2017 promises to be a year where Village Church continues to be an amazing community of faith. In order to continue and grow our work, we need everyone to make a commitment in support of our mission and ministries.

The annual commitment campaign is underway with Commitment Sunday being this Sunday, Nov. 20.

We are so thankful to everyone’s generosity through our Now & Tomorrow, Village Church campaign. The beauty of this campaign is all around us as we worship each Sunday in a renovated Sanctuary with a pipe organ that is stunning. The little children are safe and sound in their new facility at the Meneilly Center for Mission and our Welcome Center has made it easy for all to stop for a few minutes and visit with each other, as well as provide access to those with mobility challenges.

As we complete the capital campaign, our heart of generosity now needs to support our annual commitment and sustain our operating budget. The annual fund maintains the everyday life of Village. It breathes life into our facilities and helps us live out our mission of service and teaching, community and connection.

The Session has examined the upcoming year’s budget and proposed a 10% increase. Most of that increase falls into three categories:

1. We spend close to $250,000 annually on the upkeep of our facilities. That includes cosmetic enhancements such as replacing carpets and painting to bigger ticket items such as heating and cooling, roof, wiring, etc. In the past, we have only budgeted $100,000 and pulled the extra funds needed from reserves. This is not a way that is sustainable and we need to budget for what these repairs actually cost us.

2. The second category is personnel. Since 2008, staff salaries have been relatively flat. After doing some benchmarking against other churches (some larger, some smaller), we found that we’re lagging in several areas compared to other churches. For any service organization like Village, the staff is key to its success. It is important that we safeguard this asset and do right by our incredible staff team.

3. Lastly, the Session of Village is committed to expanding our mission efforts. For several years now we have discussed the possibility of starting a new congregation. We have dreamed of starting a congregation that would demonstrate the same commitment to mission, to thoughtful engagement of Christian Faith and to gracious engagement with the community. The Session is asking this question: is now the time to begin this new congregation? To say yes would require resources. Rev. Are will share more detail with the congregation in worship on Nov. 20.

Making an increased 2017 commitment or your first commitment to Village is an opportunity to show gratitude and celebrate God’s generosity. Please complete your Commitment Card and return it to Village Church. We also offer you the opportunity to go online and complete your 2017 Commitment Card.

Thank you for your pledge. Your gift is an act of faith that bears fruit in ways sometimes known only to God.

—Village Commitment Committee
**Food Pantry**

Distribution of the 500 Thanksgiving Baskets for the clients of the Food Pantry starts today, Nov. 16, and continues until Nov. 19. Many thanks for your generous donations.

The Pantry’s thoughts are now into December and it is asking for canned "Meats and Meals". Spaghettios, chili, tamales, ravioli, chicken, salmon, etc. As you shop at the grocery store, please pick up some items for the hungry in our area and bring them to church with you.

The Clothes Closet needs winter coats and warm blankets - the Closet cannot have too many of these during the winter months. Your generosity makes the Pantry and Clothes Closet the wonderful mission that it is.

**DRMP Needs You**

Want to answer Jesus’ call to love our neighbors?  
Want to use your skills to positively impact the lives of impoverished families in the Dominican Republic? Come see how you can participate with Village’s DRMP, even if you aren’t a medical professional or can’t travel abroad.  
Check out information tables in Friendship Hall on Nov. 20, and join us at 6 p.m. on Nov. 20 after The Gathering to learn about getting involved!

**Operation Breakthrough STEM Lab Tour**

Operation Breakthrough hosted an Open House Oct. 20 to show off the Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Smartlab and the Maker’s Space. Both projects received funding from Village Church over the past couple of years. Members of Village toured the programs and were able to witness first hand the wonderful benefits of the program. Watch this video to learn more about the STEM lab.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbloehKI7xg.

