Meet Sandy “Wilkin” Yan. While most of you have never heard this name before, Wilkin has had ties to the Village Church for many years and from distant lands. VPC members met Wilkin nearly 20 years ago while in the Dominican Republic (DR) for a surgical mission trip through the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church (DRMP).

Wilkin was very poor and just a young teenager at the time, but he worked as the team’s translator at the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana. Throughout the years, members of DRMP developed close friendships with Wilkin and encouraged him to further his education. With help and support, Wilkin received scholarship assistance to attend a Dominican university. Wilkin is now the director of the DRMP’s local partner organization, Enciende Una Luz, which provides health education and health promotion in poor underserved communities in southeastern DR.

Wilkin’s story is one of overcoming intense poverty and hardship with love and support from others to becoming the director of a foundation that is making a real difference in the lives of people from poor communities in the DR. It is truly a sharing of gratitude.

We invite you to join us in sharing gratitude for VPC’s first “Giving thanks in the DR” from Nov. 22-27, 2019 (Thanksgiving is on Nov. 28). The trip is open to VPC members of all ages and skill sets. Cost is $1,400 and includes air, food, room and board, ground transportation and a lifetime of memories.

Deborah White, Village Church director of mission, will be among the Village team members, along with Rev. Tom Are, Jenna Soltys and Lora Garrison. “The DRMP has been a big part of Village’s history for the past 25 years,” said Deborah. “We want to give our members more opportunities to join in missional activities whether local or abroad. This trip provides an opportunity to do meaningful work, form new relationships and learn to see the world in a new way.”

The trip’s service activities will include assisting Enciende during their health and education fairs and related medical work. The team will also be doing light construction work at their new community health center.

Pam Logan, a Village Church elder, has been involved with the DRMP for many years. “In our 25 years of work in the DR, hundreds of VPC folks have been changed by their experience there,” Pam shared. “I wish I could count how many times a former participant has talked to me about how their lives were

Continued
MISSION

Habitat for Humanity Honors Dave Lillard

On Thursday, April 11, Dave Lillard, long-time coordinator of the Village Church Tuesday-Thursday Team with Habitat for Humanity, was honored with Habitat’s Pritchard Legacy Award for a lifetime of sharing his skills and impacting the community. Congratulations Dave for decades of support of this ministry at Village Church.

Village Church Music Director Will Breytspraak presents the proceeds from the “In Paradisum” concert retiring offering to Dr. Evelyn Hill, director of community engagement with Avenue of Life (AOL). Avenue of Life, located in Kansas City, Kansas, focuses on addressing poverty through education, housing, health care and economic development. Thank you to all who contributed to the retiring offering totaling $2,696.

transformed, their world perspectives changed, lifelong friendships made with their fellow participants and the Dominicans and Haitians who they met there,” Logan continued. “This relational aspect is embodied by DRMP of Village Church.”

One special aspect of this trip will be the programming for spiritual reflection and enrichment during the evenings. It offers personal and spiritual growth through service to God and others in a different place and culture.

Visit www.villagepres.org/drmp_trips for more information or contact Lora Garrison at lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390.

Save the Date! DRMP’s annual benefit, Celebration Dominicana, will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 at the Madrid Theatre. This event makes it possible for the DRMP to continue its vital work of providing medical care and health education to improve the health and well-being of children and families living in impoverished communities in the DR. Visit www.villagepres.org/cd for more information.
MISSION

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work at our Food Pantry and in Emergency Assistance

For thousands of Kansas Citians, loss of employment, illness or one poor choice can spiral life out of control to the point of homelessness and chronic hunger. For example, the early hot summer of 2018 hit many with high electric bills. For Cynthia, who had undergone three surgeries in the past year, the medical expenses were overwhelming, and then she was facing shutoff. Village worked in partnership with Catholic Charities to help get the bill paid.

Andrew’s car needed serious repairs in order to continue to get to and from work. Money for rent was diverted to the repairs, and suddenly Andrew faced possible eviction. Village, together with the Johnson County Multi-Service Center, pooled funds needed to keep him in his home.

Joseph and Marsha were struggling to make ends meet. Though Joseph worked full-time, his income was not enough to cover rent. Marsha had been looking for an 8 to 5 job because childcare for their one-year-old son closed at 6 p.m. Looking for employment had been difficult because the child required breastfeeding due to a serious digestive problem. Village stepped in to assist with a past due gas bill.

