

GOOD NEWS

ONLINE EDITION



The Village Church Good News is published once a month (printed and online) for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to: the Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

JUNE 6, 2018

It's Time to Celebrate - Celebration Dominicana Style!

Please join us for Village Church's partner mission party of the year—Celebration Dominicana, a fundraiser for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership. Our fifth annual celebration starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 15, at the Madrid Theatre at 3801 Main in Kansas City, Mo. The festive evening is packed with delicious food and drinks, live music and dancing, catching up with old friends and making new ones, all while supporting an important cause—the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership. Attire is Caribbean cocktail. Tickets are \$75 a person. Students (18 and younger) are \$45. Visit www.drmp2018.eventbrite.com to purchase tickets.

Celebration Dominicana is DRMP's largest annual fundraiser. Funds raised allow the organization 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 bateyes (communities of Haitian sugarcane workers and their families) in the Dominican Republic. Most of the people in the bateyes come to the DR from Haiti in hopes of providing a better life for their families. They work 16+ hours a day in extreme conditions, make nominal salaries and struggle to provide basic food, health care or education for their children and families.

The DRMP has been a big part of Village's international mission ministry for the past 25 years. Rev. Zach Walker,



Sam Vaughan & Grace Strongman create masterpieces with children in the Kids' Play Zone.



Each of our medical clinics offers a hypertension station, where patients with high blood pressure are shown a short educational video (in both Spanish and Kreole) on the ill-effects of hypertension. The patients are given a three-month supply of hypertension medication.

associate pastor of Youth Ministry, works hard at keeping our youth engaged with DRMP activities. This March, over 30 high school students spent their spring break in the D.R. providing health care and educational services through the DRMP, working on a school construction project and teaching English to kids in a classroom setting.

Village youth assisted with health fair events in four bateyes. The health fair stations included hygiene, salt awareness, mosquito borne illness prevention, child nutrition and blood pressure. This year, our youth introduced something new—a Kids' Play Zone. Activities included drawing, chalk art, jump ropes, basketball, baseball, Dominican games, chasing & getting chased by drones, dancing, hanging out, talking and making friends. Over the course of four days, approximately 100 kids living in the bateyes participated in Village Youth's Play Zone activities.

DRMP continues to be on the forefront of innovative medical mission work. In 2017, DRMP's medical, surgical and educational teams provided care, treatment and educational services to 2,634 individuals. In fact, the DRMP has expanded its programming to include a new trip that will focus on empowering Dominicans through health education.

DRMP strives to make a real difference in the lives of so many children and families seeking to lead healthier lives and climb the ladder out of poverty. Now that's something to celebrate!

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work- Lights, Warmth, Shelter and Food

Despite some of the lowest unemployment rates in recent history, many Kansas Citians find themselves struggling to pay ever increasing rents as well as rising utilities attributed to especially hot and cold bouts of weather this past year. For example, after escaping domestic violence, Carol, a mother of four, found herself facing a shutoff of electricity in the middle of winter. She needed help to make ends meet until she worked out daycare and employment. Village kept the lights on for her.

Recently released from Lansing Prison with a new job but no family support, James found transitional housing in an Oxford House but lacked the funds for the deposit. Village provided the money so he could have stable housing.

Living on \$990 per month in social security benefits, 70-year-old Diana debated whether to buy her medications or pay for food. Diana now goes to the Village Food Pantry monthly. The money she saves in groceries now is redirected to help pay for her prescriptions.

Everyday these scenarios play out in the Village Mission/Emergency Assistance Office and at the Village Food Pantry, and every day, clients find a safety net with utility, rent and food assistance at Village. Through annual giving, Village on Mission and Village on Antioch members make the work of the Food Pantry and Emergency Assistance possible. In 2017, 1088 individuals, including 458 children, received rent and utility support. The Food Pantry served an average of 751 individuals on site each month with an additional 544 senior citizens receiving groceries at their Johnson County low-income apartments.

"Village staff members frequently work with case managers at area agencies such as Catholic Charities and El Centro to piece together the funds to save a client's housing or turn on a family's heat," says Deborah White, director of Mission. "In addition, the pantry gives clients a stable food source to supplement their purchased groceries and address their nutritional needs."

