Thank You for the Music – The Village Pipe Organ is Complete

It was a day we’d long been waiting for – Organ Dedication Sunday – marking the completion of our new Village pipe organ, and all 3,600 of its pipes. During worship on Sunday, Aug. 6, the congregation sang through the church year accompanied by Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist.

In September of 2014 we stated our dream for this day. We announced our plans to renovate the Village on Mission Sanctuary and to construct a new pipe organ to aid ourselves and future generations of the Village family in the worship of God. The full fruition of that dream is realized. On Organ Dedication Sunday we celebrated, gave thanks and dedicated this beautiful and unique instrument to the maintenance of divine worship.

In case you weren’t able to attend worship on Aug. 6, we have posted the entire 9:30 a.m. worship service on our website at http://www.villagepres.org/end-of-summer-worship.html.

A full schedule of concerts and recitals will introduce the Village pipe organ to the Kansas City community. Dr. Bickers will open the Village pipe organ concert season with two performances: the first at 3 p.m. this Sunday, Aug. 20, and the second at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23. Child care will be available for both concerts. Call Marjean Lindquist at 913-671-2322 to make your child care reservation.

We will be handing out a commemorative Village Pipe Organ booklet starting Aug. 20. It includes letters from Rev. Tom Are, Jim Borthwick, chair of the Pipe Organ and Sanctuary Committee, and Dr. Elisa Bickers. It also has specifications of the instrument and words of gratitude to the many individuals involved in this project. The back cover lists the full schedule for Opus 22 events running from August 2017 through May 2018. You may also see the complete schedule at http://www.villagepres.org/upcoming-music-events.html.

All concerts will also be live streamed on our website.
August Sermon Series @VOA

We named our southern Johnson County location "Village on Antioch" because of the street where it's located. The name tells us where we are. But we also chose this name because of the significance of Antioch, the early Greco-Roman city, in the New Testament. The name also tells us who we are. Like the early church of that ancient city, we hope to be a place where love is enacted, where our stories are told and re-told, where no one is perfect and arguments are engaged, where the family is expanded, where grace is defended.

For the month of August, we'll look to the stories that take place in this ancient city, and perhaps find our new identity along the way.

Remaining sermons in the series:

- Aug. 20 @Antioch The Family Grows, Acts 13:14-51 Rev. Hallie Hottle
- Aug. 27 @Antioch Grace is Defended, Galatians 2:11-21 Rev. Hallie Hottle

Adult Sunday School at Village on Antioch
10:45-11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian roots emerged with the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago in Switzerland. Traveling through France, the Netherlands, England and Scotland to America and beyond, we have a rich history and an important story to share. Together, we will explore our history, some key theological tenets and our current practices.

- Sept. 10 Presbyterian 101: History
- Sept. 17 Presbyterian 101: Church and Theology
- Sept. 24 Presbyterian 101: Practices
Food Pantry

Eleven days until Peanut Butter Sunday, Aug. 27. This is the Food Pantry’s Back-To-School Food Drive for probably the most popular staple in the Pantry’s clients’ diets - peanut butter. The demand is always great.

Good news! The Peanut Butter Phantom is back to challenge everyone to bring in as much peanut butter in plastic jars as they can carry—and he will match the total pounds of donations brought to church on Aug. 27. This anonymous donor makes a substantial impact on this food drive. With your generous donations, and the matching Phantom’s donations, our shelves will be filled for months. Sales are going on - creamy, chunky, fat-free, all sizes - stock up. Let’s set a record!

Can openers have been requested by the Pantry’s clients - the simple manual can openers are the most popular, but all can openers are appreciated.

The Clothes Closet is in need of women’s summer clothing - skirts, tops, pants and dresses. Your continued support makes this mission such a success - thank you.

Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines

On Friday, Sept. 8, Village will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. We need four to five volunteers to help cook from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and three to four more to help serve from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We also need cookie donations. They can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

WORSHIP FOR THE END OF SUMMER

Aug. 20  Rev. Len Carrell preaching
Aug. 27  Youth Sunday
Sept. 3  Rev. Jenny McDevitt preaching

Beginning Sept. 10, we will return to our regular worship schedule of services at 8, 9:30, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Rev. Tom Are, Jr. will begin a new sermon series that day: "It Takes a Village!"
Fall Food Truck Festival

Join us for our third annual Fall Food Truck Festival, a community social event for all ages at Village on Mission. Bring your family and your lawn chairs and sit under the big tent in the north parking lot and enjoy live entertainment by The Aaron Linscheid Trio! Choose from six amazing, gourmet food trucks offering reasonably priced specialties: Mad Jack’s Fish & Shrimp, Beauty of the Bistro, KC BBQ, Cheeesy Pops’ Pizza, Crave of KC and Betty Rae’s Homemade Ice Cream. Food cost is on your own. Ice water will be provided.

