After two consecutive weeks of rain, the sun finally came out Sunday afternoon, June 7, for the eagerly anticipated groundbreaking ceremony for the new Village Church Child & Family Development Center at 99th and Mission Road.

Senior Pastor Tom Are addressed the crowd of 100 who gathered for the historic moment. “In that old decrepit building over there, there are children who are loved every day, who are provided a safe and nurturing environment. And the only thing wrong with what happens over there is the building it happens in,” said Rev. Are. “And so we realized we needed to fix that. And I thank you for that. I know of no other congregation that could have made this happen. We’re going to pull up out of this ground a beautiful building that will serve hundreds of children over the decades to come, and it wouldn’t happen without you, without your commitment, without your mission, and without the hard work that happens on this place. And so I thank you, I thank the staff and leadership of the Village Church Child & Family Development Center. I thank the board throughout the generations and those who are serving now. I thank you as members of this church for making this a reality and a possibility.”

Founding pastor, Dr. Bob Meneilly, gave the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing. He prayed, “Here we would build a temple as holy as any church building. You have bid us to train a child in the way the young should go. Here we will receive little children. By Jesus’ own words, ‘Whoever receives a child in my name, receives me.’ …For all time to come, we will nurture this very special ministry with our prayers. We here dedicate this holy ground we break even now. Thanks be to God, Amen.”
Did you know…?

… that Village donated five ranks of pipes from its 1982 Möller organ to area churches, to help complete their instruments? Those recipients were St. Ann Catholic (just down the street!), First Methodist in Lawrence and Countryside Christian in Topeka. Village also gave the University of Kansas one rank of pipes, for use in organ and church music classes.

… that Richards, Fowkes & Co. is reusing three ranks from the old Möller in our new pipe organ? Those pipes are made of Filipino mahogany.

… that Richards, Fowkes & Co. is the first American organ builder to build an organ in England? (St. George’s Hanover Square in London – this is where George Frederick Handel attended services!)

… that Richards, Fowkes & Co. tailors its organ cases to fit the stories of the communities they are going to? For example, there are carvings of geckos on an organ case in Arizona. And for a house organ, the organ builders carved likenesses of the owner’s dogs into the top of the case! Village’s organ case will also have artistry that’s specific to our church and community – stay tuned!!

… that Richards, Fowkes & Co. has “invented” a stop just for Village? We will be the proud owners of the first ever “Mixtures +” stop! That expands the existing Great and Pedal Mixtures with higher partials, for a brighter sound when needed.

Village’s pipe organ case has been thoughtfully designed to harmonize with the classical architecture of the Sanctuary. For example, the columns in the case echo the columns throughout the chancel and nave, to bring a unity of design.

… that our new organ will have both flexible winding and static pressure? The organist will be able to choose the best kind of “air pressure” for the piece of music at hand.

… that, with the exception of some modern materials (like epoxy and electricity), our new organ relies on organ building techniques that have been around for centuries? The pipe construction and key action in particular have stood the test of time, and we know they’ll serve our congregation and community well.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Welcome Center basement slab was poured on Monday, June 22. In the Sanctuary, work continues on the ceiling ducts, electrical and fire suppression systems.

Remember, you can watch daily time lapse videos of construction of the Welcome Center and in the Sanctuary on our website villagepres.org. Click on top navigation tab that says “Stay Informed” and then click on “Construction Progress.”

Construction site mobilization for the new Village Church Child & Family Development Center at 99th and Mission is tentatively planned for this week. That means the construction trailer will arrive and the fence will go up.
6 p.m. Sunday, July 12, Village Chapel: Alannah Garnier, soprano, Devin Burton, baritone, (pictured above) and Mark Ball, piano, present an evening of beautiful songs and duets. Both singers have been graduate students at The UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, studying singing with acclaimed tenor, Vinson Cole. Alannah will be returning to Los Angeles this fall to continue her studies there. Both have been active at Village Church, serving internships in Music Ministry.