The Village Food Pantry and Clothes Closet helps bridge the gap for many who are unemployed, underemployed or trying to make ends meet on social security income and food stamps (SNAP). In 2017, volunteers from Village and the community made this possible by providing more than 27,916 hours assisting clients with the many shopping, collecting, stocking, sorting, delivering and scheduling tasks that keep the pantry humming.

Moreover, thanks to the strong fiscal stewardship of the Food Pantry board and director Susan Webb, the Pantry received 673,608 pounds of food this past year with 82% coming from donors such as churches, schools, community groups and retailers. Only 18% of the food distributed needed to be purchased from Harvesters Food Bank and discount grocers. Our biggest retail contributor, Trader Joe's, gave 268,905 pounds of food followed by restaurants and grocers who donated 126,003 pounds. In addition, 121,012 pounds of food was passed along to other agencies such as Catholic Charities, Colonial Presbyterian, Shawnee Community Center, the Newhaven Pantry, Cross-Lines, Church of the Covenant, Blessings Abound, Lakeside Animals, Food Equality Initiative and the Village Child & Family Development Center to name a few.

The Carols, James and Dianas in our community experience commitment that Village has made to reaching out beyond the walls of Village on Mission and Village on Antioch. Thanks to Village members' financial commitment to mission and the time and talents of many of its members and partner organizations, Village devoted 13 percent of its operating budget to community outreach in 2017. If you add in non-operating contributions such as food pantry expenditures, concerts, special offerings and other giving, Village's financial impact tops \$1.317 million.

MISSION

Food Pantry

Canned Fruit Sunday was a success thanks to the combined donations of 493 pounds of canned fruit from Village on Mission and Village on Antioch. The Food Pantry shelves look very inviting to the clients with the variety of canned fruit. The Pantry is asking for cereal during June - all varieties.

The Clothes Closet continues to ask for summer clothing for all family members - clean and gently used. Also think: sandals, sunglasses, sun hats and sunscreen.



Village Women Participate in Habitat's Women's Build Week

On May 9, 2018, eight women from Village Church joined Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City's Women's Build Week. The group painted and helped rehab a home in Kansas City, Mo. Thank you to Samantha Sturgeon, Lexa Carr, Kim Stratton, Patty Zender, Becky Anderson, Martha Tatman, Ann Colston and Nancy Skidmore for rolling up their sleeves to make a house a home for a Habitat family.

If you would like to know more about how you can be a part of the Habitat team, call Deborah White in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES



43rd Annual Ice Cream Social

You are invited to our 43rd Annual Ice Cream Social from 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 22, in Friendship Hall and the south parking lot area of Village on Mission. This event includes a petting zoo, Kona Ice Truck (flavored, shaved ice drinks), popcorn, clowns, balloon figures, inflatables, a 15-foot slide, food, fun and, of course, all the ice cream you can eat! Admission is \$2 a person. Contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org with any questions.

Guest Preachers at Village this Summer

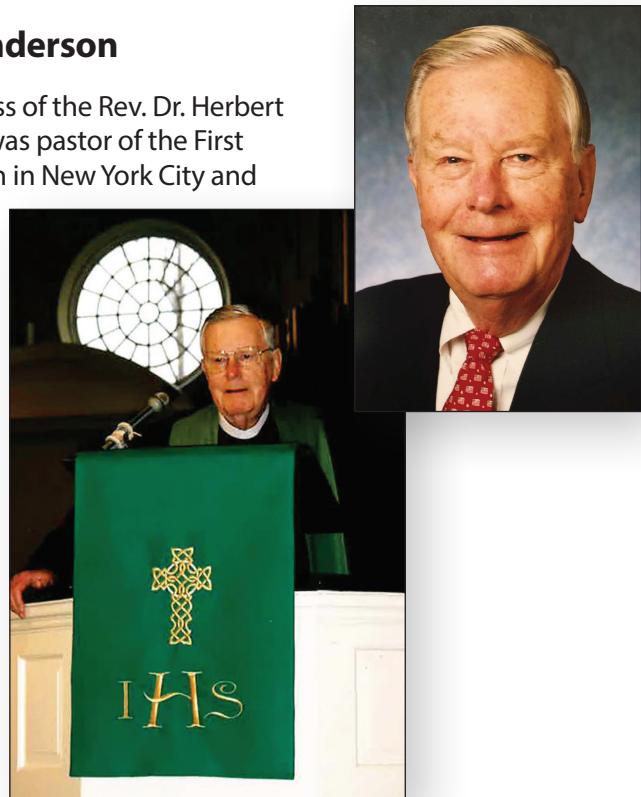
June 10	Rev. Hallie Hottle
June 17	Rev. Len Carrell
June 24	Rev. Matt Gaventa, senior pastor, at the University Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas
July 1	Rev. Sarah Wiles, pastor, at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington
July 8	Rev. Pen Peery, senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C.
July 15	Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick
July 22	Rev. Hallie Hottle
July 29	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 5	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 12	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 19	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 26	Youth Sunday
Sept. 2	Rev. Zach Walker

