

GOOD NEWS



The Village Church *Good News* is published once a month (printed and online) 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.

DECEMBER 5, 2018

Village Church 2018 Highlights

Here are just a few the highlights from Village Presbyterian Church this year.

We welcomed the Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick as the new site pastor at Village on Antioch on Feb. 4. He was installed on May 21.



We welcomed new staff members: Rev. Becky Chamberlain as interim associate pastor in pastoral care, Dr. Carol Dale as music ministry coordinator, Laura Patton as facilities and communications coordinator at Village on Antioch, and Madeline Chamberlain as youth ministry coordinator.



Rev. Becky Chamberlain



Dr. Carol Dale



Laura Patton



Madeline Chamberlain

Dr. Jan Kraybill presented the final concert in the Village Church on Mission Pipe Organ Dedicatory Recital Series on May 18. The American Guild of Organists held its National Convention in Kansas City in July. Several performances showcased the Village on Mission pipe organ.



Photo: Joe Routon

Continued

VILLAGE CHURCH 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Rev. Tom Are joined the Village Church team on a May mission trip to Thwake, Kenya as part of the Thwake Village Partnership.



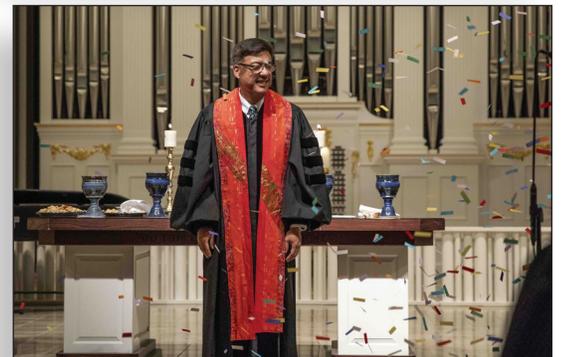
On June 5, Heartland Presbytery approved three Village Church women for Candidacy for Ordination: Caroline Barnett (left), Essie Koenig-Reinke and Claire Brettell.



In June Reconciliation Services' Thelma's Kitchen was named as the Village Church Signature Mission for 2018.



The Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka was ordained and installed as senior associate pastor on June 26.



The Gathering moved to Grandview Park Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Kan. for one night in August for bilingual worship, sharing a meal and collecting an offering to renovate Grandview's kitchen that feeds the community's children.

Holocaust survivor "Big Sonia" spoke at Village Church on Sept. 6. A free-will offering benefited Holocaust education centers all over the country.



VILLAGE CHURCH 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



VOA started its first PW Circle. Presbyterian Women of Village on Antioch gather at 6 p.m. the second Monday of each month for fellowship and Bible study.

On Oct. 20, the Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force of Village Church hosted an educational forum on gun violence titled "Guns to Grace: A Hope-Filled Dialogue."



We welcomed the Village Players to the 9:30 a.m. worship service for the first time on Oct. 28. The Village Players were founded in the fall of 2018 for instrumentalists who enjoy playing chamber music of all varieties.

Village on Antioch presented its first community concert, Draw the Circle Wide, on Nov. 17 featuring the VOA Choir and More Love Chorale.

Many of these highlights were made possible by your generosity. Thank you for helping us be Village Church. We look forward to the many blessings to come in 2019!



MISSION

Food Pantry

The Village Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are accepting all kinds of Christmas dishes, small decorations and Christmas clothing to brighten the homes of the clients - but please NO Christmas trees. The Pantry is also requesting canned pasta or canned pasta sauces of all kinds. The Clothes Closet is asking for winter coats - all sizes for all ages. Thank you.

Deck the Village Trees with Diapers and Hats and Mittens

A Village Church on Mission tradition - our Hat, Mitten and Diaper Trees - returns for the holiday season. Now through Dec. 24, come put hats and mittens on our trees and diapers (sizes newborn and adult large and XL) under our trees 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. Call 913-671-2369 or email deborah.white@villagepres.org with any questions.

Joy Offering and Christmas Project Offering (Sunday, Dec. 23)

The Joy Offering provides support to current and retired church workers in need (50%) and to students attending Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges (50%). The Christmas Project Offering helps local social service agencies who help others with holiday and emergency assistance needs (100%). Envelopes for this offering will be in the hymnal slots in the pews.

SERMON SERIES



Part of the power of the celebration of Christmas is found in tradition. You, no doubt, return to familiar observations of the season. There are decorations, foods and other traditions that we revisit year after year. It's part of what makes it Christmas.

