. "How does he make so many different sounds with just a guitar?" – from drumming on the guitar and spanking the strings, to plucking the strings with his left hand while strumming with his right hand; even gently bending the neck to bring out a vibrato tone.



His resonant vocals come from a deeply spiritual place – his passion for peace and "worldchanging" work that connects with what is most human in each of us. His winsome humor and engaging storytelling are woven into his music.

David has traveled on four continents and 48 states as a singer/songwriter. He identifies himself as a Quakerterian – the son of a preacher with deep roots in the Presbyterian Church, and with close ties to the Quaker community's commitment to peace.

He has been the chair of the American Friends Service's Nobel Peace Prize Committee, and has travelled to conflict zones and sites of extreme poverty to learn and teach. On their honeymoon in Antigua, Guatemala, David and his wife were touched by the lack of education for children, and founded a non-profit that supports education by providing resources and materials. They continue to spend time in Guatemala whenever possible.



In Saturday morning's workshop, "Worldchanging 101," David talked about the myth of powerlessness. His motto, "It's not naive to think you can change the world. It's naive to think you could possibly be in the world and not change it. So which changes will you make?"

When we were making preparations for David's visit, he asked if we had a djembe, a particular West African drum that is too bulky to travel well. On Friday afternoon our curiosity led us to the internet



to find out more about the djembe. The name comes from two West African words, "dje" meaning gather, and "mbe" meaning peace. Though he had not known the origin of the djembe's name, the drum's message, "we gather together in peace," seemed a perfect image for David LaMotte's performances.



**Breakfast and Bible with Buddies:  
A Bible Study for Men**

Rev. Tom Are's six-week morning study from 7-8 a.m. continues on Friday, May 8 & 15. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast (\$6), and Rev. Are 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 the fellowship Friday mornings. To make a reservation for breakfast, please contact [marianne.weber@villagepres.org](mailto:marianne.weber@villagepres.org).

**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.

**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.

**Teacher Appreciation Pancake Breakfast**

Thank you to everyone who came out to support and celebrate the teaching ministry of Village Church. There are so many committed, nurturing and loving people who give of their time and talent to teaching not only the children at Village but also our youth and adults. For a comprehensive list of all who volunteer in the important ministry of teaching, please visit the church website and look for the special tab under Children and Family Ministry.

**6th Grade Move-Up and Family Brunch**

Sunday, May 31, will be our 6th graders' last day with us as they are officially welcomed into Middle School Youth. To celebrate, parents and 6th graders are invited

for Sunday Brunch to meet the Youth Staff and get to know what Middle School Youth is all about. Watch your mailbox for more news.



**Summer Camp Scholarships Needed**

Heartland Center, our presbytery's camp and conference center, believes that a week at camp can serve as one of the most powerful and life-changing faith experiences in a person's life. Yes, camp is a place for horseback riding, swimming, rock wall climbing, hikes, singing around campfires and roasting marshmallows, but these activities are neither the reason nor the essence of camp at Heartland. Heartland is first and foremost about building deeper relationships in and through Jesus Christ.

Kids who come back year after year to Heartland don't talk about the activities; they talk about a sense of belonging and of feeling closer to God.

In 2014, Heartland received over \$49,000 in donations to enable nearly 800 campers to go to camp. Would you please consider making a generous gift now to the camp's scholarship fund and help kids go to camp this summer?

Call Heartland Center at 816-891-1078 or go to <http://www.heartlandcenter.org/donate/>.

We now have some foundation walls around the Welcome Center. Structural steel is arriving this week.

Most of the north parking lot has been taken over by construction efforts. Pearce Construction has a fence across the lot from the north entrance door to the creek. This is a staging area for most of the work going on in the Sanctuary. On weekends, Pearce will create a pedestrian path to the northeast ramp entrance.

Demolition in the Sanctuary continues.

The Welcome Center completion is still on track for late fall 2015. We hope to be back in the Sanctuary for worship in the early fall. There is a possible delay in the delivery of the pipe organ.

The Meneilly Center completion project is in the permitting process. As soon as permits are secured we will schedule a groundbreaking for the new Village Church Child and Family Development Center at 99th and Mission Road.

### Watch Our Construction Progress

Because we know how interested you are in our construction progress, we have placed a camera focused on the Welcome Center construction site and one in the Sanctuary. These cameras are taking photos every 30 seconds, enabling us to have time lapse videos. We are uploading these videos to our website on Monday and Thursdays. You can find the link under the top tab "Stay Informed" and click on "Construction Progress." From there you can watch time lapse videos of the Welcome Center construction or the Sanctuary construction. They take a little while to load, but are definitely worth the wait. When the Welcome Center and Sanctuary renovation are completed, we will have time lapse videos of the entire construction. It will be just like a scene from H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*.

### Keeping All Four Worship Services This Summer

It has been our practice to move to two services during the summer months at Village (9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 11 a.m. in Friendship Hall). Since seating capacity is smaller in Friendship Hall where we are holding our traditional services while we are out of the Sanctuary, we will continue our regular school-year worship schedule of 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. for traditional worship in Friendship Hall and The Gathering at 10:45 a.m. in the Youth Loft throughout the summer months.



# GOOD NEWS



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## Generosity At Work

Generosity oozes from the walls of Village Church. Our hallways are filled with Sunday school teachers, Operation Breakthrough readers, meal makers, flower deliverers, letter writers—and the list goes on.

One of our family's favorite Village Church activities is packing Thanksgiving baskets. On this particular Saturday in November, energy and excitement fill the Village Food Pantry. Food that has been donated by you, the congregation, is stacked higher than the children who are there to pack it. Little ones are placed in huge boxes filled with green beans, corn, stuffing, gravy and more, in order to hand out the staples of the Thanksgiving meal. Older children make the rounds placing the different items in the baskets. All of this choreographed chaos is done with good cheer. Families are working together, enjoying the labor, and giving generously.

I am so thankful that my family and I are part of a church family where giving is done so generously and with such a cheerful spirit.

—Laura Strongman

*Special thanks to Laura for sharing. Your Village Commitment Committee*



**Laura Strongman and her family**

### 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

[villagepres.org](http://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

Lucy Allen  
Robert "Bob" Champlin  
Larry Gribble  
Elizabeth Ley  
Clark Randall  
Dr. Greg Rick  
Ronald Roberts  
Billie Rhymes  
Roberta "Bobbie" H. Smith  
Hardy "Lowell" Thomas  
George Thompson  
Gordon E. Wells  
Bernard "Bernie" Wyman