

A New Way to Think about Adult Educational Opportunities at Village Church The New and Improved Village U!

The new Fall 2015 Village U catalog is now available on our website villagepres.org under Village U Community Classes and at locations around the church. You'll notice several changes starting this fall.

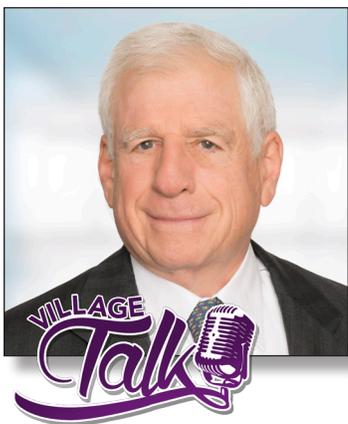
We have shortened the name to Village U and have broadened the umbrella to include all that's offered for adults. We've also dropped the "Registration Fee."

Village Church is a learning community with a long commitment to providing opportunities for adults – young and older – to grow in knowledge and faith together.

Village U Highlights

Village Talk

We have some exciting news about a special guest who has just been booked for Village Talk on a Sunday evening this fall. Rev. Brian Ellison will be talking with former United States senator and ambassador to the United Nations John Danforth at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, at Village Church.



Senator Danforth will talk about his new book, *The Relevance of Religion: How Faithful People Can Change Politics*.

For more than a decade John Danforth, who is also an ordained Episcopal priest, has written extensively on the negative impact the Christian right has had on American politics. Upon

reflection, however, he felt he ought to balance the picture by writing about the positive, constructive impact faithful religious believers have and can have on our public life. *The Relevance of Religion* is the product of that period of

reflection. Danforth's new book will be published just 12 days before his appearance at Village Church.

"We are deeply honored to host Jack Danforth for what promises to be a rich and fruitful evening exploring how faith and public life can be brought together in our community and our lives," said Rev. Brian Ellison, host of Village Talk. See the Village U catalog for the complete list of Village Talk guests.

Thursday Day Trips

Village U has also planned three Day Trips for your enjoyment. These trips will be from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. There is a \$20 registration fee for transportation and museum admission cost, plus the cost of lunch.

Oct. 1 - Historic Fort Leavenworth and the Frontier Army Museum with stops at the Command and General Staff College, the National Cemetery, the Memorial Chapel and the Buffalo Soldiers Monument.

Nov. 5 - The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence, Kansas. The Dole Institute has a museum gallery featuring the world's largest stained-glass American flag, Kansas veterans WWII memory wall and World Trade Center beams.

Dec. 3 - The Strawberry Hill Museum and Culture Center located in the old Croatian neighborhood in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Part of the building housing the museum is an elaborate Queen Anne style mansion built for the Cruise family in 1887. A lunch featuring Croatian foods is included in the registration fee of \$20.

Village U registration for the fall 2015 term begins on Monday, Aug. 10, for Village Church members. The general public may enroll beginning on Aug. 17. You may enroll for all courses at villagepres.org, by email (marianne.weber@villagepres.org), by calling 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119 at Village Church.



Christmas in July for Mission Sewing

It was a jaw dropping Tuesday morning, July 7, 2015, for the Mission Sewing ladies of Village Church. The ladies arrived to discover that their old sewing machines had been replaced with 17 brand new Janome computerized sewing machines, thanks to an anonymous donor. Just one of these 2015 Janome sewing machines retails for \$500.

As each lady arrived, the others were amazed to see how long it took her to realize there was not just one new machine, but 17 brand new sewing machines in the room.

The ladies commented, "Oh my gosh, how exciting!" "So quiet, and THEY WORK!" "I finally found where reverse is." "Where did these come from?" "From heaven above!" "Oh, this is fantastic!" "This is just a jewel!" "I wonder if they'll ever have voice command sewing machines where you can just say NEEDLE DOWN!" "This is wonderful!"

By 9:45 a.m. the ladies were receiving training on how to use the new machines from Caroline of Missouri Sewing. Each woman received an accessories box with sewing notions and an instruction manual.

