Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work: Signature Mission Selected for 2016

What is Signature Mission? This fund, which is generally combined with the Mission Legacy Funds from Endowment, provides the monies for a larger than customary gift from Village Church to a community nonprofit. These funds may help start new programs, expand infrastructure and/or serve new clientele. In general, Signature Mission provides funds to help a local organization grow. It offers an authentic opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through service work and an identifiable place to grow in relationship with God.

This summer, the Mission Committee of Village Presbyterian Church selected the DeLaSalle Education Center’s PACES program expansion as the Signature Mission for 2016. Founded in 1971, DeLaSalle Education Center is an innovative charter high school serving students, ages 14 to 20, who have struggled in other schools or dropped out, an alternative to traditional school. It is the only charter high school in the state of Missouri dedicated to serving the high risk urban core. DeLaSalle’s PACES is 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 by providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children, teaching teen parents effective parenting skills and creating opportunities for parent and child interaction. PACES is licensed by the State of Missouri, The Family Conservancy, Head Start, Early Head Start and the Mid-America Regional Council.

PACES can take up to 20 children but currently only has 11 children enrolled due to funding limitations for hiring additional staff. Through grants from Village Endowment and the Mission Committee totaling $28,248, the program will be able to expand to its fully licensed capacity and offer PACES to other charter schools that are sponsored by UMKC, including Allen Village School, Frontier School of Excellence, Frontier STEM High School and University Academy. Marketing efforts also will be underway to target the remaining area charter schools sponsored by Central Missouri State University and University of Missouri-Columbia, as well as all high schools in the Kansas City, Missouri School District. The KCMO School District remains unserved in this area since the closing of its Teenage Parent Center several years ago.

Success of teen parents in the program is measured in multiple ways through attendance and graduation rates, growth in academic competencies and state testing. Teachers also evaluate the children in PACES using developmental assessments and parent involvement. This recent 2014-2015 school year, 88 percent of seniors graduated with 14 going to a four-year college, 25 to a two-year college, two to vocational technical school, eight to full-time work and one into the military.

Thank you, Village Church, for helping expand this unique program with your annual gifts. Your contribution will strengthen self-esteem and self-worth for both parent and child. Opportunities exist to mentor/tutor a student, work in child care, provide career counseling, and guide activities in the student press, art club, drama and culinary arts.

If you would like to know more about DeLaSalle’s PACES program or would like to volunteer with the program, contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or email deborah.white@villagepres.org.
MISSION

Back to School Time for Cross-Lines Computer Lab

During 2015, Village Church assisted with the launch of a new computer lab at Cross-Lines Computer Outreach in Kansas City, Kansas. This computer lab assists clients with on-line job searches, resumes and applications. It also offers access to technology needed to help parents track their children’s educational progress and grade reports, communicate with family members out of state and check their benefits online.

“One elderly client comes every week for a class,” shares Susila Jones, Cross-Lines executive director. “She cannot drive, but each week she finds someone to bring her. She is almost blind, so Cross-Lines has obtained special applications on the computer that allow her to see the monitor more clearly. She is so excited to learn how to operate the computer and communicate with her out-of-town family. Although she is not looking for employment, access to the computer lab has considerably increased her quality of life.”

Currently, Cross-Lines has approximately 10-15 clients using the computer lab on a regular basis and many more who have accessed it once or twice, to set up email accounts and submit resumes. This week another round of word processing classes begins with instructor-led instruction followed by self-guided study. Several Village Church volunteers will be helping with these classes. If you are interested in assisting in the computer lab, contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry would currently love donations of all types of dry pasta and canned spaghetti sauce. Think Italian! Your food gifts may be dropped off in the Food Pantry donation boxes at the south main entrance, near the crib room and near the west exit by the Chapel door. Also, please mark your calendars for Peanut Butter Sunday on Sept. 20. Thank you for your wonderful support of our Pantry!

Front Porch Alliance Partner Program Emphasizes Value of Respect

Front Porch Alliance is the Ivanhoe partner with Urban Ranger Corps to provide a two-week summer program for boys entering 7th and 8th grades. Their programs are designed to encourage young teens to make positive life decisions and to achieve passing grades in school.