**Operation Breakthrough Trick or Treat**

Operation Breakthrough children trick or treated at Village Church on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016.
MISSION

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work: Village Mission Grants

During 2016, the Village Church Mission Committee has received 35 grant requests from community organizations seeking funds from the mission budget. During the first half of the year, the committee has carefully considered each of the applications and allocated funds to 19 organizations. Resulting from their efforts, the committee has designated nearly $118,000 to the following programs that work to strengthen the community:

**Amethyst Place**: $5,000 to purchase furnishings for their transitional housing not otherwise received through donations

**Artists Helping the Homeless**: $4,000 to help clients address alcohol and substance abuse and legal, medical and housing issues

**Community LINC**: $5,000 for interim and immediate housing for homeless families

**Community Living Opportunities’ NorthStar Academy**: $2,500 for technology needed in their autism program

**Family Conservancy**: $5,000 for lending libraries in five Head Start locations

**First Call Caring for Kids**: $5,000 for their drug abuse prevention program for children

**Gillis Center**: $4,500 for 12 standup desks and recess activity bags

**Hillcrest Transitional Housing**: $5,000 to renew the Village apartment sponsorship in Johnson County

**Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries**: $4,000 for their Saturday hot breakfast for low income and homeless clients

**Operation Breakthrough**: $30,000 for a new, first of its kind in Kansas City, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Smartlab

**Reach Out and Read**: $2,000 for books for this reading program

**Reconciliation Services**: $1,000 for staffing their café that serves the homeless on the Troost Corridor

**Shawnee Mission Meals on Wheels**: $2,000 for meals for clients

**Sheffield Place**: $5,000 for homeless children receiving counseling in their Stronger Tomorrow program

**Shepherd’s Center**: $20,000 for a new commercial refrigerator, sink, cold and hot transport equipment which will allow the center to expand its hot meal program to 200+ seniors and those with disabilities each weekday

**Turner House**: $2,000 for the reading program in their clinics

**Turn the Page**: $5,000 for tutors in the early reading program

**Wyandot Center**: $1,000 to cover services at the Frank Williams Housing Resource Center including hot showers, clothes washing and computer access

**Youth Ambassadors**: $10,000 for work stipends for youth involved in the life and job skills program

In addition to community grants mentioned above, the Mission Committee has funded grant requests to Presbyterian Church affiliates working to strengthen the church including Covenant Network, Heartland Presbytery, Darren and Elizabeth Kennedy, Montreat Conference Center, Neema Presbyterian Church, NEXT Church, Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition, theological scholarships, Thwake Village Kenya project, and Youth Ministry Institute Midwest. These distributions totaled $282,000.

Earlier this year, the Mission Committee made a number of grants totaling $210,239 to partner ministries such as Christmas International House, Dominican Republic Medical Partnerships, Emergency Assistance, Front Porch Alliance, Heartland Habitat for Humanity, Village Preschool and Youth Mission Trips.

The Village Church thanks members of the Mission Committee who have embraced their stewardship of the mission dollars and identified these deserving community programs for 2016. Members of the Mission Committee are Gary Anderson, Ginny Beall, Dan Carroll, David Conderman, Dee Gound, Peggy Gray, Dr. John Hall, Judy Heeter, Kim Higgins, Rex Joyce, John Kost, Pam Logan, Neil Stewart (chair), Scott Stanley, Margaret Stout, Michele Stowers, Samantha Sturgeon, Kimberly Tranbarger, Kathy Wells and Deborah White (director of Mission). Over the past 30 years, this committee and many before them have supported more than 270 separate organizations.

The 2017 committee will start accepting grant applications in January 2017 with decisions occurring by June. The deadline for grant applications is Feb. 28, 2017.
Porch Swing Remains Timeless

Held on Sept. 16 in the City Market, Village members and FPA took part in dining on specialties from a super Brancato’s buffet while musical entertainment by the legendary Ida McBeth filled the air. The market pavilion tables were adorned and guests were engaged in raising their hands to bid on live auction items. Through the years, Village and Front Porch Alliance have maintained their long-time tradition of supporting families in Kansas City’s eastside neighborhoods through an auction benefit. Event chair, Suzanne Willey and FPA Board President, Lisa Schelhorn were delighted to announce the 2016 annual Porch Swing fundraiser in a historic setting of Kansas City.

This year’s Porch Swing Honorees, Charlotte Davison (a member of Village Church picture at right), and Kathleen Snipes, principal of Faxon Elementary School, were acknowledged for servicing FPA and valuing cultural competency that assists in understanding the need to work with underserved residents and children.

