

Village in the City – A Glorious Performance at Helzberg Hall

“Village in the City was breathtaking,” said Floyd Gingrich of Examiner.com.

The Village Chamber Choir and Orchestra were joined by the concert choirs of Baker University and Benedictine College for the April 26 performance at Helzberg Hall.

Devin Burton and Alannah Garnier were the soloists for the Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Cantata *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Elisa Bickers played the magnificent pipe organ in Helzberg Hall for Rheinberger’s *Concerto No. 2* for organ and orchestra.

[Click here](#) to hear an excerpt from the rehearsal right before the concert.

Gingrich concluded his review of the concert with “Conductor Matthew Christopher Shepard must be given high praise for managing well the fine resources assembled in Helzberg Hall; the fine performance by such heady talent was a credit to the personal knowledge and humility of the man on the podium.”

A Retiring Offering was collected for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership, an international mission of Village Church. Bev Chapman told the audience about the DRMP at the Village in the City concert. Bev and her husband Steve Hall have led our March Medical Mission Trip to the DR for the past 19 years.

The DRMP offering is still being tabulated. We’re up to \$7,100 as of now. There’s still time to contribute. Just drop off your donation at the church or mail a check to the church with “DRMP” in the memo portion of your check.



Photo by Chris Ortiz



Photo by Floyd Gingrich



Photo by Rick Bennett

WORDS OF THANKS FROM MARK BALL

Dear Village Friends,

Our “Village in the City” concert at Helzberg Hall was a powerful witness to your faith in the God of peace who loves the whole world. Through the vision of our Endowment Trust and our Session, who provided funding for the concert, we were able to share a powerful experience of music with 100 undergraduate students, and an audience of a thousand people. We also were able to share the story of our Dominican Republic Medical Partnership.

At the end of the concert, I shared with the audience my feeling that the best line in the cantata was this: *O Man (and Woman, and Child) greatly beloved, fear not, peace be unto thee.* Then I challenged them to believe that they are dearly loved – and that love can empower us to go out into the world, without fear, to work for peace, justice, reconciliation, and a world that reflects God’s *Shalom*.

There is so much more – and so many people to thank – but I wanted to start with you.

