During 2015, the Village Church Mission Committee has received 31 grant requests from community organizations seeking funds from the mission budget. During the first half of the year, the committee has carefully considered each of the applications and allocated funds to 19 organizations. Resulting from their efforts, the committee has designated a total of $75,000 to the following programs that work to strengthen the community:

**After the Harvest:** $2,000 for healthy produce provided to food banks and feeding agencies in Kansas and Missouri

**Amethyst Place:** $5,000 for play therapy room renovation

**CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte County:** $5,000 for the Youngest Victims Program

**Community LINC:** $5,000 for interim housing program

**Covenant Presbyterian Church:** $2,000 for the food pantry

**Cross-Lines Community Outreach:** $1,500 for food served in the Cross-Lines Kitchen

**Cultivate KC:** $2,000 for the Juniper Gardens Training Farm for resettled refugees

**DeLaSalle Education Center:** $15,000 for the PACES Program, an onsite early childhood education program, serving infants and toddlers ages six months to three years. Since 1996, the program has served children of teen parents attending DeLaSalle High School by providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children, teaching teen parents effective parenting skills and allowing for opportunities for parent and child interaction.

**Grace United Community Ministries:** $2,000 for the food pantry

**Growing Futures Early Education Center (formerly Head Start of Shawnee Mission):** $2,500 for scholarships

**Hillcrest Transitional Housing:** $5,000 for Village apartment sponsorship

**Hope Faith Ministries:** $4,000 for food purchases for homeless clients

**Kansas City Autism Training Center:** $2,500 for smartboards

**Kids TLC:** $2,500 for the speech and language program in their autism services

**Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries:** $2,000 for the Backsnack program

**Operation Breakthrough:** $7,500 for Maker’s Space

**St. Mary’s Food Kitchen:** $2,000 for their hot lunch program

**Shawnee Mission Meals on Wheels:** $2,500 for food costs

**Sheffield Place:** $5,000 for children’s clinical services

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Village Mission Grants Continued

In addition to community grants mentioned earlier, the Mission Committee has funded grant requests to Presbyterian Church affiliates working to strengthen the church including Covenant Network, Heartland Center Camp, Heartland Presbytery, Darren and Elizabeth Kennedy (missionaries in Egypt), Montreat Conference Center, Neema Presbyterian Church, NEXT Church, Presbyterian Outlook, Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition, Village seminary scholarships, Thwake Village Kenya partnership, and Youth Ministry Institute Midwest. These distributions totaled $277,150.

Earlier this year, the Mission Committee made a number of grants totaling $231,389 to partner ministries such as the Christ for All Hospital in Haiti, Christmas International House, Dominican Republic Medical Partnerships, Village Emergency Assistance, Front Porch Alliance, Heartland Habitat for Humanity, Village Preschool and Village Youth Mission Trips.

The Village Church thanks members of the Mission Committee who have embraced their stewardship of the mission dollars and identified these deserving community programs for 2015. Members of the Mission Committee are Ginny Beall, Dan Carroll, Nancy Gatewood, Peggy Gray, Dr. John Hall, Kim Higgins, John Kost, Pam Logan, Robb McKim, John Polaschek, Neil Stewart, Michele Stowers, Margaret Stout, Samantha Sturgeon, Kimberly Tranbarger (chair), Kathy Wells and Deborah White (director of Mission). Over the past 30 years, this committee and many before them have supported at least 262 separate organizations.

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!

The McKell’s are basking in delights of Paris! Here’s what Jay shared in a recent email:

*While we are having a great time here, there certainly are many moments when I find myself missing my friends at Village. Please pass my greetings around to everyone.*

I’ve conducted four weddings since our arrival, taken lots of walks down the streets of Paris, sampled some delicious food, gone to the markets several times and begun to get a sense of what life will be like for the next six months. *Life is good!*

— Jay McKell
**Music Ministry**

**The Summer Sings at Village Church**

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 Music Camp Highlights the Story of Esther**

Sixty-eight elementary aged children took over Friendship Hall the week of June 22-26 to learn and present the musical, *Malice in the Palace, the Story of Esther*. During the course of the 15 hour camp week, the children auditioned, learned 12 songs, memorized dialogue and created costumes and scenery for the show. The 45 minute production was presented on June 26 in a dinner-theatre format to over 200 friends and family members. Great job kids!
The Nurses Moved for the Summer
During 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.