7 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, Village Chapel: Sing the Faith III Hymns - Song and Spirituals for Everyone to Sing

7 p.m. Wednesday, July 22, Friendship Hall: Sing Masterworks – Handel’s Messiah (selected choruses). This event is for singers who love to sing The Messiah. Members of the wider musical community are encouraged to participate. Dr. Stephanie Henry, a long-time leader in our choral music community, will conduct. Accompaniment will be provided by stringed instruments and harpsichord. RSVP to mark@villagepres.org to reserve your score (and please tell Mark your voice part). If you prefer to sing from your own score – you may do so, but still RSVP so you will have a place to sit!
Village Church Community Garden

Kids in the Village Church summer programs worked together to create a sign for the Village Church Community Garden near the Food Pantry at 99th and Mission.

Food Pantry

The kids are home for the summer, and so is their hunger. They’re no longer getting their free lunches at school. The Food Pantry is asking you to be generous with your summer donations of breakfast cereal, plastic jars of jelly and peanut butter. All are kid-friendly foods – tasty and easy for a child to prepare.

The Clothes Closet is requesting small kitchen items, dishes and household linens. Check out your cupboards and closets – you might find some donations to benefit our clients. Thank you for your continuing support!

An Update on Front Porch Alliance from Executive Director Barbara Beddingfield

Front Porch Alliance is looking forward to moving into our newly renovated offices at the Harold Thomas Center, part of the historic Linwood Area Ministry Place project. The LAMP Project has been shepherded for over 20 years by a volunteer group of Presbyterian leaders and Heartland Presbytery, in order to historically repurpose the church building for social service agencies. The Linwood Church was built in 1923 and its spires can be seen from Bruce R. Watkins Drive.

The Harold Thomas Center is the adjoining office building where Front Porch has been located. It dates to 1910 and has served many purposes. We will now be located on the first floor. We anticipate moving back in mid-summer, and we are very excited to settle back into the Ivanhoe neighborhood in our own space.

Save the Date for our annual fundraising gala “Porch Swing.” It will be Saturday night, Oct. 24. We will have guided tours of the new space, renewed church and Front Porch Alliance offices. Then we’ll head to the Scottish Rite Temple just two blocks west on Linwood, for a great party with live and silent auctions.

If you would like more information, please contact Barbara Beddingfield at 816-921-8812.
What a wonderful crowd for the 40th Annual Village Church Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 28. It was also a celebration of Pastor Jay McKell’s service to Village Church. Folks of all ages enjoyed our old standards plus new attractions like the photo booth, petting zoo and Kona Ice Truck that featured flavored, shaved ice drinks.
NEW: Cancer Support Network Needs YOU!

Cancer affects far too many members of our Village community. While many of you are currently receiving treatment, thanks be to God, many of you have successfully completed treatment. Cancer is a difficult journey for the individual and for those who love them. Sometimes, simply knowing you are not alone, and knowing who else has walked this road before you (or is still walking alongside you), can be a tremendous gift.

At the prompting of some of our members, we are beginning a Cancer Support Network. Someone newly diagnosed with breast cancer may be grateful to talk with someone else who has or had breast cancer. Someone in the middle of treatment for lymphoma may wish to talk to someone else who has completed treatment for lymphoma. The spouse of someone with cancer may benefit from advice from another spouse who knows a bit what the journey feels like. Shared experiences lighten the burdens we carry.

We envision keeping track of those who are willing to give support to others — perhaps by meeting for coffee, talking on the phone, or catching up after worship on a Sunday afternoon. Some folks might connect once; others might stay in touch for an extended time. We won’t dictate what this looks like. We’ll just help make connections.

To get this new ministry off the ground, we need to hear from YOU. If you are interested in participating, to either receive or give support, contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at jenny.mcdevitt@villagepres.org or 913-671-2367.

The Nurses are Moving! The Nurses are Moving!

During the months of 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.

Continuing Education Opportunities Offered by the Stephen Ministers

These presentations are open to the congregation as well as the public and take place from 5-6 p.m. in Room 228. Join us as the topics interest you. The next presentation is as follows:

5 p.m. Thursday, July 23: Jane Ann Gorsky, executive director, National Parkinson Foundation, Heartland, will present *PD 101, Understanding the Disease*.

Taizé Worship Service 5 p.m. Sunday, July 12

Are you looking for a quiet, contemplative worship experience? Are you wishing for a chance to catch your breath, to take a break from the stress of life? Would you like to set down your burdens, even for just a short while? If so, join us for our next Taizé worship service. The service includes simple songs, silence, and scripture. We also share communion together.