In case of inclement weather, food trucks will park in the south parking lot and we’ll eat in Friendship Hall.

This event is sponsored by the Connectional Ministries Committee.

Weekly All Church Dinners Resume Wednesday, Sept. 6

These weekly dinners are for people of all ages to come together to share a meal before attending a class, choir practice or just to take a break from cooking. Our own Chef Emily prepares a full, hot buffet with salad bar and dessert for $7 or salad bar & dessert for $6. Cost for children age 4-10 is $3. Children under age 4 are free.

Chef Emily offers a variety of foods each week. In addition to the main entrée, options for gluten free, vegetarian and children’s meals are provided. The menus will be on the Village Church website villagepres.org, Sunday church bulletins and our newsletter (Good News) beginning in September.

Dinner Reservations

The deadline for reservations is by noon on Mondays, so Chef Emily knows how much food to purchase/prepare. Just as you would for dinner guests in your own home, the amount of food Emily prepares is solely based on the reservations we receive. Please keep this in mind, so we may always have enough food for everyone. All left over food is donated to the Village Church Food Pantry.

New this fall is “standing reservations” that will only be available on a pre-paid basis. We will approach “standing reservations” with a clean slate this fall, so if you had a previous standing RSVP, please contact us to re-register. We are implementing a new process, which we hope will be helpful. A standing dinner RSVP will only be available on a “pre-paid” basis.

People may purchase as many meals as they would like for specific dates. Example: $7x4 meals is $28 for Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27. Paying ahead for these meals/dates is more convenient than writing multiple checks or always carrying ready cash. Also, people who are pre-paid will go through an “express” line for easier access into Friendship Hall. We believe this will expedite the process. Those who pre-pay for September-December (14 meals = $98) will receive a discounted price of $90.

We want to be good stewards so please make a reservation each week or purchase pre-paid meals. To make reservations, call Liz at 913-671-2359, email at liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go online at www.villagepres.org click on “Connect”, then “Adult”, then “Wednesday Night Dinner.”

Do You Need a New Village Church Nametag?

Please contact liz.middleton@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331 if you need a new church nametag.
COMMUNICATION

Communications Changes

Now that we are fully one church worshiping at two campuses, starting in September, we are making some changes in our regular communications with you.

Starting Wednesday, Sept. 6, we will launch a weekly enews for Village on Mission members and attendees. This will be emailed each Wednesday. It will focus on what’s happening that week at Village on Mission. On Friday afternoons Rev. Hallie Hottle will continue to send out a weekly enews highlighting what’s happening at Village on Antioch. Rev. Tom Are will continue his weekly eNote on Friday mornings, but starting Friday, Sept. 8, the enote will be focused on what’s happening in worship that Sunday and thoughts from Rev. Are. This will be emailed to folks at both Village Church campuses.

Also starting in September, we are moving to one monthly issue of the Good News newsletter that is mailed out the first Wednesday of the month. We will continue to mail the Good News to those of you who want the printed edition. An online pdf version will be posted on http://www.villagepres.org/good-news-newsletter.html and we will include a link to the Good News in the weekly enews. We will no longer send out an online only Good News the third Wednesday of the month.

If you have any questions, please email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Inviting You to Share Your Musical Gifts

We hope you’ll join us this fall! Rehearsals begin right after Labor Day. Here is our schedule of “first rehearsals” – hope to see you there!

**Wednesday, Sept. 6**

The More Love Chorale (our Once-a Month Choir)  
6:30-7:30 p.m., Room 15  
Contact Will Breytspraak for more information william.breytspraak@villagepres.org

Village Ringers (our advanced five-octave hand bell choir)  
5:30-6:45 p.m., Room 14  
Contact Elisa Bickers for more information elisa.bickers@villagepres.org

Village Brass  
7-8:15 p.m., Sanctuary  
Contact Matthew Shepard for more information matthew@villagepres.org

**Thursday, Sept. 7 continued**

Village Choir  
7-8:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
Contact Will Breytspraak for more information william.breytspraak@villagepres.org

Chamber Choir  
8:40-9:40 p.m., Room 14  
Contact Matthew Shepard for more information matthew@villagepres.org