America Patton, their leader, emphasizes the program’s value of respect. Everywhere they go, they discuss how best to show respect to the individuals they meet. Also, with the assistance of Terrez Lewis, a college-bound former Jr. Urban Ranger, they are leading drills which teach attention and teamwork.

The Jr. Urban Rangers were on the move in their recent program. They toured Harvesters, the Community Food Network in Kansas City, and volunteered to flex their muscles by unloading bags of sweet potatoes.

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.
The Unsung Heroes of Construction

It’s an exciting time for Village with three construction projects underway. It’s also been an unusually busy time for our custodial team and facilities coordinator who work behind-the-scenes to ensure Village continues being Village during this time of construction.

In a typical school year, Village has a staggering 400 events a week at the church and about 350 a week during the summer. The unavailability of the Sanctuary building has had a domino effect on scheduling.

“The groups that can’t be in the Sanctuary move to this end and the people who were already here need to go somewhere else,” said Mary Cashin, facilities coordinator and room scheduler. “Now the groups who used to meet at 99th Street are here, too. It’s like solving a big puzzle. We’ve utilized every single space—the coffee shop, the library, the children’s wing, changing little chairs and little tables to big chairs and big tables, etc. I wish we could use closets because we could use the space.”

The biggest logistical challenge has been the constant set up and strike down of Friendship Hall—and making sure the room is ready to go for Sunday morning worship. These unsung heroes do their very best to “MAKE IT WORK!”

“We have memorials in Friendship Hall throughout the week, dinners, meetings, wedding receptions, and then turn it over and get ready for Sunday morning worship,” said Buildings and Grounds Superintendent George Darrington. “It takes about two hours to set up the room and line up 378 chairs for worship, and that’s with anywhere from two to four guys working on it.”

“Kelly Furst takes real pride in making sure the room looks the same every Sunday morning. He uses a string and two set points to line up the chairs. The front constantly changes for whatever is happening in worship that particular Sunday. In July, we turned over Friendship Hall four or five times a week. In the fall, we’ll turn it over 8-10 times easily, if not more.”

Mary Cashin is in constant communication with Pearce Construction about large upcoming events. “Mary is our traffic manager,” said George. “She keeps us informed of what’s going on. She tries to be protective of us a little bit, telling folks the reality of how long it takes to turn over a room.”

The Village custodial team includes Dan Goodloe, Kelly Furst, Joe Westley, Tom Goodloe, Tim Eidson, Jerry Eidson, Kim George, Tim Freund and Greg Douglas.

“They work really hard trying to keep things together for everybody. They’re as loyal as they can be,” said George. “They’re all very dedicated and work hard at it. I’m proud of all of them.”

Mary says the best part of construction has been seeing and meeting more people. “I never really knew who was in choir. I never saw them. They’d come in Sunday through the north entrance, and sing, and leave out the north exit. It has been really nice to get to know the music staff now that they’re in the south end of the building, and meeting all the people in the choir.”

George and Mary ask for your prayers and patience during this time of construction. “Be of Good Cheer! We say it all the time. Be a little patient and we’ll get stuff taken care of,” said George. “Our main goal here is to help folks out and get the set up done the way they want it, and to make sure things work in the room. We want you to have a good memory of Village when you’re here.”
The Barnaby Bright Concert originally scheduled for Oct. 9 has been postponed until spring 2016. But don’t be sad; our October is packed with excitement! We’ve ADDED the Fall Food Truck Festival so mark your calendars, friends.

**Fall Food Truck Festival**
*A Community Social Event for All Ages!*
Sponsored by the Village Church Connectional Ministries Committee

5-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18
**Village Church South Parking Lot**
(Friendship Hall-in case of inclement weather)

Bring your family and your lawn chairs and come choose from **four** amazing, gourmet food trucks, including burgers, pizza, tacos, salads and more!
Food is very reasonably priced.
Drinks will be provided.
More details to come, so stay tuned.

