

GOOD NEWS

ONLINE EDITION



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

DECEMBER 15, 2015

15th Annual Tidings of Joy Concert - 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, in the Sanctuary

"Tidings of Joy, A Celebration of the Season's Most Beautiful Music," will be presented at 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, by the Village Choir, Alegría and the Village Chamber Choir, with guest artists Barnaby Bright. The program includes favorite carols for choir and orchestra – and the audience gets to sing along. Admission is free.

This year's Tidings of Joy retiring offering will go to the Thwake Village Partnership, a ministry of partnership with Village Church, the Heartland Presbytery and the people of Thwake, Kenya.

The 'major work' of the concert is one of the most popular pieces of choral music, *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi (the composer of the famous *Four Seasons*).

About Vivaldi's *Gloria*

Source: Peter Carey, Royal Free Singers
Antonio Lucio Vivaldi composed *Gloria* in Venice, around 1715, for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls. The Ospedale prided itself on the quality of its musical education and the excellence of its choir and orchestra. Vivaldi, a priest, music teacher and virtuoso violinist, composed many sacred works for the Ospedale, where he spent most of his career, as well as hundreds of instrumental concertos to be played by the girls' orchestra. This, his most famous choral piece, presents the traditional *Gloria* from the Latin Mass in twelve varied cantata-like sections.

The wonderfully sunny nature of the *Gloria*, with its distinctive melodies and rhythms, is characteristic of all of Vivaldi's music, giving it an immediate and universal appeal. The opening movement is a joyous chorus, with trumpet and oboe obligato.



For two centuries after his death, the *Gloria* lay undiscovered until the late 1920s, when it was found buried among a pile of forgotten Vivaldi manuscripts. It was not until 1957 that the now familiar original version was published and given its first performance at the First Festival of Baroque Choral Music at Brooklyn College, New York.

About Guest Artists Barnaby Bright

Nathan and Becky Bliss, the voices and the brains behind Barnaby Bright, are truly the modern day traveling troubadours, averaging roughly 200 shows and 40,000 miles traveled a year. Becky sings lead vocals and plays the harmonium, piano and ukulele. Nathan does vocals and plays guitar, banjo and clarinet. Barnaby Bright's albums are *Wake the Hero*, *Gravity* and *The Longest Day*.

Drawing inspiration from literature, human behavior, experiences shared with the fascinating people they've encountered on the road, as well as a hint of fantasy, Barnaby Bright is a classic vision of timeless indie folk rock in all its glory.

The award-winning indie folk rock duo will also be presenting a free concert at Village Church on Friday, April 29, 2016.



Photo: Shervin Lainez

Food Pantry

Thanksgiving is behind us and the Village Church Food Pantry is thinking of the cold, wintry days ahead and how grateful our clients are for a warm lunch or dinner. Knowing that, the Pantry is requesting donations of "hearty" soups and pasta to go with the spaghetti sauce we already have in stock. The hearty soups are so nutritious and easy to prepare, and are items that we can't purchase from Harvesters. With coupons that are always in the papers, you can purchase a couple of cans of hearty soups when they're on sale and bring them to church with each visit.

The Clothes Closet, in keeping with the chilly weather, is requesting warm blankets and winter coats of all sizes. Always needed are large and X-large sized clothing.

Your donations keep this valuable mission in business!

Deck the Village Trees with Hats and Mittens

The Village Church tradition of the Hat and Mitten Trees returns for the holiday season. Now through Dec. 25, come decorate our Christmas trees with hats and mittens to give to families served by the Village Church Food Pantry. You will find the trees located outside the Children's Library on the second floor and at the south entrance to the church. Contact Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org with any questions.

DRMP Gift Cards, Coffee, and Chocolate: Gifts that Give Twice!

On Sunday, Dec. 20, the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church is offering honor gift cards, Santo Domingo Coffee and Equal Exchange dark chocolate bars in Friendship Hall. For a \$10 donation, you may receive two dark chocolate bars in flavors of your choice, a 1 lb. bag of Dominican coffee or an "honor gift" card that you may share with someone in whose honor you make the donation. Proceeds benefit DRMP Child Health Promotion, a program that empowers children living in the poor sugar cane communities of the DR to live healthier lives.