Taizé worship takes place on the second Sunday of every month in the Chapel at 5 p.m. The next service will be held on July 12.
Sandy Perry started working as pastoral care coordinator at Village Church in February, 2010. Prior to Village, she worked for 30 years in community development in affordable housing and neighborhood leadership development in the urban core. When she lost her job due to budget cuts, she applied for the pastoral care coordinator position at Village. “I wanted to get away from management and have my job to do and do it well. I got the job, and two months after I came to work here, my husband Phil lost his job and was unemployed for two years. It was a very difficult time in our lives. I always say God brought me to Village.”

On Being Pastoral Care Coordinator

“It gives me great satisfaction to be able to be there for somebody when they need us the most. When families call me when someone dies, they say, ‘I don’t know what I’m doing, I’ve never done this before.’ And I say, ‘That’s ok. We’ll hold your hand through the whole thing. Don’t worry about it.’”

A Lifelong Dream Finally Comes True

“Phil and I have talked about moving to Colorado since before we were married, which will be 38 years this August. We stayed here at the urging of my family. I’m 60-years-old and have lived here my entire life. My goal before I die was to live somewhere different than here, and there’s no place better than in the mountains.

Phil works for Lowe’s and has been fishing around for a job working for Lowe’s in Colorado for the last year and a half. Our oldest son, Chris, lives in Avon, Colorado. We decided to go see Chris for his birthday in April. Phil had applied for a job in Longmont, Colorado.

Two days before we were scheduled to leave, Lowe’s called and said they wanted to interview Phil for this Longmont job. So while we were out there visiting our son, Phil interviewed and got the job. We came home and put the house on the market. It sold in one day.

Phil started his new job on Memorial Day. Sandy stayed behind until a new pastoral care coordinator was hired. Linda Alley, who has worked the past two years as a part-time development assistant for Village, was named the new pastoral care coordinator.

Village has influenced where Sandy would like to work next. “I have so enjoyed working with the older people in this congregation. They are so appreciative, they are so sweet and loving and they need help and I love being there to help them. I’m probably going to look into working in assisted living or something like that.”

Sandy’s last day at Village was June 25. To the people of Village Church, she says, “I wish I could bundle you all up and take you with me. It’s almost going to be harder to leave here than to leave my family.”
**Artwork at the Meneilly Center**

Currently on display at the Meneilly Center for Mission, 99th and Mission Road, are oil paintings by Jan Fellers and a collage of pictures of the Village Church Community Garden. Jan Fellers, a Village Church member, uses oil on canvas to express her love of many subjects using different styles, colors and moods.

**Women of Wisdom Mid-Summer Luncheon July 16**

Women of Wisdom have scheduled a mid-summer luncheon at noon on Thursday, July 16, at The Tavern in Mission Farms, 10681 Mission Road in Leawood. All women are invited to share warm fellowship and good food at this popular restaurant that features classic American cuisine served in a stylish, comfortable setting. RSVP to Diane Lee at 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net, or to Marvie Sneegas, at 913-209-9608 or sneegi@kc.rr.com by Tuesday, July 14. Whether you have been a longtime attendee at WOW get togethers or are considering attending for the first time, please know you are warmly welcomed.

**Age 40’s & 50’s Dinner July 17**

We’ll meet at the Red Snapper Pan-Asian Bistro at 8430 Ward Parkway at 6 p.m. Friday, July 17. Check out the menu at www.kcredsnapper.com. 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.

**CONCERT OFFERING CHECK PRESENTED TO DRMP**

Last month, Matthew Shepard, associate director of music, presented Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, a check for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership for $7,027. That was the final amount collected from the retiring offering for the April 26 Village in the City concert at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.
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 of those who have been part of God’s work of redemption in this world is long. 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. Upcoming sermons include:

- **July 12** The Ethiopian Eunuch
- **July 19** Mary
- **July 26** Naaman
- **Aug. 2** Barabbas

**SUMMER BIBLE STUDY**

**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 Tom Are’s sermon series. Leaders will rotate, offering their own perspective on the biblical character of the week. Now through Aug. 23, 11 a.m.-noon in Rooms 126 and 127. Upcoming classes include:

- **July 12** The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40) – taught by Rev. Sally Wright
- **July 19** Mary (Luke 1,2) – taught by Rev. Diane Quaintance
- **July 26** Naaman (2 Kings 5) – taught by Rev. Dwight Tawney
- **Aug. 2** Barabbas (Mark 15: 6-15) – taught by Rev. Zach Walker
Watch for the New Fall 2015 Village U Catalog!

