

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work: Signature Mission Selected for 2016-2017

What is Signature Mission? This fund, which is generally combined with the Mission Legacy Funds from Endowment Trust, provides the monies for a larger than customary gift from Village Church to a community nonprofit. These funds may help start new programs, expand infrastructure and/or serve new clientele. In general, Signature Mission provides funds to help a local organization grow. It offers an authentic opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through service work and an identifiable place to grow in relationship with God.

Last year, Village provided a small community grant for the creation of Operation Breakthrough (OB) Maker's Space (See video <https://vimeo.com/151476732>). Building on that funding, the Village Church Mission Committee and Village Endowment Trust are excited to join other funders including JE Dunn Construction, Google, the Opus Impact Fund and Staples to help launch the creation of the first Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) SmartLab in Kansas City. The total grant amount from Village Mission (\$16,000) and Endowment Trust (\$14,000) is \$30,000. Construction started in early May with renovation of the space and a launch of the program in late May, in time for Operation Breakthrough's summer programs that started June 6.

With humble beginnings going back to 1971, Operation Breakthrough now serves 266 children from six weeks to five years in nationally accredited early learning programs; 120 school-age children in before/after-school and summer programming, and the children's 215+ parents/caregivers. Seventy-nine percent of the children attending OB live below the federal poverty level and



22 percent of the families are homeless, living in shelters or staying with friends or relatives. Over 32 percent had experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences which is nearly three times the national rate.

The STEM lab features fully integrated systems of hardware, software, furnishings, online curriculum, educational kits, manipulatives and assessment tools. It is known to be effective at providing young learners with engaging STEM experiences from robotics, electronics, software engineering, mechanics and structures to the engineering design process. As a student-centered environment, the SmartLab is designed for personalized learning where autonomy and self-direction are encouraged and rewarded. Activities are also designed to develop critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, communication and project management. Student progress will be assessed through daily journals, presentations and a portfolio of work.

Continued

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Thank you, Village Church, for helping to make this new program possible with your annual gifts. Now that the lab is up and running, Operation Breakthrough welcomes Village Church volunteers' help mentoring students through their STEM learning activities and project work. Through the coming months, you will be hearing more about the program with opportunities to come to an open house at Operation Breakthrough and photos of your mission dollars in action.

If you would like to know more about Operation Breakthrough's STEM lab or would like to volunteer with the program, contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or email her at deborah.white@villagepres.org.



Transitional Housing- More than a Temporary Change

Since 2013 when Village Church helped fund the acquisition of a four-plex for the first transitional housing program in Johnson County, Hillcrest Transitional Housing has helped 15 families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Transitional housing is very different from shelter housing. The Hillcrest program offers 90 days of free rent and utilities during which residents work full time, pay off debt, participate in life skills classes, bolster their financial literacy and manage a household budget. Hillcrest case managers and on-site resident managers assist residents in achieving their goals, perform scheduled and unscheduled apartment checks and develop interactive relationships with clients. Residents must account for all income and expenses and comply with housing agreements that include keeping curfews, meeting regularly with case workers and spending money on life needs only with no money spent on items such as cable TV service or alcohol.

Between Wyandotte and Johnson counties, Hillcrest has 39 apartments. In 2015, 41 families in the entire Kansas Hillcrest program and 10 youth graduated to self-sufficiency. Ninety-five percent of graduates in the program remain self-sufficient after one year and 80 percent after five years. In addition, residents have saved \$94,093 of debt and saved \$72,809.

Hillcrest has far more applicants than can be served. In 2015, they received more than 1,000 applications for their adult program and as a result, Hillcrest continues to explore opportunities to expand. Village Church sponsors one of the apartments in the Johnson County fourplex and has a team that provides a welcome meal and helps stock the refrigerator with food when a new family moves in. If you are interested in being a part of that team or just want to learn more, contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org.

Food Pantry

Summer is here and the children are out of school and unable to enjoy free school lunches. The Food Pantry is asking for kid-friendly food for lunches- hearty canned soup, prepared canned lunches (ravioli, beef stew, Spaghettios, etc.) and crunchy peanut butter - all the foods your children like to eat.

The Clothes Closet would like sandals in all sizes, and has a particular need for large sized clothing - clean and gently used.