**FALL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL**

**WOW Lunch in a Castle**

Ladies, come have lunch and feel like a queen! WOW, Women of Wisdom, cordially invites all ladies to have lunch at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at Renee Kelly’s Harvest, an upscale Farm-to-Table restaurant in Caenen Castle, 12401 Johnson Drive, in Shawnee. Known as the “Castle Restaurant,” the Caenen Castle is a historic stone masterpiece and is on the Kansas Historic Register, celebrating 108 years in 2015.

It was transformed into the area’s only real restored dining castle in 2012. Renee Kelly’s serves only local fare. The menu reflects locally grown, farm-fresh foods, organic when possible, prepared by Chef Renee Kelly. We look forward to warm, friendly fellowship while eating like queens!

Please ask for easy driving directions to the castle when you RSVP to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, or 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, or 913-432-4321. Deadline for your RSVP is Monday, Sept. 14. One carpool for only a limited number will be available, leaving the south entrance of the church no later than 11:20 a.m. on Sept. 16.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

**Second Thursday Recitals Resume Thursday, Sept. 10**

The first concert of the second season of the Second Thursday Recital Series will be Sept. 10, in the Village Chapel. Our guest musicians are Beau Bledsoe on lute and tenor David Adams performing songs of John Dowland. The free 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.
Tell Me More About This Church: Conversation with Rev. 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.

Core Connections Village Small Groups Launching in October

Rev. Tom Are just completed his next Core Connections video curriculum titled, “The Stories Jesus Loved to Tell.” The new nine-part series about the parables will be available to Core Connections conversation groups starting in October.

Our curriculum serves as a springboard for conversations, while relationship building remains a priority. Groups will launch in the fall (October), and subsequent groups will form as needed. 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.

Age 60’s Dinner

Please join us at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, at the Red Snapper Pan-Asian Bistro at 8430 Ward Parkway. Check out the menu at kcredsnapper.com. Reservations are under “Village Church.” Each person is responsible for their own tab. RSVP to Stacy at 913-671-2334 or stacy.fischer@villagepres.org.

Save the Date

On Tuesday evening, Oct. 13, “The “Great American Refugee Crisis: Immigration, Faith, & Advocacy,” will feature a dinner and expert panel discussion to consider this important issue. Sponsors are the Village Church Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force, Colonial Church, UCC, Prairie Village and Grandview Park Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Kansas. Watch the next Good News for registration and dinner details.

Back to School
New Sermon Series Starts Sept. 6

Do you remember those early days of school when you wondered who your new teacher was going to be? In the early days we had naptime and recess. We’re going to think about some of those things and some of the spiritual lessons we can learn from those very simple practices. Join us at Village as we go “Back to School” this September.

Remember Village...

Giving to the church through your will or trust is the most common way to continue your support beyond your lifetime. When your estate is prepared, please consider a gift to the church.

The Meneilly Society honors members and friends who, through their estate planning, have chosen to remember and support the future of Village. Contact Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325 for more information.
Weekly Wednesday Dinners Resume Sept. 9

Dine before or after your Wednesday class. The salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m., and the hot food buffet is open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy a well-balanced meal that is convenient. A full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar & dessert is $6. Cost for children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under eat for free. Call or email Stacy at 913-671-2334 or stacy.fischer@villagepres.org for a reservation.

September WND Menus:
Sept. 9  Fried chicken picnic, baked beans, potato salad
Sept. 16 Beef Stroganoff, egg noodles, vegetarian entrée
Sept. 23 Roast pork, mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, vegetarian entree
Sept. 30 Roasted chicken, wild rice pilaf, sweet potato casserole

Wednesday Night Classes- Village U

For questions or registration, call 913-671-2333 or email marianne.weber@villagepres.org. See class descriptions in the Village U Catalog or at villagepres.org.