God’s peace today,
Mark Ball



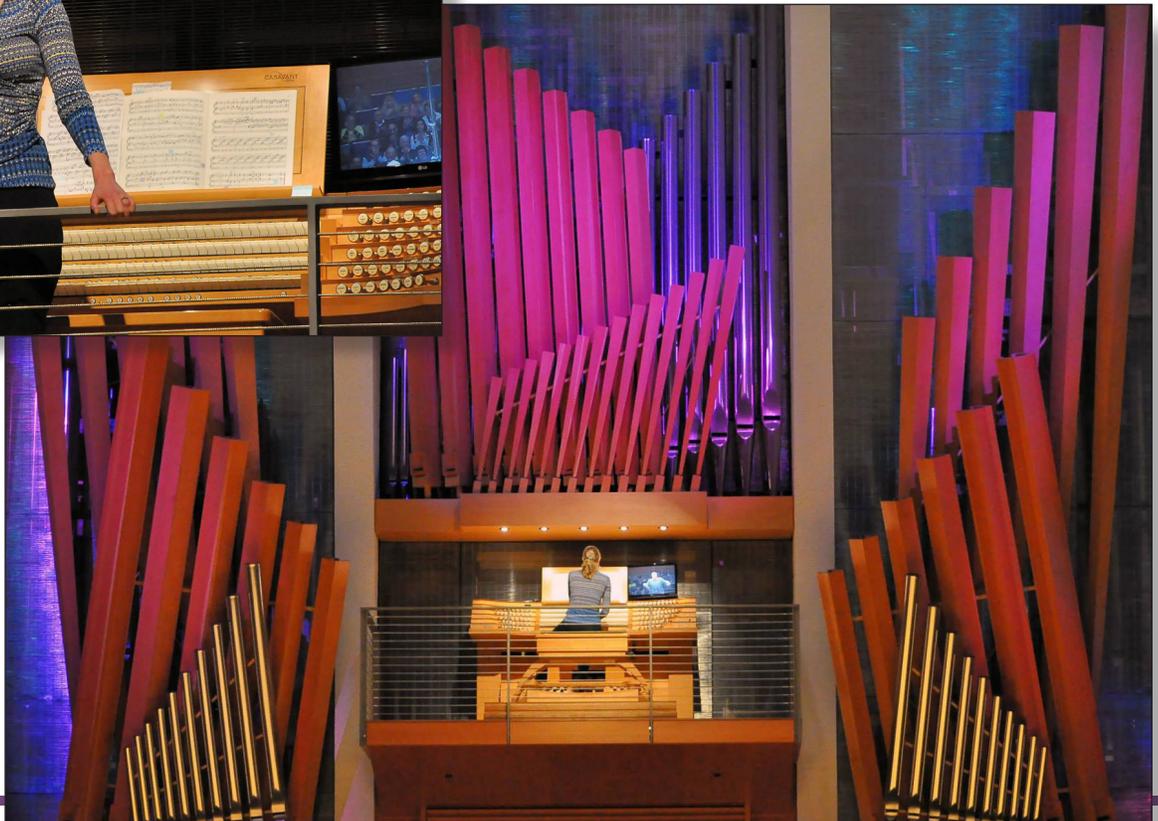
Photo by Floyd Gringrich



Photo by Chris Ortiz



Photo by Floyd Gringrich



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry thanks you for bringing in 350 pounds of delicious canned fruit on our recent Fruit Sunday! During all of May, the Food Pantry is asking for assorted canned vegetables. Spinach, tomatoes, peas - any type of nutritious veggies for our Pantry families would be appreciated. As always, our Clothes Closet would love your surplus, used towels and sheets. Thank you!

An Update on Hillcrest Transitional Housing Residents

The Hillcrest Transitional Housing client who moved into our Village Church apartment about a month and a half ago is asking for our prayers. Currently, our resident is employed and has been working long hours on a project, however his employer has been unreliable with his pay. Understanding the importance of dependable income, our resident will be looking for new employment in construction where he has various skills in framing, drywall and painting. Please continue to pray for our resident and his son.

Witness Offering

May 24 on the Pentecost 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.

Help Earthquake Victims In Nepal

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas with ACT Alliance, and its members. PDA will remain active through the long term recovery, accompanying partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999 with reference to Nepal. Gifts can be made online by [clicking here](#). You can also call 1-800-872-3283 weekdays from 7 a.m.-5 p.m., or checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Good Pizza for a Good Cause May 19

The Dominican Republic Medical Partnership is partnering with Minsky's "Slice of Donation" to host a fundraising event on Tuesday, May 19. Join us by dining at Minsky's Pizza in the Prairie Village Shops all day Tuesday and 15% of your total bill will be donated to the DRMP. This applies to carry-out and delivery orders too! Mention that you're supporting the Slice of Donation for the DRMP and they will donate the appropriate amount according to your total bill. Let's eat some pizza!



The Village Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

April 21, 2015

In 2014, 3,830 volunteers gave 28,465 hours of their time and talents at the Village Church Food Pantry and Clothes Closet, serving 18,568 individuals in need. On April 21, 2015, 169 of those wonderful volunteers attended a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in Friendship Hall. An average of 319 individuals from the Village Church congregation and the community volunteer each month at the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet at 99th and Mission Road in Overland Park.



2015 Art & Hors D'oeuvres at Village

We had a wonderful turnout for the May 1, Art & Hors D'oeuvres event in Friendship Hall. The theme was "Building Our Future-New Life in the Church." The "construction" theme was reflected throughout... from the "Ice Sculpture" to the children's art. Guests enjoyed artwork by artists of all ages from amateur to professional, as well as a beautiful display of light refreshments, chocolate fountains and a jazz jam by the Elder Statesmen of Jazz. The beautiful ice sculpture at the center of the refreshments table was created by Jeff Addison of Cool Carvings. He has created our Art & Hors D'oeuvres ice sculpture centerpiece for the past two years. Learn more about Jeff's work at www.coolcarvings.net.



Age 60's Dinner at Olive Garden

Join us for dinner at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant at 6750 W. 95th Street in Overland Park (95th St. & east of Metcalf) at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 21. Visit 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.



**Art & Hors D'oeuvres
2015**

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 presentation is as follows:

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

Please note that the program will be on hiatus during the month of June.