Income of $990/month was not enough for 69-year-old Janet to cover the cost of rent, utilities, medications and food. Janet’s disability prevented her from even working part time to supplement her social security income. Janet now goes to the Village Food Pantry monthly. The money she saves in groceries goes to pay for her utilities.

Every day, clients share their stories with the Village Emergency Assistance Office and Village Food Pantry staff and volunteers and every day, clients find relief with financial and food assistance thanks to the gifts of Village Church members.

In 2018, 814 individuals, including 321 children, received rent and utility emergency support. The Food Pantry served an average of 758 individuals on site each month with an additional 511 senior citizens receiving groceries at their Johnson County low-income apartments. In addition, volunteers from Village and the community made this service possible by providing more than 26,980 hours assisting clients with the many shopping, collecting, stocking, sorting, delivering and scheduling tasks that keep the Pantry humming.

Furthermore, the Pantry received 678,731 pounds of food this past year with 83% coming from donors such as churches, schools, community groups and retailers. Only 17% of the food distributed needed to be purchased from Harvesters Food Bank and discount grocers. In addition, 124,593 pounds of donated food were passed along to other agencies such as Catholic Charities, Leawood Presbyterian Church, Shawnee Community Services, the Newhaven Pantry, Cross-Lines, Church of the Covenant, Blessings Abound, Lakeside Animals and Village Church Child & Family Development Center to name a few.

Reaching out beyond the walls of Village on Mission and Village on Antioch, the church touches lives in numerous ways even beyond our food pantry and emergency assistance. Thanks to Village members’ financial commitment to mission and the time and talents of many of its members and partner organizations, Village devoted 11% of its operating budget to community outreach in 2018. If you add in non-operating contributions such as food pantry expenditures, concerts, special offerings and other giving, Village’s financial impact tops $1.293 million.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the many mission ministries at Village, contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369 (deborah.white@villagepres.org) or Susan Webb at the Village Food Pantry at 913-671-2314 (susan.webb@villagepres.org).

Food Pantry

June is here - the kids are out of school and no longer getting lunch at school. The Food Pantry is asking for canned ravioli, spaghetti, chili, beef stew, etc. – easy, satisfying meals for lunch. The Clothes Closet knows that summer brings the need for bath towels, sandals, hats and sunglasses. Any hiding in your closets? Your donations are so appreciated.
People Like Us
June 16-Aug. 18

The Bible is filled with stories of people. Some of them are of amazing and inspiring folks. Others’ stories tell of folks in desperate need. Many tell of ordinary times. These people we discover in pages of sacred scripture are, however, people like us. They endeavored to live as God’s children amidst the realities of their place and time. Some of them provide inspiring examples of faith. Some walk paths we should avoid. Many were mixtures of belief and unbelief. This summer we will meet – or meet again – a collection of people who can serve as examples as we seek to live as God’s children amidst the realities of the world in our time and place.

June 16 Joseph: a Man of Righteousness
June 23 Miriam
June 30 Hannah
July 7 A Woman Known Only By Her Illness

Check the website at www.villagepres.org for the full series listing.

Your Endowment Trust is at Work

Funds from the General Endowment Trust supports the annual budget each year and in addition to that, nine Legacy Funds support Village Church ministries.

Here are some highlights of special ministries and programs that were made possible through the Endowment Trust Legacy Funds so far in 2019:

Facilities Legacy Fund - Village on Antioch Narthex redo
Food Pantry Legacy Fund - Purchasing food for the Village Food Pantry
Adult Program Legacy Fund - The Feast Spirituality Project, Liz Longley Concert, Discover Your Calling Leadership Seminars Legacy Fund - Stephen Ministry Continuing Education, Meneilly Visiting Scholar
Mission Legacy Fund – Village on Antioch operating expenses
At the May 6 meeting of the Session, the elders of the church...

- Joyfully approved 34 confirmands as the newest members of Village Church. The confirmands and their families shared a meal with the elders then met in the sanctuary to be examined. Four confirmands were baptized and one of the fathers of a confirmand was also baptized. The confirmands will be welcomed on Sunday, May 19, in the 11 a.m. worship service.
- Interviewed and endorsed Ms. Molly Ramsey to be a candidate for ministry. Molly is completing her first year of study at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. She was approved last year as an inquirer for ministry and now takes the more formal step declaring her desire to be a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Molly is the daughter of the Rev. Dick Ramsey, the first called pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Stanley which was founded and met at the current Village on Antioch campus. The Session elected elder Chaz Vincent to continue as Molly’s liaison with the Session.
- Approved Endowment Trust Grant Proposals of $10,533 to support the Food Pantry ministry at the 99th Street campus, $14,913 to support the ongoing ministry at Village on Antioch and an additional $11,506 to refresh the narthex at Village on Antioch.
- Approved a resolution from Village Church’s Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force to call for background checks for all gun purchases. The Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. has invited congregations to endorse the call for universal background checks.
- Met with two members of the Heartland Presbytery Commission on Ministry, the presbytery group that nurtures congregations and pastors in their relationships. When a pastor leaves a congregation, the commission holds an “exit interview” with the Session of that congregation. Following the departure of the Rev. Len Carrell, the members asked the Session to share what Rev. Carrell offered that was positive, any concerns about his leadership, and learnings as Village Church moves to calling a new pastor for pastoral care.