CC.002 Very Basic Computer Class: 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16- Oct. 7, in Room 316

SP.001 Hymnology 101: From the Psalms to Amazing Grace and Beyond
5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 14, in the Chapel

BT.003 Sermon Conversations: 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Nov. 25, in Room 232

FL.001 Young Couples-Date Nights: 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, in Room 233

SP.003 Stephen Ministry Training: 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9-Nov. 18; Dec. 2-16, in Room 132

SI.001 Village Talk with special guest Ambassador Allan Katz, distinguished professor of public affairs and political science, University of Missouri at Kansas City
6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the Chapel

BT.006 Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables by a Controversial Rabbi
5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16-30, in Room 132

BT.008 School of Theology: Presbyterians, Puritans and Anglicans in 17th-Century Virginia
6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23- Nov. 4, in Room 127

Wednesday Night Music Choirs-Ensembles

Village Brass Ensemble will rehearse from 7-8:15 p.m. in the Assembly Hall at the Village Church Child & Family Development Center at 99th and Mission Road.

More Love Chorale choir will rehearse from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Rooms 132/133.

Visit villagepres.org for more information.
Operation Breakthrough Reading Program • Making a Difference, One Child at a Time
9:30-11 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23*-Oct. 28

*Complimentary Orientation Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23
Be a reading buddy. Read to a child. Engage in literacy activities. Men and women volunteers needed. You will make a difference in the life of a child and your own!
For six weeks in the fall and spring, our PW Operation Breakthrough Reading Program brings 40 children from Operation Breakthrough in Kansas City, Missouri, to our church for a wonderful, enriching experience with Village volunteers. Each child is paired with a reading buddy for the one-hour session. Many of these children do not have a male role model in their lives, and we have found that the MEN volunteers are very important to the boys who come to our program.
During each reading session, there will be group songs, guest readers, snacks, one-on-one reading with your reading buddy, and craft time. Each child is able to take home their craft and two books each week to start their own library.
If you are interested in signing up or have questions, contact Cindy Whitham at ciwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062.
Child care will be available beginning Sept. 23. Call Pam at 913-671-2352 to make a reservation by the Wednesday prior to the day you plan to volunteer.

PW Fall Event Sept. 16
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 discover what is happening in PW, visit with friends, and hopefully, 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 Sensation Homes Tour. Optional Homes Tour tickets may be purchased at Hen House in Prairie Village ($25, if purchased before Sept.16). We’ll plan carpools at our gathering to tour the five nearby lovely renovated homes.
Child care is available with advance reservations, and will be open until 1 p.m. Contact Pam by Sept. 10 at pam.southerland@villagepres.org or 913-671-2352 to make your child care reservation.
Please RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 10, at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0545a8a729a1f85-pwfal or send an email to Julie Foster at foster.julie@icloud.com.

All Presbyterian Women are invited to Save the Date for…
Presbyterian Women’s Retreat
Friday & Saturday, April 22 & 23, 2016
Heartland Presbyterian Conference and Retreat Center
Our speakers: Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin and her mother, Rev. Margaret Peery
Please join us for a weekend of enlightenment and inspiration as we discuss how our lives are always transforming and how we can bring our faith into these transitions.
Be on the look out for more information on the PW web page!
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.

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. To register for these classes, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

Taizé Worship Service Sept. 13
If you would like to catch your breath, take a break from stress, and are looking for a quiet, contemplative worship experience, please join us for our Taizé worship service. This service includes simple songs, silence, and scripture. Communion is also shared. Taizé worship takes place on the second Sunday of every month in the Chapel at 5 p.m. Our next service will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13.

Learning Insight On Caring for Those Affected by PTSD

On Thursday, Sept. 10, Yulonda Swanson-Moten, from LCMFT/Kansas City VA Hospital, will talk about caring for people who are affected by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This presentation is sponsored by Stephen Ministry and is open to the congregation and the public. 5-6 p.m. in Room 228.

Mark Your Calendar for the Classic Citizens Celebration!

If you are 75 or more years young, then you are a Village Church Classic Citizen! We want to celebrate you - please come and enjoy our Classic Citizen Celebration from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24, 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 Pastoral Care & Counseling and is made possible by volunteers. If you would like to help, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org. If you are a Classic Citizen, your invitation should soon be arriving in your mailbox soon.