Joy Offering, Dec. 20

The proceeds from the Joy/Christmas Project offering are designated to either Joy or Project and if no designation is made, the amount is divided equally between the two. Joy offers support to retired church workers and eight Presbyterian schools and colleges. The Christmas Project provides assistance to local social service agencies who help others with holiday and emergency assistance needs. Envelopes for this offering have been placed in the Friendship Folders on each aisle of the Sanctuary.

VCCFDC Children "Feather the Turkey" for the Village Food Pantry

On Nov. 13, 2015, children from the Village Church Child & Family Development Center took 56 full meals to the Village Food Pantry for Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. The children collected a total of 850 items and personally delivered them to Susan Webb, director of the Food Pantry. The annual food drive is called "Feathering the Turkey." The kids who feathered their turkey got a surprise visit from Tom Turkey himself on Monday, Nov. 23, who delivered pizza for lunch as his thank you for their efforts.



MISSION

Special Visit for Faxon Robotics Group

Front Porch Alliance says that the robotics group at Faxon Elementary School is preparing to be in the metro Lego League Tournament. The kids had written State Representative Dunn for their related project, and he came to the 6th-grade team practice in November to show support. The first photo is kids practicing their Core Values presentation. The second is Rep. Dunn taking selfies with the kids using the school laptops!



Front Porch Alliance News

Porch Swing, the long-time annual fundraiser for Front Porch Alliance, was held on Oct. 24, and was a great success! The Scottish Rite building on Linwood at Paseo was a new venue for this Saturday evening soiree, and guests enjoyed its art deco glamour, even more "glammed up" by the beautiful decorations by Event Chair Barb Polfer and her volunteers. Julie Foster chaired both a silent auction and live auction, which provided fun bidding and wonderful items for guests.

So many of our Village

Church members and staff gave of their time to prepare for the event, and donate auction items, including giving time to participate in events still to come! This wonderful response helped Front Porch Alliance raise \$100,000 toward our vision of preparing Kansas City's eastside kids for their future. Thank you all!



Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines

On Friday, Jan. 8, 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, Jan. 7. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or at marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

Village Mission Helps Sustain the Presbyterian Church

Every year, Village Presbyterian Church helps ensure that the work of the Heartland Presbytery and PCUSA survives and thrives. In 2015, the church paid \$182,461 in per capita (per member) fees plus an additional \$210,000 in shared mission support to the presbytery.

Per capita/per member fees from Village support such endeavors as:

- Presbyterian Mission Agency programs such as World Mission with partnerships in 100 countries and mission co-workers in 50 countries and new church development grants
- Campus ministries
- Presbyterian Publishing
- Board of Pensions supporting retired ministers and missionaries
- Heartland Presbytery and PCUSA staff salaries

In addition, funds from shared mission giving go to the following:

- Church Planting and Revitalization supporting new churches or new initiatives such as the Neema Community Church, traveling day camp for small churches and the Small Church Residency Program
- Presbyterian Urban and Immigrant Ministry Network sustaining Presbyterian mission through local churches such as the Arab Fellowship, Haitian Fellowship and inner city congregations
- Heartland Presbyterian Center (The Camp) for day camp, traveling day camp, new pools and new dining hall
- The Harold Thomas Center hosting neighborhood organization, food distribution, job training, home repair, health services, counseling and financial assistance for people in the neighborhood of our Presbytery offices
- Commission on Preparation for Ministry supporting students training for ministry
- Mission and Social Justice assisting with the Thwake Village project and the Guatemalan Partnership, Presbytery Mission Staff positions

Village Church's contribution to our local and national Presbytery offices helps carry on the tradition of community outreach and betterment efforts in Kansas City and around the world. This contribution is made possible through annual giving and the funds designated out of the Village operating budget to Mission. Thanks to our Village members, our church has taken a leadership role in mutually sharing the costs of running the largest Presbyterian denomination in the United States. These funds determine how Presbyterians are trained to be better elders and ministers, how we discern God's call in our lives, how we participate in the wider life of the church and how we participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with all persons.