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering the Rev. Dr. Herbert Anderson

The Village Church Family gives thanks to God for the life and witness of the Rev. Dr. Herbert B. Anderson who died on April 5, 2018 in Naples, Fla. Dr. Anderson was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Ill., the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City and served as the interim senior pastor at Village Presbyterian Church from 2002-2004. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Lou, their three children and six grandchildren. Dr. Anderson lived a life of gratitude and joy and helped Village Church prepare for the arrival of Rev. Tom Are, Jr. our current senior pastor.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, FL, 11145 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL, 34113.



A New Season for Village on Antioch

May 20 and 21 were big days for Village on Antioch. The Second Annual Community Food Truck Festival on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, drew church members and staff from both campuses and lots of new faces from the neighborhood. Four food trucks, a bounce house, face painting and live music by Joy Zimmerman made for a very pleasant evening making new friends at Village on Antioch.

The Village on Antioch Sanctuary was packed Monday evening, May 21, for the Service of Installation for the Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick as site pastor of Village on Antioch. Rev. Laurie Furr-Vancini gave the sermon. She is a pastor at Palms Presbyterian Church Jacksonville Beach, Fla. where Aaryn and Brandon were members, and where Brandon took his first call. During the laying of the hands, there were tears of joy from VOA members who had eagerly awaited this historic day. In his benediction, Pastor Brandon told the congregation he had just four words, "Thank you!" and "Practice resurrection!"

On Sunday, June 24, we will celebrate the one-year anniversary of Village on Antioch. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will join Brandon to lead worship and Rev. Tom Are will have a special message to mark this exciting milestone for VOA.



Meet Our New Coordinator of Music Ministries



Please welcome Carol Dale, the new music coordinator for Village on Mission. She comes to us after having served since 2008 as executive staff assistant to the dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. She was associate professor of music (flute) at the University of Mississippi from 1991-2007 and served as secretary for the National Flute Association. She received her Bachelor of Music in flute performance from the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, and master's and doctoral degrees from Florida State University.

"I'm looking forward to being deeply involved in an exciting, growing, creative program that has the care of people and love of music at its core," said Carol. "It's important to me that my position helps everyone else do theirs better." She enjoys flower gardening, calligraphy, Scrabble and classical music.

Summer Choir

We'd love to have you be a part of Summer Choir that runs now through the end of July. Rehearsals are from 8:45-9:20 a.m. in Room 14 of the lower level of Village on Mission. We sing in the 9:30 a.m. worship service each week. We don't wear robes, and you sit out in the congregation until it's time to sing. People from all of the Village choirs love singing in the Summer Choir, and we hope you'll consider joining us, too!



Mozart in the Village Check Presentation

Village on Mission Music Director Will Breytspraak presents a check for \$2,679 to the Veterans Community Project from the Mozart in the Village concert offering. Will presented the check to Brandonn Mixon, founder and chief project officer of Veterans Community Project—an organization dedicated to providing homes for Kansas City's homeless heroes.



Service of Ordination/Installation for Dr. Rodger Nishioka 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 26

Pending approval by Heartland Presbytery at its June 5 stated meeting, the service of ordination and installation for Dr. Rodger Nishioka is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. We invite all to join us as we celebrate this very special moment for Dr. Nishioka and our Village Church family.