“Thanks to Porch Swing, FPA can continue to offer educational services to deserving families as well as exciting child centered programs this fall.

Knowing that Village is instrumental in supporting our vision will sustain our mission to help youth succeed,” Roxana Shaffé, FPA executive director.

For additional Porch Swing recap, please visit www.frontporchalliance.org.
Weekly Wednesday Church Dinners
All Are Welcome!

Dine before or after your class. Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a well-balanced, convenient meal. Full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar and dessert is $6. Children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under-no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon Monday.

Menu:
**Nov. 23** – Happy Thanksgiving – NO DINNER!
**Nov. 30** – Spinach enchiladas, beef enchiladas, pinto beans
**Dec. 7** - Soup and baked potato bar, one meat soup, one vegetarian, and baked potatoes with various toppings

Connectional Ministries Exciting Announcement

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. Oct. 6, 2017, when Kansas City Jazz singer Angela Hagenbach will perform in our Village Sanctuary. This will be a free concert, open to our church family and community. She will perform with a quartet.

"Undoubtedly Angela Hagenbach is one of America's best fresh voices in music and is one of those rare Jazz vocalists who finds more in a song than the composer penned. She inhabits a song and breathes new life into her carefully selected material." writes Mark Bacon Producer/Host, Jazz After Dark and Pan American Rhythms, KRVS 88.7 FM, Lafayette and Lake Charles, LA.

Check out Angela in this youtube video below...AND, mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMVD_y4v4oE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMVD_y4v4oE)

Village Church Thanksgiving Holiday Announcement

Village Church will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving.

The Village Cup will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and will be closed all day Nov. 24 & 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Cup will be open regular hours on Sunday, Nov. 27. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!
Remembrance Service Sunday, Dec. 4
This special service will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It includes prayers, music, reflection, candle lighting and the proclamation of God's holy Christmas promise: there's a light in this world that the darkness will never overcome. If your loved one passed away during 2016 and Village Church was informed, his or her name will be included in the program. If you would like to include any other names, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2367 or linda.alley@villagepres.org by noon Monday, Nov. 21.

Will You Deliver a Christmas Poinsettia?
A long-standing tradition at Village Church is taking a poinsettia to members who are unable to attend church. You can help the Pastoral Care & Counseling department continue this cheerful tradition on Sunday, Dec. 4. To volunteer, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

Second Thursday Recital Dec. 8 • Featured Artist: Pianist Karen Kushner
Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Village Chapel for our next Second Thursday Recital. Pianist Karen Kushner will play a 30-minute program of Chopin.

Karen Kushner is active as a piano soloist and chamber musician who has toured and performed internationally. She is an adjunct associate professor of piano at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. She received her Master’s in Music from The Juilliard School and her Bachelor’s in Music from Northwestern University. In New York City, Kushner taught at the Mannes College of Music, Turtle Bay Music School, and for many years maintained a private studio. Her newest solo recording (Brahms, Clara and Robert Schumann) was released by Palatine Recordings to great critical acclaim.

REV. TOM ARE SEEKING YOUR INPUT ON JANUARY SERMON SERIES

A Request from Rev. Tom Are:
“I am working on a sermon series for January called “Does the Bible Really Say That?” I want to explore some passages that some might find confusing or offensive or irrelevant. It has been my experience that a better understanding of passages like these can be helpful. Some examples might be “Women be silent in the church,” or “No one comes to the Father but through me,” or “the Son of Man Will Return on a Cloud.” How do we understand passages like these? I bet you have passages that are confusing or troublesome for you. Let me know what passage or Biblical Story you would like to have considered in a sermon. Email me your suggestions at tom.are@villagepres.org.”
2016 VILLAGE CHURCH ADVENT SEASON ACTIVITIES

Advent Family Workshop - 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, in Friendship Hall - Don't miss our traditional family activity. Make your own Advent Wreaths and gifts for Christmas. There will be crafts for all age levels and of course cookie decorating, popcorn and festive music. Free and open to the community. Everyone is welcome to join us at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Night Out - 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, Village Church Child Care - Send your kids to this fun-filled night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. while you enjoy a night out. Children ages 2-8 will enjoy activities and games and cookies to decorate. Cost is $15 per child with a $30 maximum per family. Sign up by at 913-671-2352 or pam@villagepres.org. Registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 18.