The Session heard reports about...

- A new summer children's Sunday school emphasis titled: Sunday Funday.
- Excitement about the 44th Annual Ice Cream Social from 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 21, in Friendship Hall.
- Elder Ted Higgins’ recent visit to Haiti. He shared about the inspiring work being done by the surgery team and other staff who are providing quality care with few resources.
- Elder Elizabeth Zakaryan’s appreciation for the many volunteers and the staff for the music ministry on Easter Sunday and for the work of ushers and Easter Lily deliverers and so many who welcomed the nearly 4,000 persons who came to celebrate the risen Christ. Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick reported that 286 persons filled the sanctuary to capacity at Village on Antioch, and they are considering adding an additional service next year.

The Session closed the meeting with prayer, noting all persons on the prayer list. The next meeting will take place on June 3.

**What is the Session?** The Session is the governing board of the congregation. The 29 elders are elected by the congregation. Each one serves for a three-year term. Currently the Session is comprised of 13 women and 16 men. Two of the elders are young people. The Session meets monthly except for July. Rev. Tom Are, Jr. is moderator of the Session. Pastors and ministry directors also attend the meetings.
Summer Choir Starts June 16

You are invited to sing in the Summer Choir! We have an 8:45 a.m. rehearsal in the Village on Mission Chapel before the 9:30 a.m. service each Sunday from June 16 to July 28. Summer Choir members love sitting with their family and friends in the congregation, and then coming just to sing the day's anthem. It’s a little more casual, and a little more low-key, but still with beautiful and exciting music. Contact Will Breytspraak at william.breytspraak@villagepres.org or 913-671-2345 for more information.

Community Summer Sing: Music of America
7 p.m. Wednesday, June 26 – Village on Mission Sanctuary

Let’s celebrate the songs we know and love in anticipation of Independence Day. Join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. We will do a short rehearsal, and then sing through stirring and light-hearted American classics. Repertoire will include the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” “Stomp Your Foot” and the “Promise of Living,” as well as some jazz favorites by Ellington and Gershwin.

Single Adult Ministry Summer Speakers Series
June 18, July 9 and Aug. 14

**Personal Safety and Situational Awareness:** 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, in Room 232
Prairie Village Police Detective Caroline Van Cil speaks about personal safety and situational awareness. Her presentation is produced by the Kelsey Smith Foundation. [https://kelseysarmy.org/](https://kelseysarmy.org/).

**A Culinary Journey to Italy:** 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, in Room 232
Chef instructor Rachel Ciordas leads us on a culinary journey to Italy, filled with delicious, simple recipes, for one or many.

**Understanding More About Social Media Platforms:** 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14, in Room 232
Join Village member and Computer Ministry volunteer/leader, Dee Couch for a general overview of social media. There will be time for questions/answers.

Note: class times vary as well as the day of week. Contact [cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org](mailto:cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org) with questions.

44th Annual Ice Cream Social
5-7 p.m. Friday, June 21 – Village on Mission

You are invited to our 44th Annual Ice Cream Social from 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 21, in Friendship Hall and the south parking lot area. We’ll have a petting zoo, Kona Ice Truck (flavored, shaved ice drinks), popcorn, clowns, balloon figures, inflatables, a 15-foot slide, and of course, all the ice cream you can eat! Admission is $2 per person. This event is sponsored by Connectional Ministries.
Summer Adult Sunday School Class
Beginning this Sunday, June 9, join us from 10:45-11:45 a.m. in Rooms 126-127 as we gather to explore and reflect on the Bible passage that is preached each Sunday. We will look at the context for the passage, how our preacher proclaimed the passage and how others have interpreted the passage. Various teachers, all current or retired pastors, will guide us through the summer.