Rev. Tom Are came down to the Mission Sewing Room to see how the ladies were doing with their new machines. "I hear you have some new machines," Tom said. "How old were the old machines?" to which someone replied, "Old as dirt!"

Tom went on to say, "Somebody, I don't know who, thought you ladies ought to continue doing this for a very long time. A pretty nice investment in this ministry I think," to which they concurred and asked Tom to thank the benefactor. All agreed with Tom that it was a pretty amazing day in Mission Sewing.

Some of the comments from the Facebook album of the big surprise were:

"How absolutely amazing. This is just one of the reasons I love being a member of Village. Folks take care of each other here!"

"What a beautiful gift for these ladies who give joy with their talents to others."

"How fabulous. Big thanks to the donor. Have fun learning these new wonders."

"This gift will keep giving for a long, long time to literally thousands. I can't imagine a better group to receive such a valuable surprise, I am always amazed at all the good work these ladies do. BRAVO!"



MISSION

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has been requesting breakfast cereal, hearty soups and peanut butter for the clients' children who are not receiving free meals since school is not in session. There is also a need for all varieties of canned fruit. Before you get too busy with your back-to-school shopping, please think of the hungry children being served by our Food Pantry and bring some food items with you to church on your next visit. The Clothes Closet has a big demand for large sized clothing for all seasons. Many thanks for your ongoing support!

Blood Drive Aug. 18

Village will host a blood drive from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18, in Rooms 132 and 133. To make an appointment online, visit esavealifenow.org and use the sponsor code "villagepres" or stop by our registration table outside Friendship Hall from 9 a.m. and noon on Aug. 9 and 16. For additional details, contact Ann Colston at 913-722-0165 or acolston1113@gmail.com.

We hit 1,000 fans on our Village Church Facebook page on July 27.

Thank you!

Facebook is where you will see lots of photos and info about what's happening at Village Church. If you haven't LIKED us already, we invite you do to so at facebook.com/villagepres. You can also follow us on Twitter @VillageChurchPV.

1,000 LIKES!
thank you



COMPUTER MINISTRY

Computer classes are free of charge.

Beginner Classes: 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 15-Oct. 6;
6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16-Oct. 7

Intermediate Classes: 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 27-
Nov. 17; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 28-Nov. 18

Call Stacy at 913-671-2334 or email stacy.fischer@villagepres.org to sign up for classes.

What's Next at Front Porch Alliance?

Front Porch Alliance is planning new and exciting programs for the youth of Ivanhoe and eastside neighborhoods. For the teens, we see a need for hands-on exposure to viable career paths. Through surveys and several youth focus groups, we've had an opportunity to hear from the teens about the career fields that interest them. We are working with industry professionals to develop a series of brief courses that provide a structured introduction to those careers, and let the kids try some of the work. Consistently, the teens express highest interest in the culinary field – new to FPA – and in music careers – an ongoing FPA program. Also in the planning stage is an "Introduction to Web and App Design." To support the youngest "Early Learning," we are working toward a home-based program to support the parents of children from infancy through age three. School kids at Faxon Elementary will continue to benefit from the dedicated PALs tutors and an expansion of last spring's pilot LEGO Robotics program, which was very successful.

To volunteer or find out more about Front Porch Alliance, call 816-921-8812.

—Barbara Beddingfield, executive director



FPA volunteer mentors continue to provide life-changing friendship for a group of boys who are becoming young men.



**Front Porch Alliance
Kansas City**

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a fun way to get involved at Village Church? Each Wednesday night from September through May, dinner is served in Friendship Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Each week, a team of volunteers helps to set up and cleanup for these dinners. You can be on a team once a month or every week. It's a great way to help out and have a great dinner with Village friends. Call Stacy at 913-671-2334 if you are interested in being a part of a team.

2015 Village Church Conversation Groups

All Are Welcome!