Advent Sermon Series • This Little Light of Mine

John begins the Gospel this way, The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. It is an honest confession of the hope we witness in the one who rested in manger straw. He is light; but there is darkness as well.

His light shines not only before us, but through us. Given the pervasiveness of what John would call darkness in the world, our light can seem pretty small. But this little light is enough. That is our honest confession of hope. This Advent series will offer reflections on the power of God's light in our lives. If you need a little hope these days, you will want to be with us in worship. Check villagepres.org for more details.

Dec. 20	God in the Ordinary
Christmas Eve	This Little Light of Thine

Christmas Eve Services, Wednesday, Dec. 24, in the Sanctuary

5 p.m. Family Worship; 7 & 9 p.m. Candlelight Services; 11 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

We will offer shuttle bus service from 4:30-10:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve for the 5, 7 & 9 p.m. services.

Organ Builders Need a Temporary Home

Remember how Mary and Joseph had to scrounge around for a place to deliver the wee baby Jesus, because there was no room at the inn? Well, come early 2016, there will be about 15 organ builders coming to Kansas City to deliver our (not so) wee baby pipe organ, and they will need a place to stay, too! Do you have an empty nest, or a mother-in-law apartment, or a spare bedroom and would be willing to share such a space with the church during our organ installation? We will need to house the builders for spans of time ranging from one week to one month, and you don't have to agree to a whole month!

If this sounds like something you could do, please contact Elisa Bickers (elisa.bickers@villagepres.org, 913- 671-2339).



Second Thursday Recital • 12:15 p.m. Jan. 14

Guest Artists: Elizabeth Suh Lane, Douglas Niedt & Elisa Bickers

The Jan. 14, 2016 Second Recital Series will feature violinist Elizabeth Suh Lane, guitarist Douglas Niedt, and harpsichordist Elisa Bickers performing selections from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. This free concert will take place at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, in the chancel of our freshly renovated sanctuary!



Missouri State University Choir Concert 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Village Church

The Missouri State University Chorale is the flagship touring choir of the MSU Department of Music. This select choir of 54 voices performs regularly at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, Missouri Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education and has toured throughout the United States and Europe. Members of Chorale also perform in Grand Chorus. A variety of advanced choral repertoire is performed in concerts and tours throughout the year. The MSU Chorale has traveled and toured to nearly every country in Western Europe. Last year, the Chorale performed at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. In May 2016, the Chorale will be performing several concerts on a 17-day tour of South Africa.

This year, the Chorale, under the direction of Cameron F. LaBarr, is touring to the greater Kansas City area for their annual winter tour. The concert showcases a variety of styles addressing the spiritual journey of finding profound inner joy experiencing music. The program includes works by Michael McGlynn, Thomas Weelkes, Ilyas Ilya, Hyo-Won Woo, and includes a number of American Folk Songs by John Wykoff and Alice Parker.

They will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, in the Village Church Sanctuary. The concert is free and open to the public.



Giving Permission

In elementary school, I had a brief but intense career as a Christmas criminal. My third grade class was scheduled for a field trip to see The Nutcracker at the Fox Theater in downtown Detroit. It was mere days before Christmas break, we didn't have to wear our school uniforms, and there would be hot chocolate afterward. I was nearly delirious with eight-year-old holiday anticipation. My friends and I were in agreement: this would be the Best Day Ever.

There was only one problem: I forgot to get my permission slip signed ahead of time. On the day it was due, I looked down in horror at the blank line where my mother's signature should have been. I grabbed my pen, glanced around furtively, and signed her name with a flourish. Just like that, I gave myself permission to travel with my classmates.

Unfortunately, it's not always that easy. We can't always do it for ourselves. So this Christmas season, the Pastoral Care and Counseling Department is giving you a gift: we're giving you permission.

We're giving you permission to be sad. Holidays can be tough times. Christmas carols insist that this is "the most wonderful time of the year," but for many people, that just isn't true. After all, a season that emphasizes friends and family can sharpen the ache we feel over a loved one who isn't at the table for Christmas dinner. A season full of angels singing and bells ringing can intensify the silent struggles of our hearts. So hear this: if you aren't in a celebratory place, that is okay. Whether your grief is brand new or years old, give yourself space to honor your feelings. The Light of the World is coming. Jesus isn't offended by your sadness. After all, he comes to redeem a broken world.

We're also giving you permission to be happy. This sounds a little silly, doesn't it? Who needs permission to be happy? You might be surprised. "I feel like it's not fair for me to be happy," she said. "When I find myself laughing or enjoying something, I catch myself. How can I be happy when [my husband] isn't here? It feels like being happy would mean I don't miss him anymore." This isn't an unusual comment. So often, those who are grieving feel as though any spark of joy dishonors their loss or their concern for others' pain. Know that this is not true. It's okay to find happiness. It doesn't lessen your love, your loss, or your concern. It is a reminder of the gospel truth we claim: there is a Light that no amount of darkness can overcome.

—Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Contact your Pastors of Pastoral Care any time:

Rev. Jenny McDevitt
913-671-2367
jenny.mcdevitt@villagepres.org

Rev. Len Carrell
913-671-2347
len.carrell@villagepres.org

Growing Through Grief – New Series Starts Jan. 13, 2016

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 is Jan. 13-Feb. 10

4:30-5:45 p.m. every Wednesday in Room 124

Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

Celebrating 15 Years of Presbyterian Women's Advent Candlelight Dinner

Friendship Hall was packed with 280 women of all generations on Tuesday, Dec. 1, for the 15th Annual Presbyterian Women's Advent Candlelight Dinner. Chef Emily Berns and her team prepared a scrumptious dinner. Village soprano intern Jee-Yeun Kim performed a lovely seasonal medley accompanied by Marvie Sneegas.

PW Moderator Jennifer Sawyer announced the 2016 PW Honorary Life Members. Kim Higgins, Arlene Raudenbush and Priscilla Wilson will be honored at the Celebration of Faithful Women brunch on February 20, 2016. Rev. Diane Quaintance gave a beautiful meditation on "Waiting..." Each guest received a tiny gift box with a poem attached:

This is a very special gift
that you can never see.
The reason it's so special is
it's just for you from me.
Whenever you are lonely
or even feeling blue,
You only have to hold this gift,
and know I think of you.
You never can unwrap it;
please leave the ribbon.
Just hold the box close to your heart;
it's filled with love inside.



The Spring 2016 Village U Catalog is now available in hard copy and online, and registration for the spring term is now open.

- 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.



Village U Highlights Spring 2016

Over 125 new opportunities for adults are coming in the Spring 2016 Village U catalog. Here are some highlights:

Sunday morning classes bring the opportunity to tap into the wisdom of an outstanding faculty: Rev. Dwight Tawney, Dr. David May, Dr. Lonnie Lee, Dr. Don Wilson, Dr. John Borden share their knowledge and passion for the Bible and history as they draw connections to our contemporary world.

Day Trips for spring include Kansas City's newly renovated Toy and Miniatures Museum, the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka, and the beautiful Powell Gardens.

Gus Breytspraak will explore *Short Stories By Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine's popular new book on the parables. Levine, who will be the Visiting Scholar on March 4 & 5, shows how Jesus told short stories not to make his followers comfortable, but to provoke and challenge them and us.

There are two exceptional opportunities for parents of teenagers: the Ali Kemp Foundation will lead a Self-Defense for Girls and Women class, and Rev. Zach Walker will address the often difficult but extremely important topic of Sex and Sexuality in Adolescence.



Other classes to look for include a genealogy class, Piecing Your Family Puzzle Together, a moving and inspiring look at the Holocaust with Bill Tammeus and Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn, stimulating monthly editions of Village Talk, monthly fun Singing Before Supper and dozens of opportunities to exercise, be creative and share faith and life with others.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

9:30 a.m. - The **Faith Journey** class is being led by Judy Matthewson during the month of December. The book study is Marcus Borg's *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most* where he surveys the most significant conversations and personalities that shaped his life, and presents his convictions about the faith and its role in the 21st century. Room 230.

Cloud of Witnesses - The Birth of Jesus: History and Lore

On Dec. 20 Rev. Dwight Tawney concludes his class that focuses on the history and lore of Jesus' early life. Room 127. On Jan. 3, Dr. John Borden will begin a class entitled "The Mysterious Member of Trinity." Room 127.

Growing Together class is not meeting during the month of December and will resume on Jan. 3.

The **Village Forum** class welcomes Rev. Brian Ellison who will continue teaching the class "Rejoice! Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns" on Dec. 20. We will discuss theology, history and feelings about *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. Room 126.

10:45 a.m.

On Dec. 20, **Inquirers** will have special annual commemorative study of Dr. Lindsey Pherigo's classic presentation of *The Origins of Christmas* (audio-tape presentation) will be the topic. Room 124.

Social Witness & Advocacy Stand Up KC March & Rally

Members of the Village Church Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force joined low wage workers and their supporters, including other members of the faith community, for the Freedom for All march and rally on Nov. 10 in downtown Kansas City. The rally was in support of increasing the minimum wage, sensible immigration reform and addressing racism in America. At the conclusion of the rally, supporters marched from Barney Allis Plaza to City Hall to express support for raising the minimum wage.



Village Worship Service Radio Broadcast

**Radio Broadcast Time Switches
from 9:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.
starting Jan. 3**

Same station: 1660 AM, KMBZ,
the Business Channel



No Church School for Preschool Age Children and Elementary Age Children on Sunday, Dec. 20.

Diapers in December

Children & Family Ministry is once again collecting disposable diapers throughout the month of December to benefit the Food Pantry. Last year, your generous donations lasted for more than six months. Let's beat that! Diaper donations can be left in the crib located in front of the Children's Library or at any of the Food Pantry drop-off locations.

Church School Schedule

Preschool Church School, Kids' Kingdom and Club V6 (6th Graders) will not meet on Sunday, Dec. 20, to allow families to worship together. There will be nursery and child care for infants and toddlers. Classes resume on Sunday, Dec. 27, with a broadly graded combined class for fun and games.

It's time to sign-up for summer camp!

Camp Heartland is where relationships are made and we believe God changes lives through them.

Not sure of your summer schedule? Have no fear! It only takes a \$75 deposit (\$50 for day camps) and you can change weeks any time at no extra charge.



Children's Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve

Don't miss the family worship service at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24. In addition to the beloved story of the birth of our Savior, we'll hear the sweet voices from the Morning Stars choir and maybe a few surprises along the way!

Enrollment for Village Church Weekday Preschool begins in January!

Village Preschool begins accepting applications for the coming school year (2016-2017) in January. Several years ago a tiered schedule was implemented due to the high demand for limited spaces in our program. This allows for currently enrolled families and Village members to have priority. For more information check the preschool page on the Village website or contact Terri Gaeddert at 913-671-2338.



Enrollment Schedule for Fall 2016-2017:

On Jan. 19, enrollment opens for: Current Preschool Families and Village Church Members

On Jan. 21, enrollment opens for: Current Village Church Kids Day Out Families

On Jan. 25, enrollment opens for: Community Families



Hey Kids! There's A Mouse in the House!

Come find Peppermint, the Christmas Mouse, weekdays in the Village Cup, and you'll get a free candy cane. He'll be hiding in different places every weekday now through Dec. 24.



GOOD NEWS



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PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID AT KC, MO

The Giver that keeps ON Giving

Remember, through your thoughtful annual commitment pledge to Village Church, you will impact the lives of thousands who need your help!

If you still need to make your **2016 annual commitment**, consider completing your form online on our website villagepres.org

OR

you may return your commitment card to the church.

For more information, contact Molly Sirridge, 913-671-2325.



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

VPC Service Times

Traditional — 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering — 10:45 a.m.
In the Youth Loft/Room 333

Radio Broadcast

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on
1660 AM KMBZ,
The Business Channel

**Broadcast time switches to
8 a.m. starting Jan. 3**

www.villagepres.org

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. M-F
6–7:30 p.m. Thursday night
9:30–11:30 a.m. Sat. morning