Village Church is a learning community with a long commitment to providing opportunities for adults—young and old—to grow in knowledge and faith together. Whether it is a small group that meets weekly like A Path With Heart, or a monthly program like Village Talk, a Sunday morning class or Day Trip to Fort Leavenworth—whether the topic is learning to knit or use a computer, how Christianity developed in the early days of our country or what it means to be a Christian, a discussion of the Bible or some great work of literature, finding Moses in the exodus, or finding calm in the chaos, the Fall Village U Catalog is a wide umbrella encompassing all our learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location. You may want to get a glass of lemonade, turn off the TV and spend some time discovering all that is available. It’s an impressive list.

Some things you will discover right away are that:

- we have shortened the name to Village U,
- we’ve broadened the umbrella to include all that’s offered for adults, and
- we’ve dropped the “Registration Fee.”

Other things you’ll want to know:

- Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time $40 fee for the fall term. Reservations will be required in advance.
- Some classes will have a small fee for materials, resources, etc.

Registration for Village University’s fall 2015 fall term begins on Monday, Aug. 10, for Village Church members only. The general public may enroll beginning on Aug. 17. You may enroll for all courses online at villagepres.org, by email at marianne.weber@villagepres.org, by calling Marianne at 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119 at Village Church.
Creations by Kids & Kids Day Out

Here are a few pictures from some of the week long Creations by Kids camps this summer. These camps are more than “summer enrichment.” They are about fun and friends!

Author! Author! Kids write their own books and learn about authors and illustrators. One adventurous young author has plans for this magic marble!

American Girl. Older elementary kids journey to the past and create crafts that go along with their own American Girl doll.

Cowpoke. A favorite for the younger kids. In this picture, children are lining up to “rope a steer.”

The playground is always fun!

Vacation Bible School

VBS is right around the corner! In Camp Discovery VBS, kids will learn that Jesus works in and through us! They’ll look into the Bible, God’s Holy Word, and explore five “tree-mendous” Bible accounts where God works in God’s people.

This year, we will learn about and bring donations for several different local mission projects in which Village Church is involved. All VBS kids will collect for the Village Food Pantry. We will be collecting the following items: breakfast cereal, canned spaghetti, ravioli (etc.), hearty soups, canned tuna and peanut butter.

You may drop off your donations in Friendship Hall July 13-17.

Traveling Day Camp

The Heartland Center staff returns this summer, bringing with them fun and exciting ways to study the Bible through interactive worship, songs, crafts and games. July 27-31.

SAVE THE DATE

Presbyterian Pastor and Award-Winning Author Kathy Bostrom Coming to Village Church Nov. 3 & 4

Kathy Bostrom has been an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) since 1983. She and her husband, Greg, have served as co-pastors of the Wildwood Presbyterian Church in Wildwood, Illinois, since 1991.

Kathy has won awards for preaching and is the author of over a dozen books for children and adults. Who is Jesus? was a finalist for the 2000 Gold Medallion Award, given to the outstanding books in Christian publishing, and What About Heaven? was nominated for the People’s Choice Award. Her other books include 99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children and Finding Calm in the Chaos: Christian Devotions for Busy Women. She is included in a current edition of Something About the Author (volume 139, 2003) and Contemporary Authors (volume 210, 2003), two of the premiere reference sources for information on children’s authors.

Kathy earned a Master of Arts in Christian Education and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, and a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Her appearance at Village Church is being offered through the auspices of Village U.
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Village Commitment Corner

Because of your generosity…

…110 children got a special treat while attending Kids’ Day Out and Creations By Kids Camp. An Exotic Animal Petting Zoo paid a visit! The children got to see and pet Cinnamon the camel, a kangaroo, monkey, large tortoise, a zebu and many other animals.