Playwrights Circle of Greater Kansas City - 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, Room 133.
Do you ever ponder writing a screenplay? Why not try? We can help you. Learn along with us, your local writers. Playwrights Circle meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Village Church on Mission to share and contribute to our works in progress: plays, screenplays, short stories and other prose. Contact Vivian Wilkerson at vivian@wilkwest.com or 913-432-2295 for more information.

Good News, June 5, 2019
The Hour When Everything Changed
A Presentation by Rev. Dwight Tawney
7-8:30 p.m. Monday, July 1

The Environmental Action Committee is co-sponsoring a presentation entitled, “The Hour When Everything Changed” by Rev. Dwight Tawney, retired Village pastor. This presentation will focus on the episode known as the Cretaceous-Paleogene Extinction Event (precipitated by the Chicxulub asteroid) and will reveal lessons it may hold for the management of our own fragile earth. The presentation will be in Room 127 at Village Church on Mission. The event is co-sponsored by the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition.

Tending the Garden: Gardening Angel Needs You!
By Jerry Rees

The Village Church Environmental Action Committee (EAC) is tending the church’s pollinator and butterfly garden at the Meneilly Center for Mission Campus at 99th and Mission Road. Under the guidance of master gardener Marie Hunter, volunteers weed, plant, stake, water and mulch.

During the winter of 2016, Dr. Herbert Young spearheaded an EAC project to start a Monarch Waystation because monarch butterflies were in decline. He learned that an old unattended butterfly garden existed west of the Village Food Pantry. He recruited Jacob Rubesch of Boy Scout Troop 91, who developed plans to plant a Monarch Waystation as his Eagle Scout project. Under Jacob’s leadership, 25 plus volunteers converged on the garden to re-mulch a walking path, clear debris and plant 64 milkweed seedlings and 16 nectar plants.

Since then, EAC members and volunteers have been involved in weeding, planting, caging, staking, watering and mulching—as individuals and as small work groups. During Youth Week in June, Village youth have helped by weeding and mulching the north end of the garden path.

During the last two years, we have been blessed by our “Gardening Angel,” Marie Hunter. Because of her gardening knowledge, outstanding work, and ongoing dedication keeping the garden alive, she has become our volunteer coordinator. She has watered, weeded, planted, transplanted and placed stepping stones. She has talked to the Child & Family Development Center teachers about putting in an area for annuals (zinnias) at the north end of the garden where the kids can plant seeds and watch them sprout, grow and bloom. Bees, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, hummingbirds and a resident toad have been seen in the garden.

Herbert sees the pollinator garden/monarch waystation as a long-term evolving project that serves as one way Village Church can honor its commitment to God and to the Earth Care Pledge passed by the Session in 2011.

We are always seeking additional volunteers to help in the Monarch Waystation for an hour or part of a day. Contact Jerry Rees at reesveenstra@aol.com if you would like to volunteer.
Thank You to All Those Who Delivered an Easter Lily

“Thank you for delivering the lovely Easter lily”. “Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness at this special time of year”. “We are grateful for both the visit and the lily brought to us on Easter Sunday”. These are just some of the responses the church received after 238 lilies were delivered on Easter Sunday. From Harrisonville, Missouri to Lenexa, Kansas, deliverers traveled all around the metro area, throughout 33 zip codes and to 34 retirement communities and countless homes. Thank you to everyone who helped continue this special Village tradition.

Try Taizé This Summer

Consider taking a quiet moment for yourself during the busy summer months and attend the evening Taizé worship services at 6:30 p.m. in the Village on Mission Chapel. Modeled after worship from the Taizé community in France, the service includes scripture, song, silence and communion. Services are held on the second Tuesday of each month. We look forward to seeing you on June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13.
Ready to provide Christian Support…
or know someone who needs it?
By Dave Fellers

Interested in helping others in recognition of all the wonderful things you have received in your life…ready to enjoy training and ongoing educational programs that further your Christian knowledge, understanding and ability to pray and console others? Or, maybe you or someone close to you has been facing a difficult time…confronting a situation for which there is no way to prepare. Would a confidential relationship with a trained Stephen Minister help to cope with the situation? The Village Church Stephen Ministry program responds to both.

"Working with care receivers in Stephen Ministry is an exceptionally rewarding experience," notes Kevin Hennessy, coordinator of placement for male Stephen Ministers. "We are trained to listen, console and bring prayer into their lives…it provides both the care receiver and Stephen Minister joy and fulfillment."

