

GOOD NEWS

ONLINE EDITION



The Village Church *Good News* is published twice a month (printed once a month, online only mid-month) for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to: the Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

AUGUST 18, 2015

Neema Community Church Has a New Worship Space

This August, the 300+ member Neema Community Church is now worshipping at 621 South Lee Avenue in Olathe, on what was previously the First Presbyterian Church. In order to accommodate its growing congregation, Heartland Presbytery has arranged for a move of Neema's 250-seat location on



Neema's new worship space

95th Street in Overland Park for the 600+ sanctuary in Olathe.

"This move will allow all members of Neema to worship

together on Sundays as well as find ample parking," shares Reverend Dr. David Nzioka. "Ninety percent of our congregation is Kenyan or Tanzanian, and they come to church to worship and enjoy fellowship, experiencing a sense of community. The change will help nurture the needs of our members and give us room to grow."

In addition, Rev. Nzioka foresees expansion of the congregation as his church focuses on reaching out to a sizeable Hispanic population in Olathe and also opens its own food pantry.

Since 2004 when Neema started as an immigrant church at the Village Church's Center for Mission on 99th Street, Rev. Nzioka has focused on developing a multicultural congregation with a mission of providing an authentic experience with God and learning more about the love of Jesus Christ. For many congregants, Neema has been a place to find community, belonging and healing. Members come from all over the metropolitan Kansas City area, including Lawrence.

Like his counterparts at the Haitian Christian Fellowship and Arabic Christian Fellowship in Kansas City, Rev. Nzioka brings a keen understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing many who seek a new life in the United States. With a Master of Divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry in Missiology from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa, he not only provides spiritual leadership, but helps many in his congregation navigate the American system and obtain housing while they pursue employment and post-secondary education.

In addition, Rev. Nzioka with his wife Dorothy and four children maintain very close ties to his birthplace of Thwake in Kenya. In coordination with the Heartland Presbytery, he has helped spearhead in his village the construction of a clinic, water well, Presbyterian Church and, in May of 2016, the opening of a children's home.

Village members are invited to attend an open house at Neema's new Olathe location from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27.



A team from Heartland Presbytery, including Rev. David Nzioka and Village members Dr. John Hall and Scott Stanley, traveled to Kenya this past May to work in the Thwake Village clinic.

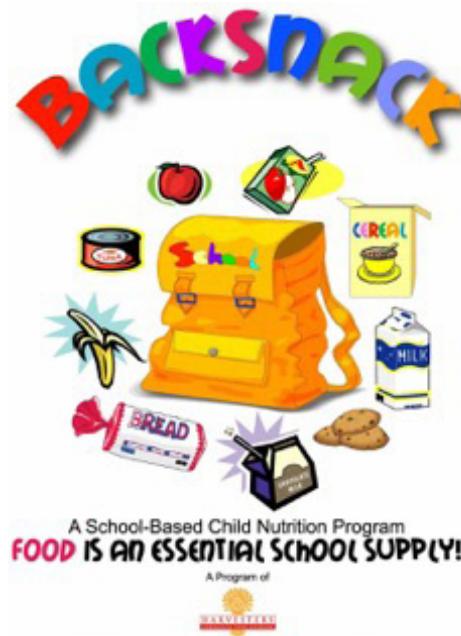
BackSnack Means the World to Kids Who Don't Have Food

More than 100,000 children in Harvesters' service area receive free and reduced-price school meals during the week, but are at risk of hunger on weekends.

Harvesters offers the BackSnack program which provides backpacks of food to low-income children for the weekend, to combat weekend hunger. The program creates a partnership between Harvesters, a participating school and a local corporate, civic or religious organization.

Harvesters provides the food and the partnering organization provides volunteers who assemble, pack and deliver to the participating schools. Schools distribute the food packages to students on Friday who bring them back on Monday to start the process again. For the past six years, Village Church volunteers have participated in the BackSnack program and during 2014-15 school year, Village provided food weekly to 105 children at Overland Park Elementary and Nieman Elementary, totaling 3,045 meals for the year. Food is generally packed up on Thursday at the Village Food Pantry and delivered on Friday.

Our efforts and the work of other organizations across Kansas City are making a difference.