Mesner Puppet Theater - 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the Sanctuary - Mesner Puppet Theater presents "Sing Along the Road Again." Join traveler John Paul George (puppeteer Mike Horner) and his singing dog Ringo on an interactive, musical road trip! Sing, clap and stomp along as John and Ringo sing favorites like BINGO, The Wheels on the Bus and Do Your Ears Hang Low. Even a dancing chicken tries to get in on the act! Call 913-671-2355 for more information. Admission to the puppet show is free.

Remembrance Service - 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Sanctuary - Join us for a special service where we thank God for our loved ones who are deeply missed, when we give voice to the grief that lingers and the love that will never let go. This service includes prayers, beautiful music, time for reflection, candle lighting and the proclamation of God's holy, Christmas promise: that there is a light in this world that the darkness will never, ever overcome. If your loved one passed away during 2016 and Village Church was informed, his or her name will be included in the program. Call 913-671-2367 or email linda.alley@villagepres.org by noon Monday, Nov. 21, if you would like us to include any other names.

Help Deliver a Christmas Poinsettia Sunday, Dec. 4 - A long-standing tradition at Village Church is taking a poinsettia to members who are unable to attend church. You can help the Pastoral Care & Counseling Department continue this tradition on Sunday, Dec. 4. To volunteer, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

Presbyterian Women Advent Candlelight Dinner - 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in Friendship Hall - The event is sold out. If you are interested in being a server for the dinner (free meal included) or need to make changes to your reservation, please contact Sarah McKee 913-439-0035. Rev. Hallie Hottle will give the meditation on “Seeking the Sacred.

The Kings vs. the Shepherds- Village U Wednesday Night Class Taught by Dr. Rodger Nishioka - The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell different stories about the birth of Jesus. The wise men only appear in Matthew and the shepherds only appear in Luke. Why is that? We will examine both the familiar and perhaps the unfamiliar components of these two stories comparing and contrasting them with one another. Come discover what God is revealing to us as we prepare to welcome the incarnation of God in the birth of Jesus once again. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7-21, in Room 127.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials - A poinsettia that decorates the church this Advent season may be purchased in memory of a loved one. Make your check ($10) payable to Village Church, clearly printing the memorial name with your donation. Send to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by Friday, Dec. 9. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.
Christmas Dinner - 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in Friendship Hall - Chef Emily and her culinary team will create a scrumptious Hotel-style buffet including a carving station, tossed salad, cheese, fresh fruit and assorted cheesecakes. Cost is $7 a person, $3 for age 10 & under. RSVP by calling 913-671-2359 or emailing liz.middleton@villagepres.org. Enjoy Christmas caroling from 6-6:30 p.m.

The Children's Christmas Pageant-- 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in the Chapel - See the greatest story ever told through the eyes of the children at Village. Come for Wednesday Night Dinner and stay for the pageant directly following.

VCCFDC Pancake Dinner with Santa – 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in Friendship Hall - The Village Church Child & Family Development Center will host its annual “Pancake Dinner with Santa” at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in Friendship Hall. Chris Cakes will be serving up all you can eat pancakes. Get your child(ren)’s picture taken with Santa. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for children age 2 and up. Children under 2 eat free. Contact Linda Harmon at 913-671-2310 or linda.harmon@villagepres.org for tickets. Come to the Sanctuary at 5 p.m., and enjoy the preschoolers’ version of the Christmas Story.

16th Annual Tidings of Joy Concert - 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, in the Sanctuary - A beloved tradition in our community, “Tidings of Joy, A Celebration of the Season's Most Beautiful Music,” is presented by the Village Choir, Alegria, the Village Chamber Choir and the Village Orchestra. The program features excerpts from Handel’s Messiah and more. Admission is free. A retiring offering will be taken to benefit the Haitian Christian Mission.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services in the Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 24 - 5 p.m. Children and Family Worship; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candelight Services; 11 p.m. Traditional Candelight Communion Service.