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet thank you for your continuing support that makes this such a successful mission!



Habitat for Humanity – Women Build Week

On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 14 women from Village Church took part in the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build at our Village House under construction in Kansas City, Kan. They joined many regular members of the Tuesday-Thursday crew to caulk and assemble the back deck. On Thursday, May 5, another group of women from Village returned to this same house to paint. Thank you, Village women, for your work on our Habitat house.

Celebration Dominicana: What A Party!

The Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church would like to extend a warm thank you to everyone who attended or supported Celebration Dominicana. The lights of the Vox Theatre and the catchy Merengue music spilled out onto the sidewalks as guests were arriving, and the aura of the evening filled the air! This scene, coupled with mouth-watering barbecue and interest-piquing auction items and raffle games, gave this party all the makings of a successful fund- and friend-raising event.

We had over 120 people in attendance and grossed a total of almost \$12,000 for the work of the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership. It "takes a village," as they say, to pull off an event of this kind; and it took a village from Village Church to make this event happen! Special thanks go out to Rev. Hallie Hottle, Nick Dorn, Erin Fecske and Joe Pattison of VPC for their work on the Celebration Dominicana committee, and to Chris Logan, chairman of the DRMP, for his help and leadership. We are also grateful for the wonderful Village church members who donated items for our Silent Auction, and to the larger Village family for attending, bidding, dining, dancing, and making this event the celebration that it was. We look forward to hosting this grand event again next year, and we hope you'll make plans to join us!





Ice Cream Social • Sunday, June 26

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Sunday, June 26, for our 41st Annual Ice Cream Social from 4-6 p.m. in Friendship Hall and the south parking lot. This event includes a petting zoo and Kona Ice Truck (flavored, shaved ice drinks) as well as our old favorites: popcorn, clowns, balloon figures, inflatables, a 15-foot slide, food, fun and, of course, all the ice cream you can eat! Admission is \$2 per person. Sponsored by Connectional Ministries.

Come for the Ice Cream Social and stick around for the installation service for Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of Young Adult Ministry, at 6 p.m. in the Village Sanctuary.

Village Church Recertified as Earth Care Congregation

In March 2016, Village Church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation for the sixth year in a row! Earth Care Congregations is a program sponsored by PC(USA)'s Department of Environmental Ministries. The purpose of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way by incorporating earth care into their mission and ministry.

To become certified, a church affirms an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all aspects of its church life and to complete projects and activities in the four fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach.

Certification is based on a scoring system that counts sustainable practices and earth care actions. Re-certification requires 50 points with a minimum of 5 points in each category.

Using a scoring sheet, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) performed an environmental audit of activities and projects between April and December 2015. Village Church earned the following points:

Worship	22
Education	83
Facilities	63
Outreach	104



With 272 total points, re-certification is recognition of what has been accomplished by various groups within the church (not just EAC). The Earth Care Congregation certificate hangs above the drinking fountain between the Chapel and Friendship Hall.

Since the program's launch in July 2010, 191 Presbyterian churches across the U.S. have been certified as an Earth Care Congregation. Four of them are from Heartland Presbytery: Village Church, Grace Covenant, Rolling Hills and Second Presbyterian.

Certification honors churches that make the commitment to be stewards of God's Good Green Earth and encourages other churches to follow their lead. Also, congregational members are invited to participate as individuals by completing similar actions in their homes.

Contact Jerry Rees at 913-568-4250 or reesveenstra@aol.com if you have questions.

New Monarch Waystation at the Meneilly Center for Mission

In keeping with the Earth Care Pledge approved by the Session in 2011, Village Church has established a Monarch Waystation west of the Food Pantry at 9960 Mission Road. This project was initiated by the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) which partnered with Jacob Rubesch, a Life Boy Scout from Troop 91.

With the help of other Scouts, his family, troop leaders, a master gardener and EAC member Herb Young, Jacob developed plans to transform an existing untended garden into a Monarch Waystation for his Eagle Scout project. With the scouts providing the planning and labor, EAC underwrote the cost of the garden by finding various sources of funding. Thanks to Herb's application, KU's Monarch Watch awarded Village a free flat of 32 milkweed seedlings. EAC purchased a second flat and covered the cost of nectar plants.