Reflections on Our Village Pipe Organ Inaugural Year from Dr. Elisa Bickers, Principal Organist

Boy. Time flies when you're having fun! It is almost impossible for me to believe that we have completed the inaugural year of celebrations for our beautiful Opus 22 pipe organ. A lot has happened since that wonderful September Sunday in 2016 when we literally lifted this pipe organ (in parts) on our backs to welcome her home.

As I reflect on the past year and a half of organ installation and inauguration, I do so in a whirlwind of emotions. It is stressful-exciting-fulfilling-exhausting-exhilarating to live in the kind of transition we've been in. We've played host to guest organ builders and guest organists, said goodbye to beloved Village staff and welcomed new friends in ministry. The Sanctuary has been filled with the sound of organ, choir, orchestra, brand new compositions, wind symphony, chamber music, and, most exciting of all, congregational singing. If those walls could talk, I think they'd say, "Nice job, Presbyterians. And thanks for painting us blue!"

I played two dedicatory concerts last August. I had been dreaming of and brainstorming about this program for years. My office had been home to a conspiracy-theory-like web of white boards, organ scores and Post-It Notes™, all to help me select the perfect pieces for those concerts. And when the time was drawing nigh, I found myself getting nervous.

I have not been nervous for a performance for many, many years... But this was getting to me! After all, no other recital that I'll ever give would have so much wrapped up with it – all the years of work and faith, relationships formed and tested in committee meetings... and this wasn't just any audience. You who were present at those concerts are as dear to me as my own family, and I really wanted you to like what we had created together. Just when I thought the nervousness would never go away, I had a realization: I was about to play wonderful music for about 1,600 of my closest friends. Everyone in that room was as excited about Opus 22 as I was, and was there to be inspired by the result of our hard work. Once I figured that out, the jitters melted away and I have never played better.

Since then, more than a dozen guest organists have performed on Opus 22. Every time we have a guest, someone asks me if it's hard for me "to see someone else playing my baby." And my answer is that it's not hard at all! This amazing instrument was meant to be shared, and every person that plays it draws out new sounds and energy. What's more, every time someone else is playing, I get to listen and really experience the gifts that Opus 22 has to offer.

In a few weeks, Village will help to host the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. Opus 22 will be featured as a competition instrument, in a concert with solo organist and dancers, and accompanying a choir. I'm excited to share our inspiring space and instrument with 1,100 organists from around the world. I bet they'll like this place as much as we do.

I am grateful to this congregation for the opportunity to serve you as a musician. More than that, I'm honored to be part of this family. Thank you for your good, good hearts that make such a difference in this world.

Love,
Elisa~





Save the Date for Sonia!

Holocaust survivor. Grandmother. Businesswoman. BIG SONIA.

Sonia Warshawski is one of the last remaining Holocaust survivors in Kansas City, one who publicly speaks about her wartime experience. A petite woman known for wearing high heels and leopard print, Sonia has an enormous heart and personality. She will share her gripping story about her life in concentration camps and her passionate message to never, never forget.

Join us for a two-night event on Sept. 5 and 6. The film, "Big Sonia," will be shown Wednesday night, Sept. 5. Sonia and her daughter, Regina Kort, will speak at Village on Mission Thursday night, Sept. 6. More details will be coming. Co-offered by Stephen Ministry and Village U.

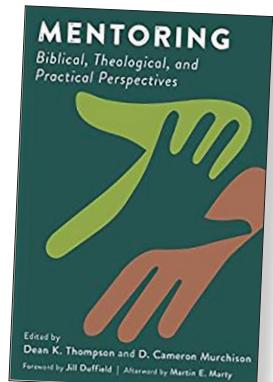
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW Luncheon

Women of Wisdom looks forward to a noon lunch on Tuesday, June 26, at Bravo! in Leawood's Town Center, 5005 West 117 St., and warmly invites all women to join us. Bravo! is a popular, upscale-casual restaurant that features Italian cuisine, salads, sandwiches and soups. Please contact Diane Lee at 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net by Monday, June 25, to ensure your reservation for an enjoyable afternoon of comfortable, pleasant dining with special friends.