Harvesters hired the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership to evaluate the impact of the program. Two groups of stakeholders – students and schools –

were surveyed to determine how BackSnack impacts students in seven key areas: grades, attendance, behavior, health, self-esteem, responsibility and social skills. Key findings of the evaluation are:

- Absences for medical reasons decreased.
- Science grades increased by 12 percent.
- BackSnack students had 9 percent fewer tardies.
- Student visits to the nurse were reduced by 10 percent.
- Student visits to school counselor or social worker were reduced by 19 percent.

Children reported an increase in trying new things, meeting new people, make choices and getting "in trouble" less.

Over the years, Village has helped pack over 16,500 nutritious meals through the school adoption program, food that is critical to a child's physical and emotional growth. One student said, "I love Backsnacks because they have healthy stuff like apples and milk and stuff." The schools also rave about the program as they witness, "much improved behavior" among their at-risk students.

If you are interested in helping to distribute meals to our partner schools during the 2015-16 school year, please call Amy Turpin at 913-908-1138 (amyjturpin@gmail.com) or Jane Emley at 913-302-7544.

Food Pantry

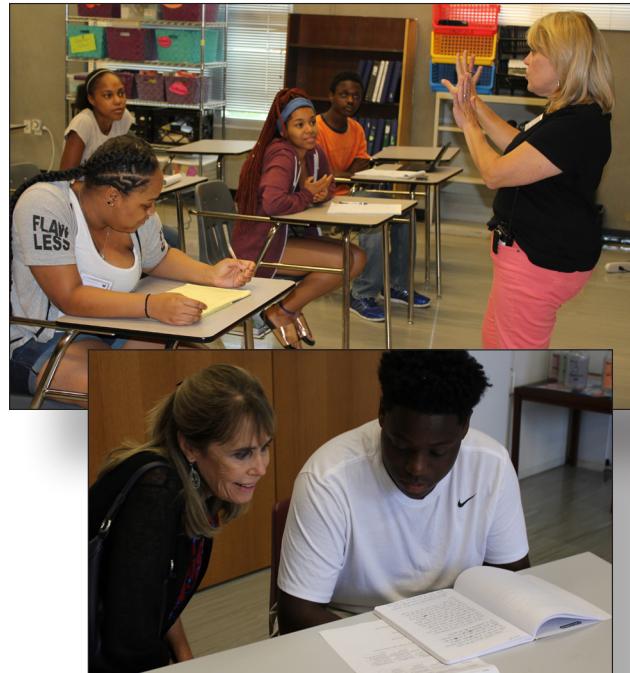
All the children (or most of them) are back at school and now the Food Pantry is concentrating on their lack of variety of canned fruit (think peaches, mandarin oranges, pears, fruit cocktail, etc.) You can help! Put several cans into the plastic grocery shopping bags (that the Pantry also needs), and bring them along to church with you on each visit. For something different for which the clients are always looking for, how about mustard, mayo, jelly, vegetable oil – but remember - NO GLASS. The Clothes Closet is asking for small kitchen appliances, and large sized clothing for all seasons. Donations can be dropped off at Food Pantry bins at Village Church entrances.

Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines

On Friday, Sept. 11, Village Church will 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 volunteers to help serve from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. If you can't cook or serve, we also need folks to donate cookies. The cookies can be dropped off at the church reception desk between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10. If you can help, please contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or at marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

Hillcrest Can Use Pots & Pans and More!

Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Kansas is seeking donations of new and gently used kitchenware, especially pots, pans and casserole dishes. Hillcrest provides temporary housing and case management for homeless families so they may become self-supportive contributors to society. Village Church sponsors one of Hillcrest's 28 adult apartments and 10 teen apartments in Wyandotte and Johnson County. Drop off your donations at the Village receptionist desk or at Deborah White's office by Monday, Aug. 21. Contact Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 with questions.



A Visit with Youth Ambassadors

Youth Ambassadors is an educational work program designed to empower underserved youth. Young people from both sides of the state line are hired as ambassadors of their neighborhoods during non-school hours when teenagers are most vulnerable to negative influences.

This summer 75 middle and high school age youth attended the program hosted at the DeLaSalle Education Center. On July 21, several members of the Mission Committee observed classes at the center and toured with executive director Paige O'Connor.