A Prayer for the Strength to Reach Out for Help

I don't want to be a burden, God.
I certainly don't want pity.
But I can no longer do it all alone.
Help me, God.
Teach me not to be afraid to rely upon others.
Show me how to accept kindness.
Give me the courage to ask for help.
Teach me, God, that I am lovable.
I still have so much to offer, God.
Help me find the ways to transmit my wisdom,
to share my love,
to realize my talents,
to offer my reassurance and support.
Most of all, I place my trust in you, God.
I place my body and my soul in your hands,
and pray that you will be with me. Amen.

—Rev. Jenny McDevitt
Village U Fall Classes

Registration for the Village U fall 2015 term is now open! You may enroll for all courses at villagepres.org, by email (marianne.weber@villagepres.org), by calling Marianne at 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119.

Upcoming Village U courses:

Into the Classics: Dostoevsky and Camus - Our fall classics will be Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and Camus' *The Stranger*. Both works are 'confessional' novels in which the central character, in committing a terrible crime, goes through a change, which brings self awareness or enlightenment. Because both works are in translation, it helps to read from the same edition. We will be using the following: *Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoevsky, ISBN10: 0679734503 *The Stranger*, Albert Camus, ISBN10:0679720200. For the first class, please read parts one and two of *Crime and Punishment*. Taught by Kelly Fast and Michael Sanem from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 3-Oct. 8, in Room 232.

Especially for Women: Short Stories by Jesus - The renowned biblical scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers. In this wise, entertaining and educational book, the author offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. She interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later. Taught by Rev. Diane Quaintance from 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 11-Dec. 18, in Room 132.

Essential Oils 101: Intro to Essential Oils - Learn what therapeutic grade essential oils are, how they are applied and how they can be used to support our physical and emotional well-being. We will go through the most popular oils offered by Young Living and discover how these are the perfect beginning to an all-natural first aid for so many things life can throw your way. Taught by Amy Williams and Lindsey Leif from 7-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, in Room 126.

Breakfast and Bible with Your Buddies - Join Rev. Tom Are for a nine-week morning 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, email marianne.weber@villagepres.org, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 15-Nov. 10, in Room 228. Cost: $6.

Fall Adult Sunday Morning Classes

Starting Sept. 13

9:30 a.m.

The Faith Journey class believes it’s important to all of our faith journeys to grow from listening to the insights of others. 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* where he surveys the most significant conversations and a personality that shaped his life, and presents his convictions about the faith and its role in the 21st century. Room 230.

Cloud of Witnesses class, led by Rev. Dwight Tawney, will study “Searching for Moses” Sept. 13-Oct. 25. He has been called lawgiver, prophet, wonder worker, the mouthpiece of God and the preeminent leader of the Exodus community. As the most dominant personality in the Old Testament narrative from Exodus to Deuteronomy, Moses played a crucial role in setting forth the religious norms of an emerging nation. Yet the only sources identifying him are the biblical stories set in writing some 500 years before the events they purport to describe. No objects, no ancient documents reference him. However, recent archaeological discoveries are widening our historical and cultural understanding of the era in which Moses lived. This class will explore the biblical and archaeological record in search of new perspectives regarding the pivotal figure of Moses. Room 127.

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*. Room 126.

10:45 a.m.

Inquirers on Sept. 13 will have their initial class meeting for fall with get-acquainted activities, overview of study topics, introduction of 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*. Room 124.
Blessing of the Backpacks

Children of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpacks with them to church for a “Blessing of the Backpacks” on Sunday, Sept. 20. During the worship service, children will be invited to bring their backpacks up front to receive blessings and prayers. Invite your kids’ friends to worship that Sunday!

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Our 3rd graders will receive a new Bible during the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 20. Please contact Liz Middleton at 913-671-2359 if you did not receive an informational letter.

Parents of 6th Graders

After Labor Day, parents of 6th Graders interested in learning about social activities and service projects will meet for a brief informal planning meeting. The date is yet to be determined, but you will receive a letter at home. Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have a few extra hours to spare? The Children and Family Ministry has an opportunity for weekday office help. Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.

Village Moms Group

Village Moms Story Time and Crafts starts back up Tuesday, Oct. 6. Be on the lookout for more information.