Sunday, Dec. 25 – We will have one worship service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. No child care available. We ask that children worship with their families in the Sanctuary on Christmas day.

Advent Season Mission Collections

Star Families - Adopt a Family for the Holidays - Village Church will again sponsor “Star Families” from Operation Breakthrough. We will help provide Christmas gifts and holiday meals for families. Stars are available for adoption from the bulletin board near the south entrance inside Friendship Hall. Each child receives at least three new unwrapped gifts; and the parent receives a $25 gift card to Target or Walmart. Star Families tend to be adopted quickly on a first come first served basis. The Operation Breakthrough truck will be in our south parking lot on Sunday, Dec. 11, to receive the donations. Monetary donations to Village Church for Star Families will be accepted for holiday meals from now to Dec. 11. Just $30 will feed a family of three or less, and $60 a family of four or more. Note: Operation Breakthrough in the memo of your check. Contact Marilyn Borel at mborel@sbcglobal.com or 913-708-1917 for more information.

Deck the Village Trees with Hats and Mittens - A Village tradition, our Hat and Mitten Trees, returns for the holiday season. From Dec. 2-25, come decorate our Christmas trees with hats and mittens to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/Food Pantry. You will find the trees located at the south entrance to the church and in the Welcome Center. The Pantry serves 500 households a month and your contribution will literally help spread the warmth of the season to many of these families. Contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org with any questions.

Diapers in December - Village children will be collecting diapers throughout December to give to the Village Food Pantry.

Stephen Ministry Is Here For You

If the holidays are a challenging time for you, consider receiving support from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential care to individuals who could use some help navigating some of life’s harder moments. Contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347 or len.carrell@villagepres.org.
Solar Panels Installed at Child & Family Development Center

Solar panels have provided clean, sustainable power to the Village Church Food Pantry since 2008. A similar system of 45 panels has been installed at the new Child & Family Development Center at 9900 Mission Road and is scheduled to go online in late November.

The building has been electrically designed to accommodate an expandable array of 268 solar panels capable of developing approximately 76KW of electrical power (about 2/3 of the building’s annual electrical demand). Each panel is equipped with its own micro-inverter and produces 285 watts of power, allowing for minimal incremental cost of expansion. The solar arrays will be ballast mounted on the south-facing roof, tilted at 10 degrees toward the south. It is estimated these panels should pay for themselves in about 15 years.

Funding for the initial 45 panels and expandable electrical infrastructure was donated by four couples and four individuals. The Environmental Action Committee also contributed over $2,000 that had accumulated for several years from its Deffenbaugh recycling rebates.

Over the years, as more funds are raised, this solar array will be expanded in blocks of 21 panels.

These solar panels will save the church money each year during the 25-year life of the panels—money that can be used to support expanded mission and ministry. Plus it has the additional benefit of reducing indirect costs, such as emissions that contribute to health problems and climate change.

As the solar array is expanded to its full capacity, these panels will contribute to the well-being of future generations of God’s People and God’s Creation.

Village Care for God’s Creation

Village Earthcare

Planned obsolescence of light bulbs developed in the 1920s is challenged by today’s L.E.D. bulbs which last 50,000 hours, not just 1,000. The U.S. Department of Energy considers the widespread adoption of L.E.D. technology to offer the greatest potential impact on energy conservation in the country.
Advent Candlelight Dinner Sold Out

If you are interested in being a server for the dinner (free meal included) or need to make changes to your reservation, please contact Sarah McKee 913-439-0035. PW Candlelight Advent Dinner is on Tuesday evening, Dec. 6, in Friendship Hall. Rev. Hallie Hottle will give the meditation on “Seeking the Sacred.”

Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing is low on large pieces of cotton and cotton-blend fabric suitable for large dresses and backings for “children’s nappies.” Check your stashes. Donations are appreciated! Knitters, be sure to pick up your red and green yarn for the Christmas baby hats. Call Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 for more information. Remember, we take the month of December off.