Two things are true: life is better with friends and faith is nourished by conversation. Core Connections is a way to strengthen faith through conversations while making and deepening friendships. Village Church provides trained leaders and a DVD video study developed by Pastor Tom Are for these small groups. Our curriculum serves as a springboard for conversations, while relationship building remains the priority. Groups will launch in the fall (October) and subsequent groups will form as needed. Types of groups may include: couples, men, women and mixed (men & women).

Each individual group will decide frequency, location and time for meetings. Core Connections is open to both the congregation and community, so invite your friends and family. Contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to join a Core group.



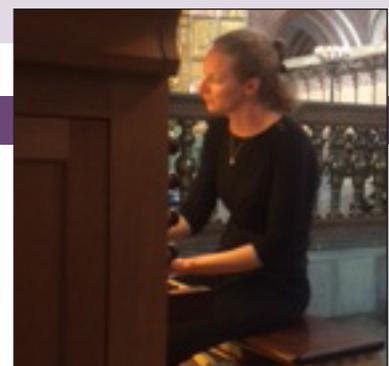
Tom Are just finished recording a brand new video series for Core Connections Small Group Ministries. The nine-part series is called "The Stories That Jesus Loved to Tell." The DVDs will be available in October for your Core Connections group discussions.

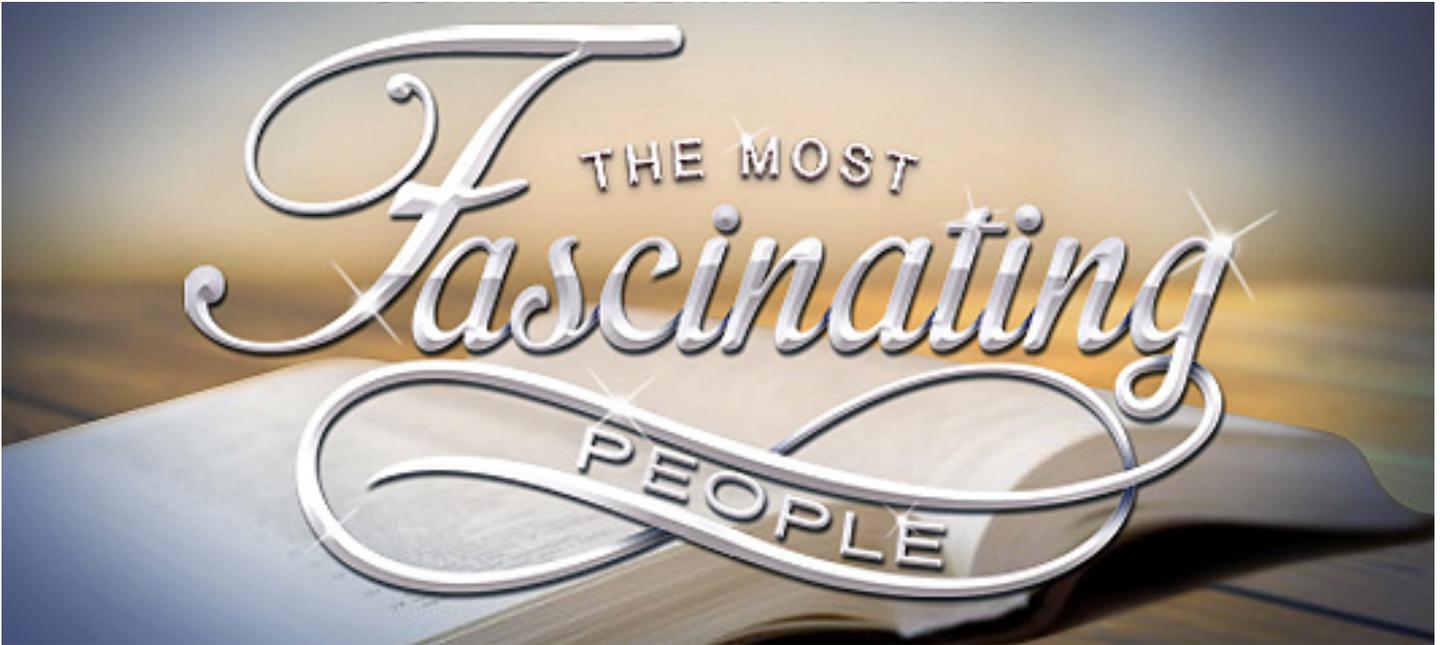
VILLAGE CHOIR SUMMER TOUR

Village Choir On Tour in Scandinavia

Our Village Choir was on tour in Scandinavia the last part of July. Forty-five people were on the tour led by Lisa Ball. The choir, under the music direction of Matthew Shepard and organist, Elisa Bickers, performed at the Roskilde Domkirke (Cathedral) in Roskilde, Denmark. They also performed at Gamle Aker Church (the oldest church in Oslo, Norway) and at Bergen Cathedral in Bergen, Norway. Elisa had the opportunity to play two organs there – one built in 1554 and the other built in 1998.

The choir saw castles, churches, fjords and more in Sweden, Denmark and Norway. While in Denmark, their guide was none other than Hans Christian Anderson.





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. 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:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Aug. 9 | The Widow at Zarephath |
| Aug. 16 | The Beloved Disciple |
| Aug. 23 | Mattithaiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah and Hilkiyah |

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

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:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 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, Hilkiyah and Maaseiah (Nehemiah 8) – taught by Sarah Are |

Fall Adult Sunday Morning Classes

9:30 a.m.

Cloud of Witnesses class, led by Rev. Dwight Tawney, will study Searching for Moses Sept. 13 through Oct. 25. Room 232.