The Nurses are Moving! The Nurses are Moving!

During the months of June, July and August, the nurses will be taking blood pressures in the Heritage Dining Room (otherwise known as The Small Dining Room, or Room 230). This will make it much more convenient during construction. They will be ready to assist you from 9-9:30 a.m. and again from 10:30-11 a.m. on Sunday mornings.



Spring Home Communion: Reaching Out

Home Communion was held during the weeks of April 13 and April 20. Eight ministers participated a total of 15 times during that two week period. Eighteen elders and deacons also participated. Approximately 104 people, including Share A Song singers, received communion and attended worship led by Rev. Jenny McDevitt at Claridge Court and The Forum. Seventy-three persons were seen in their homes or in care facilities. Connection Luncheons with Worship Services were held April 29 and May 5 at Lakeview and Tallgrass Creek totaling an additional 89 participants. Altogether 266 people received communion through this spring's Home Communion ministry. None of this could happen without Joyce Wann who exudes tireless grace in facilitating all of it. Our thanks and appreciation for her efforts cannot be measured.

It Is Good to Grieve

All the great religions of the world understand that life has a tragic dimension. However, popular American culture does all it can to avoid this reality. Conversely our faith encourages us to acknowledge, accept and even engage with those life events that are hard, for in doing so we will find ourselves in the presence of God.

Many among us think that unhappiness is pathological and abnormal; they are terrified of it, and when suffering comes, their anxiety goes through the roof. Other cultures tend to accept struggles and hardships and have developed ways of confronting it. Zorba the Greek danced. African-Americans turned sorrow into spirituals, gospel songs and the blues. In the center of Jerusalem stands the Wailing Wall and at the center of Christianity stands a cross, an instrument of execution.

Grieving and mourning are not whining. They are not symptoms of weakness. Instead, grieving strengthens us to act. Grieving is releasing our tears, pain and anger. It is letting these human expressions come to the surface so that the wind/Spirit of God and the care of others can wrap around us in healing and helpful ways. It is walking into that great ocean of sorrow that laps at the shore of every land. There we are joined with others who are also acquainted with grief so that together new life can be brought forth.

There are days ... actually seasons ... when life is hard and hopes are fleeting. Many of the Psalms acknowledge this truth as they lament life's challenges. These words from scripture were offered to God by the authors in an awareness that God is our ever present help in times of trouble. Don't be afraid of your grief. God isn't. Share it. God is listening ... and so are those who are truly your good friends.

—Rev. Jay McKell

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.

Growing Together in Room 124 - The class is viewing Rev. Are's sermons and discussing how faith affects everyday life. May 24.

Village Forum in Room 126 - Rev. Dr. John Borden will lead a lively discussion – "John on John" – on the last Gospel. May 24.

Cloud of Witnesses in Room 127 - Rev. Diane Quaintance is leading a class discussion of John Dominic Crosson's *The Resurrection of Jesus*. May 24.

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.

MENEILLY SOCIETY

Remember Village Church in your Estate Plan

Planned giving perpetuates the goodness of our individual existence once we are no longer here. Consider including Village Church in your estate plan and help ensure the long-term operation and mission of Village.

Contact Molly Sirridge at molly.sirridge@villagepres.org or 913-671-2325 if you would like more info or if you have already remembered Village in your estate plan.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW Luncheon at the Bristol

Women of Wisdom, WOW, will begin the summer with lunch at the Bristol at 119th and Nall in Leawood. We'll meet at noon on Wednesday, June 3. 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 or 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, or 913-432-4321.

Summer Sundays Class Starts May 31

The Most Fascinating People - There are lots of fascinating people in the Bible. You will recognize some of their names; some will not be familiar at all. Their stories will give you glimpses of God, and perhaps of yourself. Some of them are ordinary folks, and some do extraordinary things. Our Summer Sundays class — a combined class for youth and adults — will follow Rev. Tom Are's sermon series "Fascinating People of the Bible." Leaders will rotate, offering their own perspective on the biblical character of the week. We are happy to welcome Owen Gray, Rev. Jenny McDevitt, Rev. Zach Walker, Rev. Dwight Tawney, Rev. Diane Quaintance, Rev. Brian Ellison, David May and Cheryl Couch-Thomas, as well as some new faces and friends. 11 a.m.-noon May 31 through Aug. 23, in Rooms 126 and 127. The upcoming classes include:

May 31 – Eve (Genesis 2-3) – taught by Owen Gray

June 7 – Onesimus (The Letter of Philemon) – taught by Rev. Jenny McDevitt

June 14 – Amos (Amos: 8:1-12 and 5:21-24) – taught by Dr. John Borden



Another School Year Ends for the Village Preschool

Last week Village Church Preschool ended its 2014-2015 school year with our annual family picnic on the south lawn and entertainment by special guest performer (and preschool dad), Dino O'Dell. To the best of our ability, these 110 young preschoolers have been lovingly nurtured, imaginatively challenged, nature inspired, and kindergarten prepared. Our thanks to Village Church for the space and for the support to make it all happen.

— Terri Gaeddert, Debbie Smith,
and the Preschool Teaching Staff

Mother's Day Carnations

Children and Family Ministry Committee (and some of their children) celebrate mothers by giving out carnations on Mothers' Day Sunday.



What's Happening in Kids' Kingdom

While Moms were receiving carnations on May 10, some of their kids were being introduced to their classrooms for the next school year. Children who will start kindergarten in the fall got a tour of Kids' Kingdom and were welcomed with donuts and lemonade by some of their teachers for next fall.

Current 5th graders/rising 6th graders were also welcomed to their classroom for next year, Club V6!

Extra donuts greeted the 5th graders as part of their welcome.

6th Graders at Worlds of Fun

The cold and the rain could not dampen the spirits of this group of 6th Graders on their way to Worlds of Fun on Saturday, April 25. Thanks to Mich Phillips for driving the van!



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.



Volunteer to Teach

You are invited to be a part of the greatest thing ever, besides following Jesus Christ. If you feel called to nurture young children and help build their faith, please consider volunteering to teach in Preschool Church School, Kids' Kingdom or Club V6.

Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, May 3

Each year Children and Family Ministry sponsors this church-wide event to honor those men and women who, through their selfless giving of their time and talents, inspire us and our children. These volunteers in teaching ministry recognize and encourage people of all ages in their faith journey. We applaud your ceaseless energy and imagination. There are almost 300 individuals who have volunteered over the past year in teaching and other areas of ministry at Village Church. This year, Children and Family Ministry honored two such individuals, Patsy Shawver and Carol Solenberger. Way to go!



Patsy Shawver



Carol Solenberger

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

The Most Fascinating People

The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people. Some of them are good. Many of them are surprisingly selfish. Most are afraid, yet some show courage in the face of fear. Some accomplish big things, but most we know only for a moment. Some have strange names, like Onesimus and Rizpah and others bear names we give to our children, like Mary and James. And yet, the most fascinating thing about these people is that we know their names because they, at least for a moment, were part of God's story. This list is long of those who have been part of God's work of redemption in this world. As we consider these fascinating people from the Bible, we may discover how our name is on the list of God's good work as well.

May 31	Eve	July 12	The Ethiopian Eunuch
June 7	Onesimus	July 19	Mary
June 14	Amos	July 26	Naaman
June 21	Joseph of Arimathea	Aug. 2	Barabbas
June 28	James	Aug. 16	The Beloved Disciple
July 5	Samson	Aug. 23	Mattithaiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah and Hilkiah

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Welcome the Confirmation Class of 2015

On Monday evening, May 4, Session welcomed 48 confirmands as the newest members of Village Church, seven of whom were also baptized. The Confirmation Class of 2015 began learning about the building blocks of faith back in January, including classes about where the Bible came from, what is church, what is worship, who is Jesus, what is the Trinity, interfaith dialogue, how to be active in the church and more. In addition, each student wrote a statement of faith, reading it to parents and fellow classmates. Congratulations to these newest members of the Village family!





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 19, 2015
Vol. 52, No. 10

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
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Village Commitment Corner

Because of your generosity...



... Rev. Brian Ellison, Village Church parish associate and KCUR contributor, hosts Village Talk. Village Talk welcomes a variety of public figures (including K.C. Mayor Sly James and KU Chancellor Dr. Bernadette Gray-Little) to have conversations about public affairs and religion, social issues and the common good – areas where faith and values intersect.

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

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