On May 21, over 25 volunteers converged on the garden to re-mulch a walking path, clear debris and plant 64 milkweed seedlings and 16 nectar plants among existing plants deemed worthy of saving. The re-mulched path will make the Waystation available for viewing and educational opportunities.



EAC will provide watering, selective plantings and other care of the still evolving Waystation. Contact Jerry Rees with the EAC at ReesVeenstra@aol.com or 913-568-4250 if you are interested in helping with this long-term project.

All are welcome to three evenings singing the masterpieces of the choral canon. Spread the word and invite guest singers from other choirs and churches. Summer Sings will be in the Village Church Sanctuary at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Thursday, June 16, Mozart: *Requiem*
Arnold Epley, guest conductor

Thursday, June 23, Bach: *St. John Passion* (highlights)
Mark Ball, conductor

Thursday, June 30, Beethoven: *Mass in C*
Will Breytspraak, guest conductor

Visit the music events page on villagepres.org for details on how to get rehearsal scores.



Vivaldi & Friends Concert – A Slice of Heaven

A large and enthusiastic crowd enjoyed “Vivaldi & Friends in the Village” on Sunday, May 15. A collaborative effort by the Village Choir, Chamber Choir, and Orchestra, the concert featured an unusually wide variety of music. Sarah Titterington Ibbett, who grew up in our area but now performs frequently with both European and American early music orchestras, was the concertmaster and soloist for the Vivaldi concertos. Soloists for the Schubert mass included Village Choir members Judy Bliss, Donna Martin, Jee-Yeun Kim, Rachel Priest, Doug Fishel, Jeff Howe and Mark Ball.

As is the custom at Village Choir concerts, a retiring offering was taken to support and highlight a worthy charitable cause, this time The Village Arts Alliance – Education Outreach Ministry. This effort supports the efforts of music educators working in challenging and under-funded school settings. Corbin Trimble, a music teacher from Faxon Elementary School, spoke to the audience and shared the story of his school receiving a set of much needed percussion instruments, provided by the Village Arts Alliance. The offering to date stands at \$4,200.

Always By My Side

—Rev. Len Carrell

My father was the first person who ever taught me the importance of caring for the dying. This is my story.

When I was a junior in high school, I lost my best friend. Her name was Gretchen, and she was a long-haired, full-blooded German shepherd. She was our family dog from the time I was about three years old. Some of my earliest family memories were about when we lived in a little ranch house in Ennis, Texas. Gretchen would always run with me as I hurried down the long dirt driveway to catch the school bus. When I was five, we were running so fast I tripped over her and face planted on my metal lunchbox, and cut open my upper lip. I still have the scar to prove it. Gretchen was the sweetest dog; she always wanted to be wherever I was, all the time.

When I was eight, our family moved to Katy, Texas. In Ennis we lived out in the country, but in Katy we lived in a small town. This was a big change for both of us. Before, we could run around all over the pastures and play in the barns, but now there was one big field across the main road in front of our house. There was also a creek behind our neighborhood, and we had a back yard without a fence. Gretchen could roam our little neighborhood with total freedom without alarming anyone because everyone knew she was a big sweetheart who would only lick them to death. Her appearance startled people at first; her strong features, and big stature looked intimidating, like a police K-9 dog. My dad always said, "She's the greatest watchdog." Our house was robbed once and my father joked, "Gretchen must have sat there and watched the whole thing." He would also say, "But we're really glad you didn't let them take you."

Living in Katy, I rode my bike everywhere. Gretchen would run right beside me the whole time, to the baseball fields, the church, the library and the corner drug store with the old-time soda fountain, ice cream counter. We were inseparable. All over town people would expect us to show up together and they would always give her a bowl of water. She just sat by my bike, with no leash, peering through the glass door waiting for me to come out. When I started riding my bike to school, Gretchen followed me all the way to the bike rack, waited for the school bell to ring, and then she would make her way home.

When I started driving to high school everything changed. Gretchen was much older and weaker. At one point she accidentally ran out into the busy street near our house and was clipped by a car. This caused her to have

major hip surgery. A couple of years later Gretchen was only able to drag her back legs behind her because of severe arthritis. One night I overheard my dad say to my mom, "I'll take her in the morning," but I was hopeful they were getting her some help.