Publishing News for Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate, has just published a chapter in a book titled "Mentoring. Biblical, Theological, and Practical Perspectives." Eerdmans, 2018. The book is edited by Dean K. Thompson, past president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Cameron Murchison, former dean of faculty at Columbia Theological Seminary. Dr. Nishioka's chapter is titled "Building Intentional, Demanding, Mutual Relationships for the Mentoring of Youth." He co-wrote the chapter with Ms. Melva Lowry, a student at Columbia Seminary. Other chapters are written by Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann, Professor Tom Long, Austin Seminary President Ted Wardlaw and Professor Katie Cannon.



ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Summer Sunday Adult Faith Formation

Join us for our summer Adult Faith Formation class. The class meets 10:45-11:45 a.m. Sundays in Rooms 126 & 127. Each Sunday, we will explore the scripture that was preached in worship. A variety of teachers will guide us. These classes welcome both conversation and participation and are designed for the novice Bible reader as well as the seasoned Bible scholar.

June 10	Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate and director of Adult Educational Ministries
June 17	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
June 24	Rev. Ky Weekley, honorably retired minister and friend of Village Church
July 1	Rev. Jay McKell, honorably retired minister and friend of Village Church
July 8	Rev. Len Carrell, pastor for pastoral care
July 15	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
July 22	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
July 29	Rev. Becky Chamberlain, interim pastor for pastoral care
Aug. 5	Rev. Jay McKell
Aug. 12	Claire Brettell, middle student at St. Paul School of Theology in Overland Park
Aug. 19	Andrew Frazier, senior student at Austin Presbyterian Seminary in Austin, Texas

YOUTH MINISTRY



Congratulations Confirmation Class of 2018!

Session welcomed 48 Village confirmands as our newest members of the church on Monday evening, May 7. Rev. Zach Walker also baptized four students. The Class of 2018 was introduced to the congregation on May 20.

Meet the 2018 Confirmation Class: Claire Baker, Lily Billingsley, Graham Billingsley, Libby Brouillette, Shannon Burns, Caitlin Carrell, Quinci Cartmell, Lawder DeSantis, Lauren Dierks, Alex Doege, Keaton Duckworth, Ashton Emley, Grace Falley, Eli Fay, Jake Fay, Andrew Fey, Jill Foley, Drew Freberg, Carter Groebe, Kathryn Hardinger, Conrad Hargadine, Libby Hise, Brady Lemon, Jack Lynch, Wylie McCoy, Elizabeth Mikkelson, Ella Miller, Tess Miller, Trinity Morris, Jack Morris, Zach Onyszchuk, Andrew Orr, Ellie Peters, Ava Peters, Matthew Simpson, Ryan Staehr, Grace Strongman, Bella Tegtmeier, William Tranbarger, Andrew Tranbarger, Molly Tucker, Mason Turpin, Margot Tuttle, Ava Van Inwegen, Colin Webb, Lauren West and Allison Wilcox.

Meet the Village Youth Summer Interns

Our four Village Youth Summer interns began their first day of work on May 29.

Jenna Fortier, Los Angeles and Ashburn, Va.

Having grown up on both coasts I am excited to be spending my summer in the middle of the country at Village Presbyterian! I spent most of the year at High Point University in North Carolina studying marketing. But was also lucky enough to explore Florida during an Entrepreneurship conference, visit Colorado to ski with my family, and travel to Salamanca, Spain for a study abroad program in May. When I'm not studying, you can find me on the volleyball court or pretty much any other court or field, volunteering with my service fraternity, or sitting quietly with my highlighters and Bible. I am so excited to meet you and spend time with you and I can't wait to grow in our faith together.



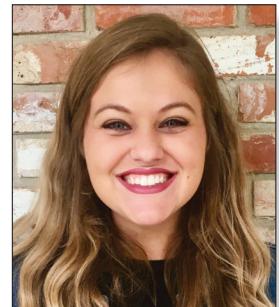
Ryon Herin, Frankfort, In.