Village Blessing of the Animals Filled with Smiles and Wagging Tails

Reverends Jenny McDevitt and Hallie Hottle led the “Blessing of the Animals” on the front lawn of Village Church on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 23, 2016. Together they blessed 54 dogs brought by 65 people, a cat toy (representative of the cats who might have feared being around 54 dogs) and the veterinary staff who care for them. A few folks brought the ashes of their beloved pets and found the blessing to be a healing experience.

There was a buffet of dog bones and fresh water for our furry Village friends, who all played very nicely together. One dog knocked Jenny down with its joyful kisses during the blessing. But she didn’t seem to mind. (Photos courtesy of Carol Tucker)
Watch for the Spring 2017 Village U Catalog … coming out the first week of January 2017.

- Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time $40 fee for the spring term; reservations will be required in advance.

- Some classes will have a small fee for materials and resources; the fees are noted in the class listing.

- You will be able to register online, by telephone, by fax or by email.

Registration for church members will open on Wednesday, Jan. 11. Registration for the community will open on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Remaining Fall 2016 Village U classes include:

**Strawberry Hill Museum and Culture Center - Dec. 2**
The Strawberry Hill Museum is located in the old Croatian neighborhood in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Today, portions of the building have been beautifully restored to the Victorian age. The chapel and one of the nuns’ cells are unchanged, and the balance of the building is dedicated to the neighborhood's Slavic heritage. Depart by school bus promptly at 9:30 a.m. and return about 1:30 p.m. A lunch featuring Croatian foods is included in the registration fee of $30. Georgia Klein, coordinator. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

**The Kings vs. the Shepherds - Dec. 7-21**
The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell different stories about the birth of Jesus. The wise men only appear in Matthew and the shepherds only appear in Luke. Why is that? In these three sessions, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will examine both the familiar and perhaps the unfamiliar components of these two stories, comparing and contrasting them with one another. Why would the gospel writers differ with one another? How do they contradict one another and how do they complement one another? And what does this have to do with our faith anyway? Come discover what God is revealing to us as we prepare to welcome the incarnation of God in the birth of Jesus once again. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7-21. Room 127.

**God in the Arts: Hamilton and Rent – Dec. 14 & 21**
God is everywhere…even in the things we call entertaining. Perhaps, it is not the authors’ intent to express something about the divine in their art, but the truth is...God is everywhere. In this new course, pastor Len Carrell extends his popular “Finding the Face of God in Art” course from the spring. Hamilton, a Broadway musical that won a record 11 Tony awards this spring, is a story of this nation's founding fathers told in a urban musical style of hip-hop and rap with the entire cast being of mixed race and ethnic diversity. But before Hamilton there was another little show that took the nation by storm twenty years earlier called Rent. Both have altered the way stage productions are conceived and brought to life. They both address the challenges and the terrors of their time. They take on the issues of inequality, inclusion and community. They face the realities of race and sexuality, addiction and death. They tell their story each in their own conceiver’s unique style, and the voice of one has definitely inspired the other. And both are richly significant in the language of faith. Rev. Len Carrell will look at each of these shows and the theological marks they have left on our world. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 14 & 21. Room 126.

**Adult Sunday Morning Classes:**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Faith Journey** - The class is studying the book, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson. This is a true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a call for us to fix our broken system of justice. We will be discussing the book and how we, as Christians, can have a positive impact. Facilitated by Kathy Ray in Room 230.
Good News, Nov. 16, 2016

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

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

Growing Together - Walking through the Gospel of Luke, the class recently explored Judaism’s rejection of Jesus. It was noted that this rejection was more about Judaism’s own internal struggle and not about Jesus himself. How true that is when our children get mad at us! Often they aren’t mad at us as much as they are torn inside with their own feelings and choices. As parents, we often take the brunt of this tension as our children lash out. And we can take it personally. However, Jesus models to us how to remain calm and loving in the moments of conflict. If you want to grow alongside others, drop in on the Growing Together class. You’ll find a welcoming group, a curious spirit, and an entertaining hour of fellowship and exploration. We’re not here to teach the Bible but to understand how it applies to our lives as parents today. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre in Room 132.