**Thursday, Sept. 7**

Morning Bells (our intermediate hand bell choir)  
10-11 a.m., Room 14  
Contact Will Breytspraak for more information william.breytspraak@villagepres.org

Alegrìa Choir (our young adult choir)  
6:45-7:15 p.m. (snacks at 6:30 p.m.), Room 14  
Contact Elisa Bickers for more information elisa.bickers@villagepres.org

Morning Stars (separate K-2 & 3-6th grade choirs)  
10:30-11 a.m. (a part of the 9:30-11 a.m. Kids Kingdom program)  
Contact Jenny Hull for more information jenny.hull@villagepres.org

Village Voices Youth Choir  
5-6:30 p.m., Room 14  
Contact Matthew Shepard for more information matthew@villagepres.org

**Sunday, Sept. 10**

Alegrìa Choir
New Growing Through Grief Series Starts Sept. 6

If you have lost a loved one, coming to a five-week class called “Growing Through Grief” might be helpful. You will 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 next “Growing Through Grief” is from 6:30-7:45 p.m. every Wednesday, Sept. 6 – Oct. 4, in Room 124. You’ll receive your own copy of Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. The series and book is offered at no cost. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

Crepes and Conversation

Bonjour! Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church and guests to join us for complimentary crepes and refreshments from 9:30-11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13, in Friendship Hall.

Our annual Presbyterian Women (PW) Fall Kickoff event, “Crepes and Conversation” offers the opportunity to enjoy a make-your-own crepes bar with delicious toppings. You will also learn what is happening in PW, visit with friends; and we hope you find a comfortable group of women to grow with in your faith.

We kindly request your RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 6. RSVP online at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0545a8a729a1f85-crepes or contact Marianne Weber at marianne@villagepres.org or 913-671-2333.

Child care is available with advance reservations. Contact Pam by Sept. 6 at pam.southerland@villagepres.org or 913-671-2352 for your reservation.

Amis, crepes et la joie! Bienvenue!
Summer Adult Sunday Morning Class

Faith Seeking Understanding. Conversations on the Sermon Text for All Adults - As this class concludes, all adults are invited to study and discuss the Bible text for the day’s sermon. The class welcomes persons who are new to the Bible as well as those who are more familiar with the Bible. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will guide the final class from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Aug. 20. Rooms 126-127.

Now That You Have Your Google ID, What Do You Do With It? The Village Church Computer Ministry is hosting "water cooler sessions" on the first Wednesday of the month. The last sessions will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 6, in Room 316. Learn how the Google suite of products can be used to collaborate with others while doing God’s work in the church and the community. Topics will include Gmail and InBox, Google Calendar, Google Docs, Google Spreadsheets, Google Drive and Google Keep.

Fall 2017 Village U

Registration is now open for church members. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21 for community members. See the course catalog at http://www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.html.

Upcoming Village U courses include:

Great Books Discussion - If you’re interested in reading selections that stimulate your critical thinking, come discuss many of the great authors and their ideas which support our western civilization. Books are ordered from The Great Books Foundation. The Great Books Group will welcome you on the first Tuesday of each month. Child care is not available. Led by Jane Abildgaard. 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 5-Dec. 5, Room 127.

Ernest Hemingway - After spending a year with William Faulkner, we are going to turn our attention this semester to three works from his literary antithesis (and sometimes rival) Ernest Hemingway. As always, it’s helpful to read from the same edition. We will be using the following: The Sun Also Rises ISBN-10: 0743297334 ISBN-13: 978-0743297332; A Farewell to Arms ISBN-10: 1476764522 ISBN-13: 978-1476764528; and For Whom the Bell Tolls ISBN-10: 0684803356 ISBN-13: 978-0684803357. For the first class, please read the The Sun Also Rises. Taught by Kelly Fast. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 7-Oct. 19, Room 232.

Especially for Women - Two of our wisest spiritual giants, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, "have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships -- or, as they would say, because of them -- they are two of the most joyful people on the planet." Instructor Rev. Diane Quaintance invites you to come join this class of bright, lively, and inquisitive women as we discuss their book, The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World, and the place of joy in our own faith journeys. To purchase a book ($21), contact Marianne Weber. 913-671-2333 or marianne@villagepres.org. 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 8-Dec. 29, Room 132.

Breakfast and Bible with Your Buddies - Join Rev. Tom Are for a morning Bible study. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast, and Rev. Are will offer a reflection on passages from Scripture. There will be time for discussion as well. So, invite a friend and join the fellowship Tuesday mornings. To make a reservation for breakfast, please contact marianne.weber@villagepres.org. Cost: $6. Child care is not available. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Oct. 31, Room 228.

Beginner Excel - Daytime - Topics include identifying the components of an Excel spreadsheet, entering data into an Excel spreadsheet, formatting information, sorting data and inserting and deleting rows and columns. Students will be creating a simple spreadsheet during the class to reinforce learning. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, Room 316.

Organ 101: Up Close and Personal - You are invited to get “up close and personal” with Village Church on Mission's amazing new pipe organ. Dr. Elisa Bickers, Village on Mission principal organist, says there is a lot to love about this magnificent instrument. You will explore how the organ works, hear the new organ’s varied sounds, and even go inside the organ for a closer look. All questions are welcome. Please wear comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes if you would like to go inside the organ. Class limit: 20 people. 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Sept. 13, Sanctuary.
**ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY**

**Beginner Excel - Evening** - Topics include identifying the components of an Excel spreadsheet, entering data into an Excel spreadsheet, formatting information, sorting data and inserting and deleting rows and columns. Students will be creating a simple spreadsheet during the class to reinforce learning. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, Room 316.

**The following Adult Sunday classes will resume on Sept. 10 at 9:30 a.m.:**

**Faith Journey** - The class will study the book, *The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear*, by Michael Kinnamon. We live in a world driven by fear. But should we allow fear to play such a large role in our lives? According to the religions of the world, the answer is no. In this helpful and illuminating book, the author challenges readers to consider why. Led by Kathy Ray. Room 230.

**Foundations of Faith** offers challenging discussion of a wide range of topics based on presentations by visiting teachers or video-discussion format. Class members are singles & couples, ages 50+, who enjoy participating in discussion and exploration of new ideas while welcoming a diversity of perspectives. Facilitated by Darryl Bertsch. Room 15.

**Growing Together** class is for adults in their 40’s and 50’s who are interested in growing together in context of their families. Most participants either have kids at home or are empty nesters. The average attendance is 20-25 participants; some are regulars and others come as their schedule allows. Growing Together welcomes anyone who is looking for opportunities to grow using Christ’s principles as we apply Jesus to our lives today. The format is lively discussion based on a video clip. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre. Room 124.

**Village Forum - The Search for God - Evolving from Search into Theology** - This three-week series continues the five-week series led by John Borden in the spring. The Sept. 10 session will address the development of our beliefs into theology, the Sept. 17 session will cover the key questions of theology, and the Sept. 24 session will pull it all together into a look at various current theologies. Room 126.

**SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY TASK FORCE**

**Seeking Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly with God**

There are six people in our family, but only five sit down to dinner. That’s because my mom doesn’t eat. She wants to make sure we have enough to eat. – Vanessa, age 6


Over 43 million Americans live day to day in food insecurity. In Kansas, the average SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefit is $4.47 per day.

SNAP benefits are often misunderstood, and cutting them is currently proposed by the Federal Government. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, most SNAP participants who can work, do work. Children, seniors, and those with disabilities comprise almost two-thirds of all SNAP participants. There is worry that food stamp clients waste their benefits on alcohol and cigarettes when that is prohibited by law. Also prohibited are non-food but essential items like soaps, toothpaste, cleaners, pet food, and paper products including toilet paper. Mothers are often desperate for diapers.

Participants in the SNAP Challenge realized that the SNAP Challenge did not come close to the authentic experience of being poor in America but found that its real value was in examining our own privilege and finding ways to help others in the midst of it.

Village Church’s Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force seeks to educate and advocate about social and economic issues such as hunger, gun violence, mass incarceration, healthcare and immigration.

For more information about the work of the task force, see the Village Church website under connect>adult>social justice.
Village Cares for God’s Creation

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has invested $100 million in a fossil fuel free portfolio, significantly expanding its commitment to environmentally responsible investing. Many investors, including Village Church’s Endowment Trust committee, are seeing the relationship between environmental stability and financial stability. As stewards of all of the resources that God has entrusted to our care, we give thanks to God for the Presbyterian Board of Pensions and our Endowment Trust Committee.

New School Year in Kids’ Kingdom

Kids in Kindergarten and 1st Grade:
Our youngest elementary kids start their faith journey with Growing in Grace & Gratitude, which is rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God’s grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship; extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love; and reaches beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God’s grace.
Kindergarten meets in Room 311, 1st grade meets in Room 303.

Kids in 2nd through 5th Grade:
We will start off the new school year learning the favorite stories from both the Old and New Testament. Beginning with the great Judges and Kings from the Old Testament, and just in time for Advent, we will move into the prophecies of a Savior to be born in Bethlehem. We will jump into the new year (2018!) learning about how women play an important part in telling God’s story and end the school year exploring the various ways the Gospels tell us about Jesus’ life.

Kids in 6th Grade:
The curriculum for our "tweens" is called Connect. Connect is a Bible-centered curriculum, with just enough humor to get sixth graders hooked. Using quirky videos, hands-on activities and Bible exploration, Connect helps preteens uncover major Biblical themes and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives. We meet in Room 301 with our Heartland Camp intern.

Labor Day Sunday
There will be no Church School for the elementary grades or preschool ages on Sept. 3 (Labor Day weekend) in order to allow our volunteer staff to have a day to worship with their families. Nursery and toddler care will be provided.

Get Ready For Back To School!
Regular Church School classes (Preschool and Kids’ Kingdom) resumes Sunday Sept. 10.

Volunteer Opportunities
Don’t miss your chance to help grow the faith of our children. There are still opportunities to teach in the in Kids’ Kingdom (1st grade and 4th grade Teaching Team). Call Cheryl (913-671-2355) for more information.
Cheryl Couch-Thomas Accepting New Call at Heartland Center

Cheryl Couch-Thomas has served as director of Children & Family Ministry at Village Church for over five years. She is leaving Village at the end of this month to begin a new position in hospitality ministry at Heartland Center in Parkville.

Cheryl has two master’s degrees. The first is in Library and Information Science. The second is in Christian Education from Union Presbyterian Seminary. She worked as a librarian for a total of 25 years, 14 of which were at William Jewell College, and the first 11 at the public library in Kansas City, Kan. where she met her husband David. They have two children. “My youngest, Ian, is starting college at University of Arizona. My oldest, Axton, lives at home.”

Her Road to Village Church

“When I was working at the library, I was feeling not very fulfilled at that job. I went through a discernment process with a couple of friends and a pastor, and decided to go to seminary. I had been working on a volunteer basis at the Church Resource Center, which is a part of the Heartland Presbytery office. My friend, who is the resource specialist there, told me there was an interim position at Village and encouraged me to apply. So I did. I got the interim position, did that for a year, and then reapplied for the permanent position and was called to that.”

Her Next Chapter

Cheryl has volunteered at Heartland Center for the past 25 years. “Before I was married, I would volunteer a week of every summer at Heartland Camp as a volunteer counselor. I had a blast and fell in love with the place. My husband and I were married at Heartland Camp. I’ve served on the board at Heartland Center for the past six years. I’ve done all sorts of volunteer things and am looking forward to working there. It’s just 15 minutes from my house. I’ll be working with groups that are coming in the conference side of Heartland Center and starting in the spring, I’ll help get things ready for the stationary day camp there in Parkville and in Olathe, as well as the overnight camps.”

To the Village Congregation

“I’ve truly enjoyed meeting all the lovely families here at Village. It just thrills me to see the Holy Spirit touch kids, and I can see that when that happens,” said Cheryl. “It’s been such a tremendous honor to be surrounded by a community of so many gracious and wise people who are caring and loving.”

“We give thanks for Cheryl’s faithful and energetic leadership these past five years,” said Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate. “Time and again, she has reminded us all of the precious gift of our children and our ministry to and with them, and she has helped us all see the importance of caring for and nurturing our families. Cheryl is loved and known beyond Village Church across the Heartland Presbytery and this new call seems a perfect fit for her. We wish her the very best in this new ministry.

We are working to identify an interim director and then will form a search committee to call a new leader for Village Church in Children and Family Ministry.”
On Sunday, July 30, 250 people filled Friendship Hall for the ordination service for Owen Gray as part of The Gathering. Rev. Tom Are said, “I think it was eight years ago I took Owen to lunch for pizza at the Bronx. Owen was getting ready to go to college in Nebraska and I told him, ‘Look. You’re smart enough to do anything you want to do. Just think about the church. The church needs people like you. You’ve got gifts for ministry and I don’t know if God’s going to call you into that, but just think about it.’ I don’t know if Owen remembers that lunch, but I do. Owen did share his memories of so many at Village who encouraged him, supported him, and contributed to his sense of call to ministry.”

It was a joyous day for Owen, for his family and for the Village family. We wish Owen, his wife Grace and little Ruth the very best as they begin a new life in Indianapolis, where Owen will serve as a Lake Fellow resident at Second Presbyterian Church.
Because of your generosity …

every other month Cross-Lines Community Outreach volunteers provide people affected by poverty and relief from hunger with a nutritious and delicious lunch.