Village Church, in coordination with the Front Porch Alliance, has helped cover some of the programming costs in areas such as anger management, crisis resolution, recognition of impediments to success, fiscal responsibility, goal setting, healthy relationships, leadership skills and informed choices.

Youth Ambassadors also provides year round academic support, teaches soft job skills and helps each Ambassador set a clear objective for high school graduation and post high school academic studies or career. The program is designed to provide a "first job" experience. Through the receipt of a paycheck, youth learn banking skills and fiscal responsibility, work place parameters and personal accountability.

If you would like to volunteer with Youth Ambassadors or adopt an Ambassador, please send an email to youthambassadorskc.org.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Tell Me More About This Church: Conversation with Tom Are

"Tell Me More About This Church" is a special opportunity for those newer to Village Church to spend time with Senior Pastor Tom Are and learn more about Village Presbyterian Church. This class will be offered in two parts from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15 (part 1), and Tuesday, Sept. 22, in Room 230 (south end of the building/2nd floor). Dinner will be provided. Contact Stacy Fischer at 913-671-2334 or stacy.fischer@villagepres.org or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to register.

Child care is available for this event, with seven days advance notice. Please make child care reservations by contacting Marjean Lindquist at 913-671-2322 or marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org.

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.

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.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Second Thursday Recitals Resume Thursday, Sept. 10

The first concert of the second season of the Second Thursday Recital Series will be on Sept. 10, in the Village Chapel. Our guest musicians are Beau Bledsoe on lute and tenor David Adams performing songs of John Dowland. The concert starts at 12:15 p.m. Come early and have lunch at The Village Cup and then enjoy the delightful artistry of this dynamic duo.



The Most Fascinating People

Our **Summer Sundays** series concludes on Aug. 23 with a lesson about Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah (Nehemiah 8) – taught by Sarah Are.

The **Fall 2015 Village U** catalog is now available, and class registration is open! You may enroll for all courses online at <http://villagepres.org/ministries-programs/village-u-community-classes/>, by email (marianne.weber@villagepres.org), by calling Marianne at 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119 at Village Church. If you have questions, contact the Adult Ministry Office at 913-671-2333.

Fall 2015 Village U programs offer a wide umbrella encompassing all our learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location.

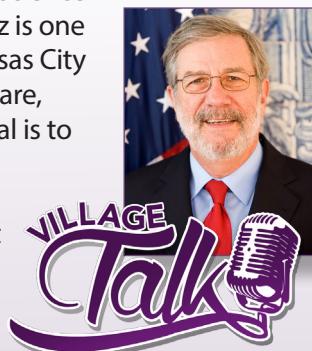
Village U Highlights:

Sermon Conversations, 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9-30, in Room 232

Michael and Diana Bay will lead conversations of Rev. Tom Are's 2012 sermon series "**Free To Be Me.**" There is much talk of freedom in our culture and around the world today. But what does it mean to be free? The Gospel provides an insight that is life-giving regarding freedom. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Each Wednesday, participants will view and discuss a sermon in this series.

Village Talk, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the Village Chapel

Host Brian Ellison will interview our guest Ambassador Allan Katz, a distinguished professor of public affairs and political science at UMKC. Ambassador Katz is one of the founders of the Kansas City Chapter of The Village Square, an organization whose goal is to engage in dialogue, build connections and seek understanding about polarizing issues, even while disagreeing.



School of Theology, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 4, in Room 127

Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee, one of Village's most popular teachers, brings the wisdom of his years as a senior pastor and his lifelong interest in history to Village. In this class he focuses on the development of the Christian tradition in America by looking at the religious landscape of colonial Virginia. Marked by a surprising degree of diversity, this patchwork quilt of church life helped to create a religious and cultural ethos that led to the uniquely American concept of the separation of church and state. Reading resources will be provided.



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-Oct. 25 in Room 127.

The Faith Journey class believes it's important to all of our faith journeys to grow from listening to the insights of others. Our format is to use book studies, guest speakers, and videos to explore new perspectives and our own beliefs. This fall we'll be led by Judy Matthewson in a video exploration of the tenets of Buddhism. Our first book study will be Marcus Borg's *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*. Faith Journey meets in Room 230.

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

The **Village Forum** class will be led by Gus Breytspraak on Sept. 13-27 and will study *Short Stories by Jesus* in Room 126.

10:45 a.m.

Inquirers will have their initial class meeting on Sept. 13 with get-acquainted activities, an overview of study topics, introduction of the first study topic and refreshments. From 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.

"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.

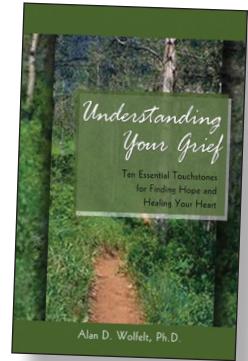
Are You Searching for a New Job?

The Career Center classes can help you plan and conduct your job search in today's job market. We'll show you how to find job openings, how to approach these employers, and the difference between just "looking for a job" and "conducting a planned step-by-step job search." The next series begins at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14, in Room 232. If you want to register for these classes, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

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.

PREBYTERIAN WOMEN

Bonjour! Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church and guests to join us for complimentary crepes and refreshments from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 16, in Rooms 232 and 233.

Our annual Presbyterian Women (PW) fall 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.

Repeating the success of last year's event, "Crepes and Conversation" coincides with the Shawnee Mission East SHARE program's Renovation Homes Tour.

Optional Homes Tour tickets may be purchased at Hen House (\$25, if purchased before Sept. 16). Plan to find a carpool at our gathering and tour five lovely renovated homes, located nearby.

Child care is available with advance reservations, and will be open until 1 p.m. Please contact Pam by Sept. 9 at pam.southerland@villagepres.org or 913-671-2352 to make your child care reservation.

We kindly request your RSVP by Friday, Sept. 12. [Click here](#) or send an email to Julie Foster at foster.julie@icloud.com. We look forward to meeting and visiting with friends, both long-time and new.

Amis, crepes et la joie! Bienvenue!



Traveling Day Camp 2015

Traveling Day Camp the last week in July was a total blast. Fifty-eight children enjoyed activities like Bible Study, Glob Tag, Four Square in the Air, Gaga Ball, volleyball, archery, obstacle course, all kinds of water games like slip and slide, Drip, Drip, Drop, crafts (where Dortha Hargadine and Janet Bates have volunteered three years in a row), Bible baseball and more. Age ranges were kindergarten through 6th grade. Our thanks to our friends at Southminster Presbyterian Church for hosting us this year as we are in the middle of construction. Special thanks to photographer Erin Thomas for capturing the fun with these great pics.



Get ready for Back to School!

Regular Church School classes (Preschool and Kids' Kingdom) resume Sunday, Sept. 13. **There will be no Church School for the elementary grades on Sept. 6 (Labor Day weekend).**

New Year, New Unit in Kids' Kingdom

The Elementary aged students will start off the new school year learning favorite stories from the bible with units on creation and prophets of the Old Testament.

Volunteer Opportunities

Don't miss your chance to help grow the faith of our children. There are still opportunities to teach in the Two-Year-Old and Three-Year-Old classrooms and in Kids' Kingdom (5th Grade Teaching Team). Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.

Looking Ahead at Village Church Preschool...

August has arrived and we are busy preparing for the upcoming school year. Our annual "Get Acquainted Parties" and Parent Orientation Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 3, and Friday, Sept. 4. Preschool classes will begin on Sept. 8 & 9. We can hardly wait! Enrolled families will be receiving details in the mail this month. We still have a couple of openings. Call 913-671-2338 if interested.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Mark Your Calendars - Youth Sunday, Aug. 30

All summer long our youth have not only had youth group and other events here at home, but have also traveled to different locations for the sake of helping others, learning about their own spiritual journey, and discovering the ways God is at work in a world much larger than their own communities at home. On Sunday, Aug. 30, Village youth will lead worship. We'll hear just a small sampling of those experiences, such as the Village Voices choir tour to Oklahoma, the big mission trip to New York where our young people worked on three projects while on Long Island all related to Hurricane Sandy relief, and the high school trip to Montreal.

Camp and Conference in North Carolina.



GOODNEWS



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Village Commitment Corner

Because of your generosity...



... Vacation Bible School "Camp Discovery" took place July 13-17. More than 188 children participated and learned that Jesus works in and through us! Mission projects through-out the week supported Blessings Abound, City Union Mission, Cross-Lines, Operation Breakthrough, Talk, Read & Play and the Village Church Food Pantry.

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