I am currently completing an undergraduate degree in psychology at Ball State University in Indiana. After this summer, I will be going to Princeton Theological Seminary in pursuit of my Masters of Divinity. I hope to be involved in chaplaincy and pastoral care ministry after graduation there. I am excited for this summer as an intern where I will be able to meet lots of new people and be part of an engaged Christian community. Some hobbies I enjoy include reading, hiking, camping, singing in church choirs, reading, and exploring new spaces and places.



Ambree Meek, Waco, Texas

I am a social work major at Baylor University and am interested in community development, foster care and adoption, and congregational social work. I have a heart for oppressed people groups and racial reconciliation, which is why I hope to join the Peace Corps after college. I love to sing, run, shop, read and take photos. Let's grab coffee sometime!



Emma Pirotte, Prairie Village, Kan.

I am SO excited to be at Village Presbyterian this summer! I currently attend Kansas State University and am pursuing a degree in Elementary Education with a focus in Special Education. I love to eat, read, play with dogs, and do improv comedy. I am so thrilled to be able to grow in my faith alongside the VPC youth this summer.

The 2017/2018 Sunday School year is complete, and our sixth graders have "moved-up" up to Youth Ministry! We ended the year with a celebration brunch of gratitude to all our extraordinary Sunday School Teachers. We are also thankful to all the parents for giving us the privilege of being with and teaching your children each week. Thank you.

Welcome summer!

We look forward to the fun, fellowship and faith development before us.

- Staff Update: We are delighted to bring three excellent college students on our summer intern staff for June and July and know your families will be blessed by their gifts and talents. We also welcome Kaely McKelway and Kenyon Vrooman (pictured at right) to our Children and Family Ministry leadership staff.
- A big thank you to the Village volunteers who have stepped up to assist in our Vacation Bible School and Heartland Traveling Day Camp- these camps would not happen without you.
- Summer Sundays are opportunities to worship with family and attend our 9:30-10:30 a.m. preschool through 6th grade broadly-graded Sunday School program. Our child care for ages newborn-3 continues to be available for morning services- 9:30, 11 a.m. and The Gathering at 5 p.m.
- Summer Weekday Camps including Creations by Kids and Kids Day Out have begun; Village on Antioch VBS runs June 18-22, Village on Mission VBS begins July 16, and Heartland Traveling Day Camp starts July 30 at Village on Antioch. VBS registration is complete, and limited space remains for Heartland camp, so please enroll ASAP if interested. We are still in need of Village volunteers. Please call our office or email kate.ruecker@villagepres.org) if you're able to lend your gifts and talents to enrich a child's life and your own.



Kaely McKelway



Kenyon Vrooman

2018/2019 Sunday School planning is also underway!

A new Sparkhouse curriculum, carefully selected by the Children and Family Ministry Committee, will begin in the fall: Frolic for our infants through preschoolers and Whirl for our Kindergarten through sixth graders. We are excited to offer age-appropriate, engaging Bible lessons for families to delight in together. Call or email our office if you'd like to have a sneak peek at the curriculum or if you're interested in being part of our new teacher teams.

Baptisms

Upcoming baptism dates are July 15 and Sept. 16. To register for a future baptism date, an interactive baptism form can be accessed online at www.villagepres.org/baptisms. Call 913-671-2350 with any questions.



Summer Hours for the Village Cup

8 a.m.-noon
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Tuesday, Thursday
Sundays

GOOD NEWS



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

JUNE 6, 2018
Vol. 56, No. 6

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Awe Moment

Brought to you by the Village Commitment Committee



I was moved to tears this weekend by the Morning Stars Choir – this year comprised of all girls from 3rd to 5th grade! These girls prepared and performed a musical to end the school year with only two months of preparation. They memorized lines, learned all their songs, took on solos and practiced speaking up and projecting their voices – for some of them, it was way outside their comfort zone.

I smiled the whole time they were performing! Each one of them and the gifts they brought to the table made me so proud! It was my “awe” moment.

—Jenny Hull



SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VILLAGE ON MISSION

Traditional – 9:30 and 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.
Overland Park, KS 66221

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

Patsy Brown
Lou Meacham
Mildred Park
Frank Spurlock