Preschool Openings

It’s not too late! We have a couple of unexpected openings at Village Church Preschool. Our classes will begin next week (Sept. 8 & 9). If you know of someone moving into the area with a preschooler (ages 3, 4, and 5) who would benefit from a nationally accredited, active-learning, warm and nurturing early education program, please call Preschool Director Terri Gaeddert at 913-671-2338.

Morning Stars Starting Up Soon

Morning Stars, the children’s music ministry program, will soon be starting up for the fall semester. Morning Stars is a music and worship program for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. We meet each Sunday morning immediately following Kids’ Kingdom at 10:30 a.m. for choir and music, break for snacks and fellowship, then move on to our very own child-led worship service in the chapel from 11:30 a.m.-noon. We learn and practice the hymns and responses that are sung in worship, while instilling in our youngest members their value as part of the Village Church family. For more information, email Jenny Hull at jenny.hull@villagepres.org.
Village Church Recertified As An Earth Care Congregation

In June 2015, Village Church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation for the fifth year in a row!

Earth Care Congregations is a program sponsored by PC(USA)’s Department of Environmental Ministries. The purpose of this program is to inspire churches to care for God’s earth in a holistic way by incorporating earth care into their mission and ministry.

To become certified, a church affirms an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all aspects of its church life and to complete projects and activities in the four fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach. Certification is based on a scoring system that counts sustainable practices and earth care actions. To become certified the first time, the minimum number of points required in each field of action is 25. Re-certification requires 50 points with a minimum of 5 points in each category.

Using a scoring sheet, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) performed an environmental audit of activities and projects between March 2014 and February 2015. It determined that Village Church earned the following points:

- Worship 25
- Education 108
- Facilities 74
- Outreach 102

With 309 total points, re-certification is a recognition of what has been accomplished by various groups within the church (not just EAC). The Earth Care Congregation certificate has been framed and mounted on the wall between the Chapel and Friendship Hall.

The 25 points for worship include the performance of Haydn’s *The Creation* in April 2014 at the Kauffman Center. Led by Village Church’s music director Mark Ball, the concert attracted 1,400 people who experienced in music and words the message of creation care and environmental stewardship. During the benediction, Rev. Tom Are proclaimed that “Creation is God’s first act of love.”

Since the program’s launch in July 2010, 168 Presbyterian Churches across the U.S. have become certified as an Earth Care Congregations. Four of them are from Heartland Presbytery: Grace Covenant, Rolling Hills, Second Presbyterian, as well as Village.

Certification honors churches that make the commitment to be stewards of God’s good green earth and encourages other churches to follow their lead. Also, congregational members are invited to participate as individuals by completing similar actions in their homes.

If you have questions, contact Jerry Rees at 913-568-4240 or ReesVeenstra@aol.com.

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**National Drive Electric Week Event**

**4:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16**

**Village Church**

Electric vehicles will be available to view along the east side of the south parking lot at Village Church from 4:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16. Owners will answer questions and show the many great features of their electric vehicles (EVs). Contact Al Pugsley at apphs58@yahoo.com or 913-226-7725 for more information.
Generosity At Work

Our church is known in the community for its caring and generosity. My volunteering in the Pastoral Care Department has blessed me with the opportunity to witness our ministers giving countless hours and compassionately meeting the needs of our church family. Their example and the high demand for their services compelled me and numerous others to become involved and inspired the development of supportive services within Village Church. These services found in the Pastoral Care Department strive to meet the many needs of our church members and surrounding community.

I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to volunteer and serve in many capacities alongside some amazing volunteer servants. I have been the most active with the Stephen Ministers, a group dedicated to helping those in pain, be it physical or emotional. I enjoy the time I spend with individuals over prayer, tears, laughter, many cups of coffee, hours of conversation and the blessing of walking beside them on their journey toward healing and peace. My passion for helping people has found its purpose serving in this capacity. Despite the challenges, I often find I am actually receiving much more than I am giving.

In sharing God’s love with others, I have found my joyful heart. You too can touch a life and make a difference. To me, this is the secret of fulfillment. I encourage you to reach out and try it. Who knows where it might lead you!

—Trish Byall