This Advent we will consider how each Gospel writer might celebrate this season. How might Matthew decorate his home, or what carols would be most important to Luke? Each writer speaks of Jesus in a different way, so if we look closely, we will find that each Gospel writer celebrates this season in his own way. So, let's take a Gospel Writers Tour of Homes this Advent. It will no doubt bring to sharper focus what will be important to celebrate in our homes this Christmas.

- Dec. 9 Christmas at Matthew's House
- Dec. 16 Christmas at Luke's House
- Dec. 23 Christmas at John's House
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: Welcome Home, Little One

Christmas Eve Worship Service Times

Village on Mission – 5 p.m. Family Worship with The Gathering Band; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship; 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion. All services will be in the Sanctuary.

Village on Antioch – 7:30 pm. Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Notice Something Different About the VOM Communion Table?

Our Village Church on Mission communion table was gilded by Jean Gorton to make lettering more visible and match gilding in other places including the organ. The project was sponsored by Village member Marla Harper.



**18th Annual Tidings of Joy
Sweetly Singing O'er the Plains
3 & 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16**

Please join us for Tidings of Joy at 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. Enjoy some of the greatest music of the season performed by the Tidings of Joy Children's Chorus, the Village Choir and soloists, the Village Chamber Choir, the Village Women's Chorus, the Village Men's Chorus, the Alegria Vocal Ensemble and the Tidings of Joy Orchestra. Child care will be provided with a reservation by this Sunday, Dec. 9.

"The Tidings Children's Chorus is taking on a bigger role this year, building on the excitement of last year's first group," said Will Breytspraak, director of music. "The kids are singing more of their own music, but are also extremely integrated with the adults' program."



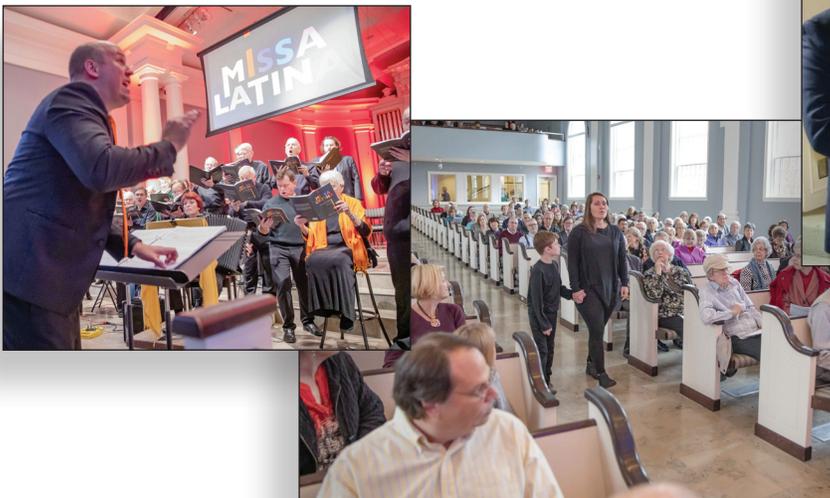
This FREE concert will have a free-will offering for the Sherwood Center. Sherwood provides vital special education services and adult services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related developmental disabilities.



Second Thursday Recital, 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13

We invite you to join us for Second Thursday Recital at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary with guest organist Kurt Knecht. Kurt is the organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kansas City. He has been a featured soloist with groups ranging from Smokey Robinson to The Florida Orchestra. Kurt regularly appears as a concert organist and collaborative pianist.

The Peacemakers Concert Nov. 4



Will Breytspraak presented Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry, a check for \$5,001 to Frontera de Cristo border ministry of the Presbyterian Church - the recipient of the Peacemakers concert retiring offering. Thanks to all who contributed!

Our Stephen Ministers

The Stephen Ministry program at Village Church is comprised of trained church members who offer high quality one-on-one Christian care for those going through difficult and challenging times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. Stephen Ministers support one another by meeting regularly in small groups. **These small groups are the core of the Ministry's work.** It is where the Stephen Ministers are supported and inspired by each other's guidance. Two of our gifted Stephen Ministers share their story and what gives them the greatest help.