In my English class that morning, an office person came into our classroom. The teacher motioned my way, and I nervously went up to see her. They told me my dad had come to pick me up, and to gather my things. When I got to the office my dad said, "Come on, I need you to go somewhere with me." My dad drove me to the vet's office and when we walked in the front door my dad turned to me and said, "I have some bad news." He said, "It's time for Gretchen to go," and I said, "Go where?" We walked right past the front desk and began walking down a long hallway.

At the end of the hallway, we went through a door that led to a cold concrete room that was filled with cages along the wall, big walk-in cages. At one corner sat Gretchen in one of those cages. My dad looked at me and said, "I'm very sorry about this son, but you need to say good-bye to Gretchen." He opened up the door of the cage, and I went in and sat beside my best friend. I have no idea how long I sat in that cage with her. I remember my dad went to the market in town for such a long time the vet called the store looking for him. They said to my dad, "He's still in there." He told them "Good, that's where he needs to be right now." I can't remember anything I said to Gretchen that day, but I know I couldn't leave her side. I must have said good-bye at some point, or perhaps that I hoped to see her again someday. She was always waiting for me to appear from behind the door. I wonder if she still is?

Taizé Summer Services at a New Time

The evening Taizé worship service is moving to 7 p.m. for the summer months. Come to the Chapel at 7 p.m. on Sundays, June 12, July 10 and Aug. 14, to experience a different kind of worship. Modeled after worship from the Taizé community in France, the service includes song, silence, scripture and communion — all experienced at a quiet, reflective pace.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Summer Sunday Adult Bible Study

10:45-11:45 a.m. Room 132 • More than a Summer Picnic: Food for the Journey of Faith

Come join us as we explore the sermon text for the day based around meals in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Adults of all ages are welcome.

June 12	Luke 5:27-32	Feast at Levi's House	Amanda Mackey
June 19	Luke 7:36-50	Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
June 26	Luke 9:10-17	Feeding the 5,000	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
July 3	Matt. 22:1-14	Parable of the Wedding Feast	Rev. Hallie Hottle
July 10	Luke 10:38-42	Jesus Eating at Martha's Home	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
July 17	Luke 14:1-14	Parable of the Wedding Banquet	Rev. Zach Walker
July 24	Luke 14:15-24	Parable of the Great Dinner	Rev. Len Carrell
July 31	Luke 16:19-31	Rich Man and Lazarus	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 7	Luke 19:11-10	Jesus and Zaccheaus	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 14	Luke 22:14-22	Jesus and Disciples' Last Supper	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 21	Luke 24:36-43	Resurrected Jesus Eats with Disciples	Dr. Rodger Nishioka

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW Lunch at Bravo

Women of Wisdom (WOW) invites all ladies to join together for our first summer lunch at noon Tuesday, June 14. We will meet at Bravo! Cucina Italiana, on the north side of Town Center at 5005 West 117th. One of WOW's favorites, Bravo serves great Italian classics. We will enjoy food, lively conversation and fellowship in their inviting atmosphere of a fun Roman ruin décor. Join us and bring a friend. RSVP by Monday, June 13, to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608. Join us for good food, fellowship and lively conversation.

MENEILLY SOCIETY

Endowment Trust - Meneilly Society

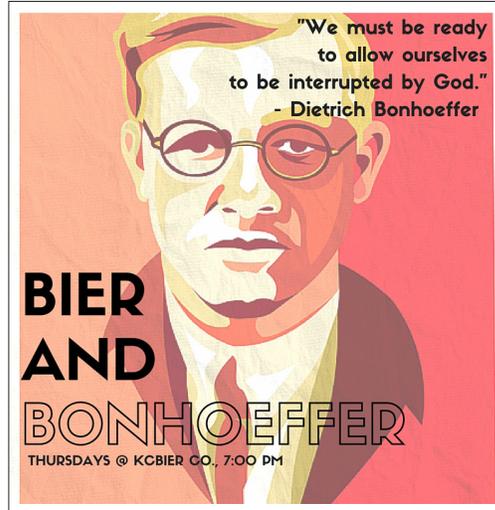
When I ponder what has been the most integral and cherished thread woven throughout my life, I think about the values and faith my family nurtured in me. Much of that fiber was fueled in Presbyterian churches. My grandfather was a Presbyterian minister in the rural South. My parents' faith journey was strengthened in west coast Presbyterian churches. For the past 30 years, I have been loved by this Village Church; my faith bolstered as I raised my three children. I am grateful to be able to say thank you to the church that has given me so much! The Meneilly Society has allowed me to delight in paying it forward so that treasured thread is woven into Village for the next generation.