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

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
Gene Bockelman
Robert “Bob” E. Bruce
Harold ‘Hal’ Haub
Forrest “Woody” Haynes
Harlan Hise
Mary Hughes
Agnes Jimeson
Frieda Lohman
Marilyn Lucido
Nancy K. Miller
Betty Titus
The Most Unlikely of Characters Receives God’s Call

LEN CARRELL
Our New Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

On June 7, the Village Church congregation accepted the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee recommendation to select Len Carrell as our new associate pastor of Pastoral Care. Len told the congregation, “My wife Tanisha and daughter Caitlin and I are so excited about exploring with you, all that God has in store for us, and about being a part of Village Church and its family of faith...God has called us, as a family, home to you.”

Len’s Background

Originally from Katy, Texas, the 6 foot 3 inch tall redhead moved to New York two weeks shy of his 21st birthday to attend The American Musical and Dramatic Academy where he had been awarded a scholarship. Len’s acting professors at McClennan Community College had encouraged him to go to New York to see what might happen. The road was both challenging and inspiring. Len had the opportunity to spend a summer as an acting intern at the Berkshire Theater Festival in Stockbridge Massachusetts, one of the oldest theater festivals in the country. He got his Actor’s Equity card when he was 24 and had the opportunity to perform in some wonderful regional theaters around the country.

Once he became a professional actor, however, the road got tough. One casting agent told him, “Len, get over it, you’re never going to be a chorus boy.” But Len insisted, “I can dance, I can tap, watch, watch.” And the agent said, “Nope, not gonna happen. You stick out like a sore thumb.” It was a tough go. By the time he was 30, Len had met his wife Tanisha in acting school. “I grew up a Methodist in Texas. God has always been a part of my life, but the community maybe had been absent. And it wasn’t until I started getting to know the church where my wife grew up, The Brick Presbyterian Church, that I felt this tug back answering the question, why the church mattered.”

Len and Tanisha were married in 2001 and when their daughter Caitlin came along in 2002, his course would change. “There, with this little girl in my hands and I thought, ‘I gotta get her baptized!’ And I asked myself, ‘What does that mean for me?’ And it meant that I needed to join the church, and I did. Then I started showing up at worship every Sunday and eventually somebody came and tapped me on the shoulder and said, ‘I want to nominate you to be a deacon.’
I said, ‘Ok what does that mean? What does a deacon do?’ And he said, ‘They do what we tell them to do.’ And I said, ‘Ok, sounds good.’ They got me active in the heart of what that church really did, and that’s their outreach work. Then I became the moderator of the board of deacons and began serving the church and serving others.”

The Leap to Seminary

While on the board of deacons at Brick Church, the Senior Pastor Michael Lindvall took Len to lunch and said, “Have you ever considered going to seminary?” Len said, “No. Do they even call people with my background?” And Rev. Lindvall responded, “Yeah. God calls all kinds of people. The most unlikely of characters, God calls. Look at Moses, look at Jacob, look at Joseph and Ruth.”

Senior Associate Pastor Doug King, and Len’s liaison with the board of deacons, told him, “You don’t know this but you’re going to seminary. I’m just waiting for you to decide on your own.” “People start planting those seeds in your head,” said Len. “God might have planted the idea first, but others started bringing it into focus.”

“There were obstacles. I was running a business, representing textile design studios in Europe and our daughter was in school.” Len pushed through those obstacles and made it to Austin Seminary.

“When I went to seminary I used to think, I need to set aside this acting thing. That part of my life is over. This new thing has happened and I need to just fully embrace this new calling. But the more and more I did that the more and more I saw I got it wrong. God called this crazy actor guy to go out and serve the church with all those gifts. All these things have prepared me for what’s about to happen in my life. And it’s hard to accept that sometimes. But I’m trying to learn that’s exactly who God called. God calls who we are, and we’re enough.”

“When I graduated from seminary and started this long pilgrimage of discernment a year ago in May, many of my friends, professors and pastors told me ‘Len, you will find the right fit.’ I kept thinking about what that ‘fit’ might be. But it wasn’t until I came here to visit Village Church, first on my own, and then as a family, that I felt that ‘fit’ right here in my heart.”

Len will be ordained on Sept. 20, at The Brick Presbyterian Church, his home church in New York. “There are so many people from that amazing congregation that have been with me on this journey. They supported my family in so many ways, that I want to celebrate this milestone with them. They shaped my faith and my call and that’s why I’d like to be ordained at my home church,” Len explains.

Len will be installed as a pastor at Village Church later this fall. Please welcome Len and his family to Village!