Jean Butler has been a Stephen Minister for 2½ years and has devotedly walked beside her Care Receiver. One of her favorite mantras is "All that you send into the lives of others, comes back into your own." She often refers to Micah 6:8 - What does the Lord require of thee, but to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with my God. Jean finds support from a quote she saw in a chapel in Antarctica: "Keep me, oh keep me, King of Kings, Underneath Thy Mighty Wings."

Jim Bolton has been a Stephen Minister since January 2018. He enjoyed listening to people's stories while delivering Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias but felt somewhat inadequate with what to say when the stories spoke of loneliness and isolation. Becoming a Stephen Minister

has helped him become more effective in helping others with their struggles. Jim reads "Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith" by Henri Nouwen daily and shares the devotions with his Care Receiver. He also keeps the Sunday Worship Bulletin and uses the daily Bible readings. Psalm 62:6, "Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I shall not be shaken," gives Jim focus whenever he is feeling overwhelmed or experiencing doubt.



Stephen Ministers learn, support and give to others, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2.

Stephen Ministry is Here For you

If this Christmas season (or any season of life) is difficult for you, Stephen Ministry is here to support you. Stephen Ministers are dedicated to listening, caring and praying with you when life feels overwhelming. If you are interested in learning more, contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347 or len.carrell@villagepres.org.



PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Come and Deliver a Poinsettia This Sunday, Dec. 9

Three hundred poinsettias will help brighten the holidays for our members who can't make it to church during Advent – and we need your help! If you can deliver one or more poinsettias from Village on Mission, come to the Welcome Center between any of the services on Sunday, Dec. 9, to pick up a poinsettia and instructions. If you attend Village at Antioch, contact Rev. Frick to find out more. Thank you for your gift of time and help.

PC&C Loves Our Volunteers

On Friday, Nov. 9, many of our Pastoral Care & Counseling volunteers enjoyed an evening of entertainment, festive food, a coffee bar, fellowship and laughter at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. We are thankful for those who are Stephen Ministers, deliver poinsettias or Sunday flowers or Easter lilies, usher or serve with compassion at a memorial service and reception, sing in the Share-a-Song ministry or share God's love in countless other ways. We also think our committee members are pretty amazing. Thank you all so much.

Taizé Worship Service – A Source of Calm During the Hectic Holidays

The holiday season is here! Along with the fun and anticipation, sometimes taking a moment to relax and be centered is just what we need. Consider coming to Taizé, a service filled with silence, contemplation, candlelight and scripture. Communion is also served. Join us at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, in the Village on Mission Chapel. Starting in January, Taizé will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Christmas Dinner-5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 – Friendship Hall at Village on Mission

Come celebrate the holidays with friends at the Wednesday Night Dinner Christmas meal on Dec. 12. Cost is \$7 a person, \$3 for age 10 & under. RSVP by noon Monday, Dec. 10, to 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org.

Wednesday Night Dinners Resume on Jan. 9 – Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m. and hot food bar is open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Take a night off from cooking. Cost remains the same for 2019: \$7 for full meal and \$6 for salad bar/dessert. Remember to RSVP by noon Mondays to Liz Middleton 913-671-2359.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joining at our Village on Antioch Campus Sept. 30

Nick Ash
Tiffany Davis
Jenna & Justin Howe
Esmé Ruby

Joining at Village on Mission Oct. 14

Linda Joslyn-Bishop
Lauren & Taylor Crowder
Carol Gee
Matt & Jennifer Green
Stephen & Allison Houghan
Judy Dupree-Pecoraro

New Climate Report Warns of Crisis by 2040

In October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of scientists convened by the United Nations, issued an alarming new report. The 91 scientists from 40 countries warned that the world's climate is changing faster than expected and that by 2040, the world would see a dramatic rise in monster storms, sea levels, food shortages due to flooding and drought, horrendous wild fires, shortage of drinking water and refugees. The estimated cost to the world's economies is upwards of 54 trillion dollars.

The report said avoiding the most serious threats to the world requires transforming the world economy immediately. One scientist who helped to author the report stated, "It's telling us we must reverse emissions trends and turn the world economy on a dime."

Village Church's Environmental Action Committee continues to explore ways to care for God's wondrous creation as responsible stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care. We would appreciate your ideas about ways to unite and act now to save our mother earth. Contact Chuck Gilliam at 816-942-9495 for more information.

A reprint of a "New York Times" article about the report is available at the EAC bulletin board located in the hallway between Friendship Hall and the Chapel at Village on Mission.