Faith Journey class will study Marcus Borg's book, *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*, in Room 230.

Growing Together class begins the fall term by viewing and discussing the Frontline video series, *From Jesus to Christ*. Room 132.

The Village Forum class will be led by Gus Breytspraak on Sept. 13, 20 and 27 and will study *Short Stories by Jesus*. Rooms 126 and 127.

10:45 a.m.

Inquirers - We will have the initial class meeting on Sept. 13 for fall with get-acquainted activities, overview of study topics, introduction of first study topic and refreshments. Sept. 20-Nov. 22 the class will study Marcus Borg's acclaimed book, *Reading the Bible for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally* in Room 124.

Exercise for Seniors

All summer exercise classes are being held at Village Church in Room 333 (the Youth Loft). The classes start at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday's class will start at 10 a.m. On Tuesday and Thursday there will be a second class that starts at 10:30 a.m. and includes chairs and no floor exercises. Thank you for being flexible, see you in class!

Talk, Read, Play Event



Gail Arther and Marilyn Pattison, two retired kindergarten teachers who know the importance of early learning and closing the 30 million word gap, presented Talk, Read, Play at The Single Moms event in Olathe in July. In addition to encouraging and informing moms about interacting with their young children, they gave away books collected at Village's Vacation Bible School. Thanks to the families of Village!

**“Caring for Those Incarcerated and for Those Whose Loved Ones are Incarcerated”
Stephen Ministers Offer Continuing Education Presentations**

On Thursday, Aug. 27, Ernest Jones from Prison Ministries/Salvation Army will talk about caring for



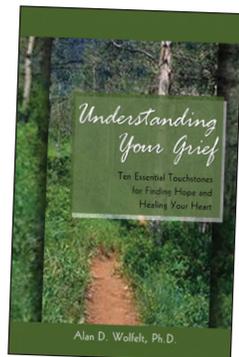
those who are incarcerated or for those who have a loved one incarcerated. This presentation is sponsored by Stephen Ministry and

is open to the congregation and the public. It will be from 5-6 p.m. in Room 228. Please join us.

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 linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327 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.

Mark Your Calendar for the Classic Citizens Celebration

On Thursday, Sept. 24, we will be hosting our Classic Citizens Celebration. If you are 75 or more years young, then you are a Village Church Classic Citizen and we want you to come and enjoy a fun event. Join us from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Visit and reconnect with friends, hear all the latest about Village Church and enjoy delicious food and drinks. A ride to and from the church is available upon request.