The training for Stephen Ministry includes 50 hours of sessions conducted from September 2019 to January 2020. It focuses on the art of listening, and includes areas such as confidentiality; prayer, substance and practice; feelings; process vs. results; how to make a caring visit; ministering to aging, hospitalized, those experiencing grief, divorce or other problems; and crisis theory and practice. There are additional, ongoing educational sessions for Stephen Ministers twice a month.

"The Village Church Stephen Ministry training program is a worthwhile experience," notes Desiree Reinke, Stephen Ministry training program coordinator. "It has nurtured my faith and equipped me with Christian caring skills that are valuable as a Stephen Minister and in every aspect of my life. I learned from those who are trained and experienced in using these skills and from others’ experiences in my training group. It was so worth my time and dedication to this training program."

The 76 Village Church Stephen Ministers are available to those in need 12 months a year. They typically spend an hour a week with their care receiver.

"Many of us are hurting, perhaps from the loss of a loved one, personal or family illness, loneliness, divorce, disability, job loss or other challenges," stresses Jane Goss. "A Stephen Minister can help by offering a caring, confidential, listening presence during difficult times."

Church members are encouraged to express interest in becoming a Stephen Minister and obtain more information on the 2019 training session. The initial time to register is before June 30.

If you would like to know more about how to become a Stephen Minister or what a Stephen Minister can offer, contact the Office of Pastoral Care and Counseling at 913-671-2367 about your interest. Rev. Becky Chamberlain will provide you with specifics on training or help to find a Stephen Minister who will meet weekly with you or someone you know, and walk with you through your journey.
Highlights from the May 9 Gun Violence in Johnson County Panel Discussion

The Social Justice Committee at Village Church on Antioch assembled an expert panel to discuss gun violence in Johnson County and what citizens can do to prevent more senseless deaths. Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor at Village Church, offered a theological reflection. Panelists included JoElla Hoye from Moms Demand Action, Judy Sherry from Grandparents Against Gun Violence and the Lock It for Love program, Dan Carney, director of safety and security for Blue Valley Schools, and Bonne Swade from Mo-Kan Suicide Awareness Survivors Support. The panel examined the facts of gun violence in Johnson County and led a conversation about creating a safe, just and faithful community for the future.

Sunday Fundays – Village Kids – Summer 2019

Kids in elementary school, join us this summer during the 9:30 a.m. worship service at Village Church on Mission as we explore how to be good neighbors. We will complete service projects, participate in fun and applicable art projects, play games and figure out ways to live out our faith with those around us. Our service efforts will focus on three local nonprofits, one for each month: Operation Breakthrough, the Healing Chair (a wonderful resource for breast cancer surgery recovery) and the Ronald McDonald House.

Sound like fun, Village adults? Join us! Come hang out with kids and learn, grow and teach them tangible ways to be a good neighbor. Call Brooke Latas, director of Children & Family Ministry, at 913-671-2355.

Children’s Summer Camps

Vacation Bible School - June 24-27 at Village on Antioch and July 15-19 at Village on Mission

Enrich your summer and impact others. Join our VBS volunteer team at Village on Mission. Sign up online at www.villagepres.org/summercamp2019 or call the Children & Family Ministry Office at 913-671-2350 to learn more.

Creations by Kids Summer Camps

Here are the camps we have open. Sign up before it is too late!

**June 10-14 morning camps**
Art Studio for Preschoolers
Art Around the World, for children, completed K, 1, 2 grades

**June 17-21 morning camps**
Trash to Treasures, completed K, 1, 2 grades
Tournament of Games, for children completed K, 1, 2 grades

We are looking forward to seeing all our friends, new and old, at camp this summer. Contact Debbie with any questions at 913-671-2379.
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GOOD NEWS

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Your Stewardship is HEART at work.

While I am so grateful for the inspiration and community of congregated worship at Village, smaller gatherings provide a depth of fellowship and sustenance. Through years of raising families, growing up ourselves, losing loved ones, periods of sickness and sadness and in times of joy and celebration, the Presbyterian Women of Circle One (self-proclaimed Circle Wonderful) have comforted each other, prayed for one another and rejoiced together. As we continue on our journey of faith, biblical lessons are studied and discussed. Courage, fears, reassurances and wisdom are shared. And when the women of Circle One are gathered, humor and good cheer are always present-offering a lightness to the day.

Melanie Mann

SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VILLAGE ON MISSION
Traditional – 9:30 & 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH
Traditional -10 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
14895 Antioch Rd.
in Overland Park

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
Virginia “Ginny” Arnold
Esther Edwards
Ryan Geisler
Lilo Johnson
Frances Main
Lois “Jean” Newberg
Shirley Reese
Susan Young