REMINDER ABOUT WINTER WEATHER

Winter Weather Advisory

If the weather forecast is to have 4 inches or more snowfall during Saturday night, the 8 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission will be cancelled. Check our website for additional information/cancellations at www.villagepres.org.



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ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

The spring 2019 Village U term will offer a wide variety of classes that include Bible Study with Rev. Tom Are, Jr., interesting classes led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, an art workshop led by Susan Webb, a variety of helpful computer classes and many more. We hope you will spend some time discovering all that is available and join us!

Registration for Village U 2019 spring term:

For Village Church members: Registration opens Wednesday, Jan. 9.

For community members: Registration opens Monday, Jan. 14.

- Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee for the spring term; reservations required in advance.
- Some classes will have a small fee for materials and resources; the fees will be noted in the class listing.
- You will be able to register online, by telephone, by fax or by email.



9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday Classes

Faith Journey is studying "You Are What You Love — The Spiritual Power of Habit" by James K. A. Smith who says that who and what we worship fundamentally shape our hearts. And while we desire to shape culture, we are not often aware of how culture shapes us. We will explore the formative power of culture and the transformative possibilities of Christian practices. Facilitated by Kathy Ray. Room 230.

Foundations of Faith "Mary's Story" — The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "A young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel." Christian tradition identified that young woman as Mary, the mother of Jesus. This class, led by Rev. Dwight Tawney, will explore the rich outgrowth of Christmas stories that surround Mary and the family of Jesus. Dec. 9 and 16. Room 15.

Growing Together invites you to join us in new testament bible study. We look for the stories in the Bible and make connections using the What? So What? Now What? framework. We are growing together in faith, which makes us stronger Christians and enables us to have a greater impact. This year, we will be looking at the stories that emerge from Paul's letters. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre. Now through May in Room 124.

Village Forum — Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will teach about the Spirituality of Aging. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in May of 2017 there were 47.8 million Americans age 65 and older comprising 15 percent of the total population. By 2060, the Census Bureau projects 25% or one in four Americans will be age 65 and older. So, as we age, how do we experience the presence of God? How do our spirituality and religious practice change over time? On Dec. 23, Maryanna Adelman will introduce us to contemporary Jewish life including the festival of Hanukkah and lead a discussion of similarities and differences with our life at Village Church. Room 126.

NEXT SERMON SERIES

Seeking Your Input On Sermon Topics I wish the preacher would talk about.....

Every year the pastoral staff selects five or six conversations to have as a church family. These are our Sermon Series. For January and February, we are inviting you to suggest the topics. What do you wish the Sunday sermon to consider? Is there a Bible passage or a general topic you would like the preacher to consider? Let us know. We will choose from the most popular suggestions. So, what do you wish the preacher would talk about? Email your question or suggestion to tom@villagepres.org.

Immigration in Johnson County Panel Discussion

On Thursday, Nov. 1, the Village on Antioch Social Justice Committee hosted a panel discussion on “The Impact of Immigration in Johnson County.” The speakers were (from left) Dr. Jan Heinen, director of Instructional Support Programs for the Olathe Public School District; Catalina Velarde, Esq., a Kansas City immigration attorney; Irene Caudillo, executive director of El Centro, Inc.; Victor Morales Becerra, a Park University student and media coordinator for the Kansas/Missouri Dream Alliance; and Frida Sanchez, a student at Johnson County Community College and organizer for the Missouri Student Power Network. The panelists shared valuable information and answered many questions from the audience. Everyone enjoyed cookies and coffee served by the Hospitality Committee following the discussion.



VOA's First Community Concert: Draw the Circle Wide

On Saturday, Nov. 17, Village on Antioch held its first community concert "Draw the Circle Wide" performed by the VOA Choir and More Love Chorale of Village on Mission. This community sing event included songs of love, life and joy with Dr. Jan Kraybill at the organ and Ryan Main conducting. A free-will offering of \$1,150 was collected for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City.



December is such a busy month at Village Church, and Children and Family Ministry had some of our traditional and best-loved events this past week! Be sure to check out the Village Church Kids Facebook page to see the fun had by all.

VOM Preschool Information Coffee

Please join Village Church on Mission Preschool Director Sarah McKee for a Preschool Information Coffee from 10-11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11, in Room 133. Come learn more about Village Church on Mission Preschool in preparation for the 2019-2020 school year. Child care will be provided. Contact Marjean at 913-671-2322 or marjean@villagepres.org to make child care reservations.