This event is sponsored by the Pastoral Care & Counseling Department and is made possible by volunteers. It's an extremely rewarding and enjoyable time, so if you would like to help, please contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

If you are a Classic Citizen, your invitation will be mailed to you soon!

**Let's Play ...
Summer 2015 at Village Church**

A summer of fun... here are some of our favorite moments from Creations by Kids, Kids Day Out and Vacation Bible School.



**A visit from
Paws for
Freedom.**



Grandparents Travel from Orlando to Volunteer at Village Vacation Bible School

Marvin and Pam Hardy just completed their second trip from Orlando, Florida to Village Church to serve as Vacation Bible School volunteers. They are the grandparents of Pierson (8), Charlotte (6) and Henrik (5) Hardy, whose parents Peter and Lisa Hardy are members of Village. Marvin and Pam Hardy love the VBS program at Village. "It's so well organized. We're already begging to come next year," said Marvin. Pam just retired from teaching at Edgewater High School in Orlando. "We love Village Church. I've taught at VBS before and the program here at Village is so well planned. We've had a blast helping out in our grandchildren's classes."

Camp Discovery Vacation Bible School

Between July 13 and 17, over 180 kids had fun discovering how God works in our lives every day. The "campers" learned not only about God's amazing grace but also how God gives us courage, wisdom, faith and the best gift of all, God's love for us to share with others.

All VBS campers collected donations for the Village Food Pantry. In addition, each elementary group (or cabin) adopted a local mission to focus on. These missions include: Operation Breakthrough, Talk, Read, Play, Cross-Lines and Blessings Abound. All those eager campers were learning and participating in mission projects that help kids their own ages.

Traveling Day Camp just finished. We had another great week. Check out the images on the Village Church Kids Facebook page.

Upcoming events and programs:

Sunday School for Preschoolers and Elementary

We have a few weeks left of our summer programming. Kids' Kingdom starts back up Sunday, Sept. 13. Watch for some new things happening in the Children's wing!

Village U Special Event

Be sure to grab a copy of the fall 2015 Village U catalog to find more information about Kathy Bostrom (see previous issue of the *Good News*). We are thrilled to have her at Village this November.



**Kathy Bostrom
children's book
author Nov. 3 & 4**



GARY WANN

VBS Storyteller Extraordinaire

One of the volunteers at Village Vacation Bible School proclaimed Gary Wann “the greatest storyteller under the canopy of the heavens.”

You’d be hard pressed to find anyone to refute that statement.

Gary says he’s been storytelling since the first Reagan administration. He especially loves to tell Bible Stories. “I’ve been telling Bible stories at Village Vacation Bible School since 1976. I was in high school at the time,” recalls Gary.

Keeping kids entertained is old hat to Gary. He’s been a teacher for 30 years and teaches the 6th Grade at East Antioch in Shawnee Mission.

“What I love the most about storytelling is the kids, their reactions, to hear them laugh, to see them excited about something God has done – there’s nothing better than that.”

In preparation for his VBS storytelling, Village Children & Family Ministry staff tells him what story to tell that goes with the Bible School curriculum. “I just try to read it several times in the Bible the night before—thinking of what I want to start with and then let inspiration take over.”

Sometimes Gary calls kids up to the front of the room to take on roles in the Bible story. “It all depends on the story. I’ve told some of these stories many times over the years. I modify some Bible stories to be a little more appropriate to tell the kids.”



One thing Gary’s discovered over the years, when it comes to storytelling and kids, expect the unexpected and roll with it.

“One time I told a story and I was really into the story and didn’t realize that one of the kids had crept up and was untying my shoes. Another time I was getting too into the story and I made a big gesture with my hand and I knocked my glasses way across the room. Of course the kids thought that was just really hilarious.”

What qualities make a great storyteller?

According to Gary, “Someone who is not afraid to look silly at times and someone who really likes to see kids excited. And when it comes to Bible stories – someone who is really open to what God wants him to do.”

Gary has these storytelling tips for parents: “Try just reading the stories from the Bible. A lot of times when you read the story it’s fun to put in voices to make a character in a certain voice. There are a lot of really

good books out there that have Bible stories for kids in kid appropriate language. I remember my parents reading to me from books like that and how much I just ate that up as a kid. We’d do that before we went to bed at night.”

As for how long Gary plans to keep coming back to Village Vacation Bible School and as master storyteller, “I’ll keep doing this as long as they’ll have me.”



Summer Programs

This summer we decided to amp things up and introduce two new youth programs: Late Nite and Middle School Mission. Late Nite is a great time for high schoolers to come hang out, play games and make some new friends. Some of our most fun events were a Thrift Shop scavenger hunt and Royals cookout in the loft. Our Middle School Mission has been great! Every Wednesday we take a group of middle schoolers and go to various organizations and give up our time for their need. Places we have gone so far include: Goodwill, Harvesters, Food Pantry, CASA, Wayside Waifs and Ronald McDonald House!



Village Voices Choir Tour

Village Voices choir tour raised ruckus in Oklahoma City earlier in June! The trip down was stuffy (okay, it was downright sweltering) and we were exhausted once we arrived. But we were there to sing! So each day, we packed ourselves back into that bus and drove to a different retirement home. It was amazing to see how much the choir's music meant to the people we shared it with.

NYC Mission Trip

The mission trip to New York City was an absolute blast! We made amazing connections with the people of East Rockaway, Long Island, and had so much fun bonding with one another during the long work days. We re-did the flooring of a home, and built a new deck, and painted two houses, and still had time to spare for a super fun day in Manhattan. What a transformative week.

Montreat 2015

Montreat

After a week of great speakers, discussions and singing, our high school students returned from the Montreat Youth Conference on July 19. This year's theme was "My Story" and focused on the value of each of our experiences, how each story deserves to be told, that everyone's story continues to be written, and that God cares deeply for each of our stories.

One of the great benefits on Montreat is the opportunity to meet other students from churches across the country and connect with them in small groups; we love the friendships created over the week. We also love the way our group grows closer as we practice being church and family: managing schedules together, supporting one another, cooking and cleaning with and for each other and appreciating the unique gifts each person on the trip has to offer. We are already looking forward to next year's trip!

Students will share a little bit about their summer travels when they lead worship on Youth Sunday, Aug. 30.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Our **Welcome Center** is taking shape with structural steel going up for the second floor.

The ceiling framing is Rockin' and a Rollin' in the **Village Sanctuary**.

There's not much to report on the **Meneilly Center** completion construction at 99th Street because we are still waiting for building permits. We are pursuing any and all options to get this permitting process unstuck. Once we have a sense that a permit will be issued, site mobilization will begin. Getting ready to actually move dirt will take about two weeks: the existing playground needs to be relocated, fencing installed, etc.





PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT KC,MO

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Vol. 52, No. 15

Generosity At Work

Two primary reasons stand out why our family came to Village Church. The first was the opportunity to sit under the pastoral leadership of Dr. Bob. The second reason was Village’s obvious emphasis on mission outreach.



Jim Wann

I have personally experienced this emphasis through Village’s commitment to serving the poor children and adults in the Dominican Republic. To see the faces of these families light up when they see the old church bus arrive in their village bringing the Good News and medical help is an unforgettable experience.

Next, I was privileged to be a part of Village’s commitment to the children and families in the Ivanhoe area of Kansas City. I have been able to witness Village’s mission funds at work in assisting these very poor and neglected citizens having their houses repaired, children tutored, and young people given new hope for their tomorrows.

We are very pleased with Village’s stewardship of our personal family commitments to this community of Christ.

—Jim Wann

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

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

John Andersen
Middleton “Mid” Carroll
Dolores Christesen
Marian Erickson
Patricia “Pat” Fairchild
Gertrude Francis
Don Johnston
Robert “Bob” Payne