Parkinsons 101: Understanding the Disease
All are welcome to attend a presentation by Jane Ann Gorsky, executive director of the National Parkinson Foundation of Heartland, at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 23, in Room 228.
This presentation is sponsored by Stephen Ministry. All presentations are open to both the congregation and the public. Please join us for any topic that interests you.

Growing Through Grief – New Series Starts Sept. 9
Grief can be overwhelming. If you are grieving the death of a loved one, please know you are not alone. The Care and Counseling department wants to support our members and anyone who is facing this difficult time by offering a five-week class, Growing Through Grief. Join us to learn more about the grieving process, meet others who understand your struggles, and be reminded that God is with us through even the hardest of moments. The classes include helpful (optional) reading from Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. The series is offered at no cost and includes your own copy of the book. Registration is required.

The next series runs from Sept. 9 through Oct. 7
6:30-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday in Room 124
Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

Can You Lend a Helping Hand?
We know how much it means when we can help bring a meal, run an errand, or mow a yard. These activities aren’t just helpful, they are holy. They remind us that we are a community, a community that supports each other as much as we can.

We need your helping hands and caring heart. If you have one hour a month or one day or any amount of time to assist others, please consider volunteering. All skill levels are welcomed — you will self-select your own projects. There are three broad categories you can help with:

Household Help: specific tasks around the home such as occasional yard work, small home repair or maintenance work, moving a piece of furniture, etc.
Meals: during an illness, while recovering from surgery, after welcoming a new baby, or other life events that throw your schedule off track.
Transportation: running a short errand, or getting someone to a medical appointment or commitment

Contact Linda Alley at linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327 to sign up.
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 26: Naaman
- Aug. 2: Barabbas
- Aug. 16: The Beloved Disciple
- Aug. 23: Mattithaiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah and Hilkiah

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 26: Naaman (2 Kings 5) – taught by Rev. Dwight Tawney
- Aug. 9: Widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17:7-16) – taught by Cheryl Couch-Thomas
- Aug. 16: The Beloved Disciple (Gospel of John) – taught by Rev. Sally Wright
- Aug. 23: Mattithaiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah (Nehemiah 8) – taught by Sarah Are
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 the fall 2015 term begins on Monday, Aug. 10, for Village Church members only. The general public may enroll beginning 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.
Camp Discovery Vacation Bible School was so much fun!

Kids discovered some of the many ways God works in our lives. The key verse for the week was from 1 John 4:19, “We love because God first loved us.”

This year, in addition to collecting items for our favorite mission, the Village Food Pantry, each of the six elementary groups “adopted” and learned about a particular mission project. These various missions are: City Union Mission, Operation Breakthrough, Talk, Read, Play, Cross-Lines, and of course, the Village Food Pantry.

Thanks to the many volunteers who have given their time and energy to the children of Village Church to ensure the continued success of this program.

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 of course, games! July 27-31.

Dino’s New Book

Village Church’s resident children’s musician, Dino O’Dell, has just released his first picture book: *Zar and the Broken Spaceship*. Zar is a three-eyed space alien that crashes his ship in a local park. Dino is a two-eyed storyteller and song writer who works with Village Church’s children and family ministry. Find out more about the new book at [www.DinoODell.com](http://www.DinoODell.com).

Summer is almost at an end

Students who have completed grades K through 5th will continue to meet in Room 203 for a Broadly Graded class called, Holy Moly!

Kids’ Kingdom and Preschool Church School will resume regular classes after Labor Day.
Because of your generosity…

… the Food Pantry helps more than 18,568 individuals in the course of just one year. In the summertime, children who may have received a school lunch can get kid-friendly lunch foods.