Children's Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16, in Friendship Hall at VOM. Our older elementary classes will be leading the pageant, with the assistance of Village's Director of Music Will Breytspraak, and our resident children's entertainer, Dino O'Dell. Join us for the greatest story ever told in between the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, Dec. 16. No reservations required.

Diapers in December

Children & Family Ministry is once again collecting disposable diapers throughout the month of December to benefit the Village Church Food Pantry. Sunday school children will collect diapers based on their age/grade level. The Pantry is in greatest need of Newborn and Size 1 infant diapers and Size Large/X-Large Adult diapers. Drop off your diapers under the Hat and Mitten trees at the south entrance or in the Welcome Center. There is also a crib outside the second floor Children's Library for diaper donations.

VCCFDC Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

The Village Church Child & Family Development Center will host "Cookies and Cocoa with Santa" at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14, at the Center, 9900 Mission Road. Come early at 5:30 p.m. and enjoy the preschoolers' version of the Christmas Story. Contact Linda Harmon at 913-671-2310 or linda.harmon@villagepres.org for more information.

Family Worship Sundays

All children are invited to participate in worship with their families on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. Child care is available for children ages newborn-3 years. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL scheduled due to the Christmas holiday.

Feathering the Turkey Food Drive at the Village Church Child & Family Development Center

On Friday, Nov. 9, children from the Village Church Child & Family Development Center trekked across the parking lot with wheel barrows and baby cribs filled with all the food the children collected for Thanksgiving Baskets for the Village Food Pantry. It's part of the Center's annual "Feathering the Turkey" food drive. Thank you, children!





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Vol. 56, No. 12

2019 COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

Your Village Commitment

As 2018 comes to an end, our leaders turn their attention to the closing of the fiscal year and meeting our budget obligations. If you have not yet fulfilled your 2018 commitment or annual giving to Village, we hope you will do so in these next few weeks.

And, if you are able to do so, please consider making an additional gift before the end of the year. Your gift will mean even more because we have a generous donor who will match your gift dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 in order to close the gap on the financial deficit for 2018. Please mark your donation in the memo line as Close the Gap.

Looking ahead to 2019, we thank the many of you who have made your 2019 annual commitment and ask those who have not to please take a moment now to complete your commitment form and return to the church.

To make your 2019 commitment online, go to www.villagepres.org/giving, click on "Go to Commitment Form," click, complete and click "Send."

To make a Close the Gap donation online, just go to villagepres.org/giving and click "Online Giving." Sign in and choose "Close the Gap" from the drop-down box, enter your gift amount and click continue.

Thank you - your generosity will help guide us to our call to be Incarnational, Missional and Relational.

—Your Village Commitment Committee



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VILLAGE ON MISSION

Traditional – 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

The Gathering – 5 p.m.

In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH

Traditional - 9:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

14895 Antioch Rd.

Overland Park, KS 66221

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

9:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday

www.villagepres.org

IN MEMORY

Paul Clendening

Carol Jones

MARIANNE WEBER Hanging Up Her Many Hats at Village Church

Marianne Weber has been a member of the Village Church staff for 24 years. She celebrated her 70th birthday Dec. 3 and has decided as a Christmas present to herself and her family, she will retire on Dec. 21.

Marianne has worn many hats at Village. Judy Cooper hired her in 1994 as a part-time assistant in Children's Ministry. Later, she became the full-time coordinator of Adult Educational Ministries. Marianne also provides support to Presbyterian Women and is the development assistant. She schedules Village U and Adult Sunday School classes, Social Witness & Advocacy and Environmental Action events, the Cross-Lines Cooks A Meal program and takes minutes for staff meetings, which she does using shorthand. "I learned it in high school 52 years ago. It has come in pretty handy," notes Marianne. She is also a notary public and has served as a Stephen Minister.

"When I told the PW leadership that Marianne was retiring, the women gasped. The first question was 'What will we do without her?' I feel the same way," said Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate and director of Adult Educational Ministries. "When I arrived at Village, I received many gifts. Easily the most significant gift was Marianne Weber as my colleague. Her gracious spirit and sense of humor and institutional knowledge all combined to make my transition to this ministry so smooth and easy. She was so patient as I asked question after question and so gently she would say to me, 'You might want to think about doing this...' I soon realized that her advice always carried a heavy dose of wisdom. It may surprise some to know that Marianne is a faithful Roman Catholic. She earned a nickname of 'St. Duff'. If ever there was someone I would nominate for Presbyterian sainthood, it would be Marianne Weber."

When she started in 1994, Dr. Bob Meneilly was senior pastor. "Bob Meneilly knew I was Catholic," said Marianne.



"We had this meeting. He said we agreed that we weren't always going to agree on each other's position, but we could still work together. I only worked with him for six months before he retired. But every time he'd see me, he'd give me grief about being Catholic."

"I wore my nun costume one Halloween," recalls Marianne. "Mission Sewing ladies walked by me. One lady was just beside herself and said, 'Why did they hire a nun to work in a Presbyterian Church?' One of the other ladies reminded her it was Halloween. Everybody's been so kind and not really given me any grief about being Catholic other than Dr. Meneilly – but that was all in fun."

Judy Cooper remembers, "When Marianne began working with our Children's Ministry team in 1994, I was thrilled to have her. She was most efficient and willing to do whatever was asked of her. And she showed genuine hospitality to everyone who entered the office. Little did I realize then that eventually she would work with so many other departments and was just as efficient and personable in every one of them."

"Marianne introduced me to the Roman Catholic saints, Saint Anthony and Saint Joseph in particular. She told me Saint Anthony was the saint of lost things. And one day when I lost my keys, she said I should pray, 'Tony, Tony, come around. There are keys to be found.' I repeated it sincerely, and within minutes, I found my keys! When we were trying to sell my dad's house after he passed away, she told me to purchase a Saint Joseph statue and place it upside down in the yard and the house would sell. I went to I. Donnelly Co. and purchased the small Saint Joseph statue. Even before I got it in the ground, the house sold! I have named her 'Saint Marianne!'"

On the front of her desk, Marianne has a license plate with "St. Duff." Marianne explains how she got the nickname. "When I was two-years-old I lived in New York City. My grandfather's friend, Duffy, drove a beer truck and had a beer belly to match. When I was two, I had a big belly, so the name 'Duffy' seemed to fit. I have always liked the name Duffy or Duff. It's what my family and old friends still call me. And I STILL have that big belly!"



It morphed into "St. Duff" when her oldest son, Zack, wrote a limerick about each of her family members. "In mine, he called me a saint. My friend, Marilyn Brehm, used to work at Village, and put the 'Saint' and the 'Duff' together ... hence, 'Saint Duff!'"

The chair and candy bowl are always open in Marianne's office. "The most rewarding part of my job is being able to help folks in a variety of ways, whether it be completing a task of some sort or, even more importantly, listening when a problem arises.

The candy bowl tradition started when I moved from Children's Ministry down to Adult Ed. Jack and Virginia Winston share the duties of filling the candy bowl when it gets low. I hope the candy bowl tradition continues with the next coordinator. I asked Rodger if keeping the candy bowl full could be part of the job requirements."

Her Family and Plans After Retirement

Marianne comes from a family of nine children. Village custodian Kelly Furst is her baby brother. Marianne and her husband Dick have four sons, two daughters as well as seven granddaughters ages 5-12. "The most fun I have and the best way I spend my spare time is with our granddaughters. I'm looking forward to spending more time with them after my retirement," said Marianne.

"Both my Mom and Dad instilled in me a desire to be of service to others. I'd like to get back to doing more volunteering. I can take communion to the hospitals because I'm a Eucharistic minister. I can rock babies at Children's Mercy Hospital. My husband just started volunteering one day a week at the Catholic Charities Thrift Store in Mission. He'd like me to help him with that. I transcribe braille. I want to learn how to do it on the computer."

To the Village Congregation and Staff

"I'd like to thank everybody for being so nice and putting up with me," Marianne said. "This has been the best place I've ever worked. In 24 years, I've had some top-notch bosses. I'm fortunate that I have clicked with every one of them. Rodger is very



appreciative of what other people do. He's very humble. I tell him how great he is, and he's always poo pooing that. I thought to myself, 'I don't want to be selfish, because somebody else should have that opportunity to work with Rodger.'"

Marianne recently got her first tattoo. She chose the initials GBYAKYFBILYS- which are the initials of her family's mantra: God bless you and keep you forever, because I love you so! "We say it to each other every time we are together as we put a cross on each others' foreheads."

As your chapter at Village comes to an end, to you, Marianne Weber, St. Duff, we say, "God bless you and keep you forever, because we love you so!"