—Alice Carrott



Bier and Bonhoeffer
7 p.m. Thursdays at KC Bier Company

Every Thursday in June and July, we'll meet at KC Bier Company at 310 W 79th Street in Kansas City, Mo. We'll read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* and consider what "community" means today. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who resisted the Nazis and encouraged Christian thinking in a secularized society. He was ultimately executed for his failed assassination plot of Hitler, but left behind writing that remains relevant, perhaps especially today. It's \$5 for the book!



Extended Table: Worship and Dinner
The Gathering Worship Service, 5 p.m.
Young Adult Dinner, 6 p.m.
Every Sunday June - August, Friendship Hall

The Gathering, our alternative worship service with indie folk music, will be at 5 p.m. every Sunday evening June - August. We'll gather afterwards for relaxed dinner and conversation about that week's topic. Sleep in, and come feed your body and your soul.

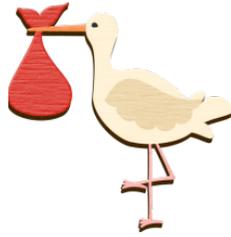


Rev. Hallie Hottle Installation Ceremony

Join us at 6 p.m. Sunday, June 26, in the Sanctuary when Rev. Hallie Hottle will be installed as a pastor of Village Church.

New Village Little Ones

Join Children and Family Ministry in welcoming the following little ones born recently: Harrison Andrew Smith (Jason and Lindsey Smith, parents) and Charles Grady Creek (Callahan and Jennifer Creek, parents). A rose will be placed on the communion table the third Sunday in June to celebrate these new babies.



A few spots left in the following Creations By Kids Camps!

June 20-24: Sewing with Mary
Kindness Starts with Me

June 27-July 1: Art Exploration
Cooking 101

To register, call Debbie Smith at 913-671-2379.

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, V6.

Goodbye to our 6th Graders!

Sunday, May 22, marked a transition for our 6th graders when they were officially welcomed into Middle School Youth.

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The Village Church Van Transformed



May 19 - The Village Church Van Before



May 20 - The Village Church Van After

The new Village Church van, a 2015 Ford Transit, is now decked out with Village Church decals.

Village Youth will hit the road for summer trips starting June 10 with the Village Voices Choir Tour. The van is a Memorial Fund gift and is used by all church departments.

After seeing the van with the new graphics, Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of Children & Family Ministries, said, "Next I time I drive this beauty, maybe other drivers won't be so exasperated with me going the speed limit!"

The New Village Church Child & Family Development Center

Pearce Construction crews are making good progress on getting utilities (storm water, telecommunications cable, drainage) installed at our new Village Church Child & Family Development Center at 99th and Mission. The interior is moving along very well. The east end (community space) is painted, and they are moving westward with drywall and painting. We're still on track for completion in early July. Move-in from the old building should be finished by the end of July.



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

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VILLAGE COMMITMENT

At the Heart of Giving...



The Gift of Restoration: Stephen Ministry

Each year a committed group of individuals joins in the quest to be a Stephen Minister for Village Church. This undertaking involves 50 hours of training before an individual steps into the real world of listening. With a compassionate heart this volunteer is assigned to work with someone needing understanding and care with any and all issues of the heart. As a faithful servant to and for God, these caregivers are blessed by the calling of God to administer to and pray together for the lives they touch within our community. They are making a difference... for the ones they reach out to and also within themselves. Please thank our Stephen Ministers for their dedicated work.



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

VPC SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

Traditional – 9:30 and 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

Radio Broadcast
Sundays at 8 a.m. on
1660 AM KMBZ,
The Business Channel
Week-Delayed Broadcast

www.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

George Adair
Patricia "Pat" Carroll
David DeFeo
Opal "Sherry" Hill
Otis James
Romney Ketterman
Jackie Lloyd
Martha Miller
John "Jack" T. Pierson, Jr.
Don Thompson
Jane Witt