Village Forum - Words of faith and scripture have significance beyond their dictionary definition. Join Dr. John P. Borden in a discussion of "Words of Faith and Scripture" and how their meaning and significance is shaped by the various lens of beliefs, world-views, theologies and cultures. This series concludes on Nov. 20. Beginning Nov. 27, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will teach a four-week Advent series that will conclude on Dec. 18. Facilitated by Gus Breyspraak in Rooms 126 and 127.

10:45 a.m.

Inquirers - On Nov. 22, the class will conclude its discussion of Marcus Borg’s acclaimed book, Reading the Bible for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but not Literally. On Dec. 6 and 13, there will be study and discussion of Amy Jill Levine’s latest book, Short Stories by Jesus; and on Dec. 20, the class will engage in a commemorative study of Dr. Lindsey Pherigo’s classic discussion, The Origins of Christmas (audio-tape presentation). Facilitated by Don Wilson in Room 124.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Bier and Bible • 7 p.m. every Thursday night at KC Bier Co.

We’ll learn to read the Bible together, while continuing to grow in all that it means to be community. All 20s and 30s welcome! Note: we will not meet on Thanksgiving, Nov. 24.

Morning Prayer and Bible for Moms!
9:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Village Church Chapel

We’ll pray for each other, then learn a little about the Bible together. How do you teach this book to kids, when we know we don’t know enough about it ourselves? Let’s learn together. All 20s and 30s moms welcome! Note: we will not meet next Wednesday, Nov. 23, the day before Thanksgiving.

Young Adult Christmas Party
6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at KC Bier Company

Everyone is encouraged to wear a Christmas sweater and required to bring a package of diapers for admission (to go to “Happy Bottoms,” a provider of diapers to the economically disadvantaged). Child care will be provided at Village. Please make child care reservations by Monday, Dec. 5. RSVP at signup.com/go/VillagePresYA.
3rd Grade Bible Presentation

The 3rd Grade class poses with their new Bibles they received Sunday, Oct. 30.

Advent Family Workshop
3-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, in Friendship Hall
Bring your whole family and all your friends for this annual tradition. There will be plenty of crafts to make to give as gifts or make treasured keepsakes. Don’t forget the popcorn and cookie decorating!

Christmas Night Out & Paul Mesner Puppets is on Friday, Dec. 2
Plan on having several hours to get some Christmas shopping done or go out for the evening and we will watch your children! There's still time to sign-up! Call Child Care office at 913-671-2322 or 913-671-2352. Our registration deadline is this Friday, Nov. 18.

The Children’s Christmas Pageant is on Wednesday, Dec. 14
Information will be coming soon about casting for speaking parts and costumed parts. There will be one rehearsal only from 1-3 pm. on Sunday, Dec. 11. Call 913-671-2355 or 913-671-2385 for more information.

Village Church Preschool Parent Information Coffee
Please join us from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in Room 132 to learn more about our preschool!

We will have an overview of the High/Scope Curriculum and our additional enrichment programs with Terri Gaeddert, Village Church Preschool director. Child care is available.

Please contact Pam Southerland at 913-671-2352 or pam@villagepres.org by Tuesday, Nov. 22, for child care reservations.

Enrollment Schedule for Fall 2017-2018:
Enrollment opens on Jan. 17 for current Preschool families and Village Church members.
Enrollment opens on Jan. 19 for current Village Church Kids Day Out families.
Enrollment opens on Jan. 23 for community families.
Visit http://www.villagepres.org/preschool.html for more information about the program.
VILLAGE COMMITMENT

“Because of Your Generosity” …

This productive group is open to women of all ages who enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting and good fellowship. It meets every Tuesday each month, except December. Non-sewers are welcome too for cutting, counting and other tasks. At-home projects are available as well. If you would like to join, simply drop by the Sewing Room at church (Room 115) or contact Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 or Karen Stone at 913-271-6603.

VPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

Traditional – 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary

The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

Note: The Gathering will be in the Sanctuary on Nov. 27.

Live Radio Broadcast
Sundays at 8 a.m. on
1660 AM KMBZ,
The Business Channel

www.villagepres.org

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
Drop-Off Hours
10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. M-F
9:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday