The Village on Antioch Sanctuary was packed with 328 people for the Service of Thanksgiving and Welcome on Sunday, June 25. The Chancel was filled to the brim with the Village on Mission choir and singers from Village on Antioch. Presbyterian Church of Stanley elder and charter member Phil Hendrickson choked up as he began to speak. “My 9-year-old granddaughter said to me this morning, ‘This is a big deal!’” He paused for a moment to collect his composure, and acknowledged, “This is a REALLY BIG deal!”

Rev. Richard Ramsey, the first called pastor at Presbyterian Church of Stanley, took part in this special service of worship. “What a wonderful, exhilarating, joyful day it is,” said Rev. Ramsey. “It’s a day of resurrection. It’s a day of new life. It’s a day when those who relentlessly and tirelessly put forth the effort to believe that this church on the hill at 148th and Antioch could continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the redemptive love of Jesus Christ—and could share its gifts and receive the gifts of Village Presbyterian Church, to assure that there be a reformed presence, that there be a PC (USA) presence in this part of God’s creation.”

Rev. Ramsey remembered the morning his phone rang in 1980 as he sat in his PCOS office, then located in a local savings and loan building. “The voice said, ‘Dick, this is Bob Meneilly. I’m a minister for the Presbytery. I work down at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village. Have you learned where that is yet?’ Like I didn’t know who he was. He said, ‘I’d like to have lunch with you if you could work out your schedule.’ A week or so later, he had me to lunch and said, ‘If Stanley needs anything, Village will help you. Just let me know.’ And thus the relationship with Village Presbyterian Church began.”

“And so the months and weeks to follow, Bill Foster, who was the associate in Christian Education, came out and taught our Sunday School teachers and helped us get curriculum. Mrs. Meneilly came out and worked with our Presbyterian Women, told them about the mission of the church and everything that the women of the church do in the PC (USA). Now Tom and Hallie are picking that up. I know a lot of people at Village have a role in this. To the Session of Village, to the congregation of Village, and to those who have fought the good fight here and have remained faithful, who have believed that there is a Gospel that can be proclaimed from here, and again for Village’s recognition of that faithfulness, a personal word of thanks for allowing this place to be a site for God’s words proclaimed.”
Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor of Village Church, preached the sermon. The scripture reading was the Resurrection Story from Mark 16:1-8. Rev. Are said, “Many of our brothers and sisters at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley have told me that this division has felt like a death. But death is never the end of our story, because we worship a God of resurrection. Resurrection is not just a promise of what happens beyond the grave. Resurrection is the way God works with us here and now.

This is Resurrection Day… I suggest to you that God’s desire is to resurrect church in this place. This place that once was a magnet for children and students will become the same again. And we will proclaim the promise of their baptism that they are all loved by God. That this church be a place of service and endeavors for justice. That this church be a place of family where we care for each other and we welcome all and we become known, not by who we keep out, but by who we welcome in.”

“But there is something that is needed from all of us for this resurrection to happen… We need to trust that the days ahead of us matter as much to God as the days behind us. Trust that the days ahead of us matter as much to this community as the days behind us. That we live toward becoming that community where we exist to proclaim the Gospel for the salvation of humankind. That we exist to nurture the spiritual fellowship of all of God’s children. That we exist to maintain the worship of the holy one with conviction and humility. To promote justice and righteousness. And on our best days, maybe we will even be an exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. That’s resurrection. And this is Resurrection Day, because the story of God and of God’s church is always a story of resurrection.”

Several members of Presbyterian Church of Stanley came forward to be welcomed into membership of Village Presbyterian Church. Together they said, “With gratitude for the Gospel we have known and lived as the Presbyterian Church of Stanley, and with sorrow that her ministry has come to a close, but even more so with trust in God who holds our tomorrow, we commit ourselves to become this new church and to live in the new life of the Gospel as Village on Antioch.”

Village Church members responded, “We welcome you with joy and love as brothers and sisters of Christ, that together we might worship and serve as Village on Antioch.”

And on this holy day, 55 people transferred membership from Presbyterian Church of Stanley to Village Presbyterian Church, and we fully became one church worshiping at two campuses.

**Multigenerational VBS at Village on Antioch - July 10-13**

This original Vacation Bible School program is intended for all ages. Bring family and friends, of any age, or come alone. We’ll eat dinner together at 5:30 p.m., create music and art and split into groups for age-appropriate learning. Our VBS creators and leaders are Rev. Tom Are, Jr., senior pastor of Village Church, Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor and director of educational ministries, and Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor for young adults and Village on Antioch bridge site pastor. Register and get more information at www.villagepres.org/antioch.
**Food Pantry**

Summer’s here officially! School’s out - the children are home for lunch, and the Food Pantry sees the demand for kid friendly food rising: tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, canned soup, etc. There also are a lot of requests from the clients for 1-2 lbs. bags of all varieties of rice and beans. So that the Pantry doesn’t have the expense of buying standard size brown paper grocery sacks, we are hoping that you will use these bags when grocery shopping and then recycle them at the Pantry.

The Clothes Closet is asking for summer clothes in all sizes. Drop-off days and times for the Meneilly Center are on the last page of the “Good News” - or you can bring them to church.

**Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines**

Friday, July 14, Village will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kan. We need four to five volunteers to help cook from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and three to four more to help serve from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We also need cookie donations. They can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, July 13. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

**Volunteers Needed**

The Food Service Department at Village Church is looking for volunteers. We have many openings available in the main kitchen and Village Cup.

**Team Kitchen in the main kitchen:** Work once a month (or more!) on Wednesday afternoons or evenings, or for special events only. Most shifts are two to four hours long, depending on the event. Volunteers prepare the salad bar, cut vegetables, cut and plate desserts, put food in pans. Fill hot and cold buffets with food, wash pots, put away food and equipment. You get to eat free every time you work! The busy season is September through mid-May, but we also have a few summer events that will require help. We welcome volunteers of all ages! Cooking skills are not necessary. Come have fun with us in the Village Kitchen! Contact Chef Emily at emily.berns@villagepres.org or 913-671-2348.

**Village Cup Coffee Shop:** Beginning in late September, we would appreciate assistance Mondays through Fridays, morning through early afternoon. Shifts would be two to four hours in length, depending on the day and the volunteer’s availability. Great for preschool moms while the kids are in class! The Cup volunteers will greet customers, take orders, make all types of drinks, restock supplies and wipe tables and counters. You get a free beverage when you work! Contact Dena Kehne, Village Cup coordinator dena.keehne@villagepres.org or 913-671-2330.

**CURRENT SERMON SERIES**

**Living Unafraid in a Frightening World**

When Easter was over and the world got back to normal, some recognized there was a new normal now. The world today is a place of crosses. Bodies fail and hearts break, systems and structures crush the powerless. There is enough in this world to scare you to death. But Jesus is alive now—there is a new normal. Jesus is alive now, so we can live, even in this world, as a people who are living unafraid in a frightening world.

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A New Chapter for Ryan Main

Ryan Main has served as our interim director of Music Ministry at Village on Mission since July, 2016. When Will Breyspraak arrives July 15 as our permanent music director, Ryan will remain a part of our Village Church family, as the new director of music at Village on Antioch.

“Serving as interim director at Village on Mission this past year has been one of the best experiences of my life. It is, in a lot of ways, the opposite of what I was doing before, teaching middle school in a low income area. But in a lot of respects, it’s the same thing. It’s caring about people and making great music.

I’ve been very thankful to meet the people here, to be able to work with Matthew and Elisa, who are some of the most talented musicians I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with. I am thrilled to be able to keep being a part of this ministry and this church and this message.”

Ryan will begin his new post as director of music at Village on Antioch on Aug. 8. "I’m really excited about that. I see that there is a need there. I believe the voice that this church has in our larger community needs to be shared in that community, and I want to help that be successful. And I think the music ministry there is going to be integral to the growth, sustainability and vibrancy of Village on Antioch. Right now, VOA has Jan Kraybill and Chris Leaver playing. They’re doing a wonderful job. The next step is to get a choir going, to get the members of VOA singing and playing and participating in worship. That’s where I want to start.”

Ryan holds a Masters of Music in Music Education and a Masters of Music in Music Composition from the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition from the University of Missouri - Kansas City’s Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Ryan taught music at Nowlin Middle School and Van Horn High School for seven years before coming to Village.

“My program had grown from 30 kids to over 300 kids at Nowlin. I came to a point where I knew it was time for...
writing than I did when I was teaching. That's really been a blessing in my life because I now have five commissions for new pieces for the 2017-2018 school year. At the same time last year, I had one commission. I'm really excited to be asked to write this much and to be writing for some really neat organizations like Shawnee Mission South High School.”

Another big new endeavor for Ryan is that he has formed an organization called the Youth Chorus of Kansas City for kids, grades 3-8. “This is something I've been thinking about for about a year and a half. What I want to do with the Youth Chorus of Kansas City is to make something that appeals to kids throughout the entire metro and that appeals to kids and families as well across all socio-economic classes. I want this to be something that kids from way out in the suburbs want to be a part of and that kids in the urban core also have the opportunity to be a part of. We have a Summer Sing program, which is really kind of an introduction to this, and it’s also our very first thing that we’re doing. That’s meeting here at Village on Mission from 1-5 p.m. July 24-28.” Learn more about the Youth Chorus of Kansas City Summer Sing at youthchoruskc.com.

To the Village Church on Mission congregation, Ryan would like to say a deep and profound thank you. “I've been touched by the warmth of Village Church. I've so valued the conversations and interactions that I've had with members here. There hasn't been a Sunday where someone hasn't pulled me aside and said thank you. And every time, it touches my heart. I thank the staff and the congregation of Village Church for allowing me to shepherd this ministry for the last year and to be a part of your life. I look forward to continuing this ministry in a slightly different role. But I am so profoundly grateful to keep being a part of Village Church.”
The Village Church Child & Family Development Center was packed with a crowd of over 200 people for the Community Open House and Dedication Sunday afternoon, June 11.

Now & Tomorrow, Village Church campaign co-chair Judy Heeter thanked the Meneilly Center Task Force who led the VCCFDC construction project: Dianne Stanley, chair, Jane Goss, Clarence Munsch, Cheryl Couch-Thomas, Jim Gibson, Kathy Lueckert, Bob Sawyer, Mike Gillaspie, Jenny McDevitt, Mariann Sun, Natalie Gillaspie, Cliff Middleton and Dwight Tawney.

Now & Tomorrow campaign co-chair Greg Maday said, “We stand here in this beautiful facility that turned out to be a great gift to the community and that’s due in total to all of your efforts. You just fulfilled the largest capital campaign in the history of Village Church. It took a lot of volunteers, money and talented people to make this possible. I want to thank those on the architectural and building side that helped us build a great family-friendly, environmentally-friendly facility; Gastinger Walker Architects, Pearce Construction and Barry Rogers, our Village Church owner representative.”

Rev. Tom Are said, “This is an exciting day for Village Church and the Village Church Child & Family Development Center. The Now & Tomorrow campaign goal was $23.2 million. We still have a little bit to do in our mission component. But to date, the campaign has received in gifts and pledges $21,836,000, which is a remarkable feat. It means that we have received every dollar that we need to cover all of the construction for the entire Now & Tomorrow campaign. I’m grateful for that good news.

This day is significant for another reason. This facility completes the vision that we have for this entire campus. The vision for this campus has been a long time coming. Several years ago, the wisdom of the Session was that the entire campus would be named the Reverend Robert and Shirley Meneilly Center for Mission. Dr. Bob and his beloved bride, who is in glory at this point, have stitched into us the DNA who makes us who we are as Village Church.

For the few of you who may not know it, Dr. Bob was only able to serve as pastor for 47 years. What I’ve learned about him is that deep in his soul is a commitment to mission. When you understand that the love of God placed in your life is not for your benefit alone, mission is the obvious fruit that results. You cannot talk about Village Church without talking about mission and I would suggest that there is no significant work of compassion or justice in this city that doesn’t have his fingerprints on it somewhere. He has been a part of that and a part of bringing that out in you. And so it is appropriate that we name this Mission Center in honor of Dr. Bob and Shirley.

His ministry is unparalleled in the Presbyterian Church. There is none other like it anywhere else. There is no
church like Village Church and we have the Meneillys to give thanks for that. And I am remembering Shirley today because I have an appreciation, unlike many in the room. I know that no pastor serves with energy, intelligence, imagination and love without the kind of support that we receive from good women in our lives. She was there to raise family and to do what needed to be done while you [Dr. Bob] were at Session meetings and committee meetings and hospital visits and community meetings. You were a team. And so it is right that we name and celebrate this good center the Reverend Robert and Shirley Meneilly Center for Mission. We do so so that we remember all that you have done among us. We do so so that we remember all that God has done among us. And we do so so we remember who we are to be.”

Rev. Are invited Dr. Bob to the microphone. He said, “One generation has visions and thoughts and hopes. And then the next generation comes along, and then comes the fulfillment of this place and this ministry. Here is the fulfillment of what came long before. Remember how Jesus was always concerned about the little children. And when the disciples would sometimes get angry with the children pressing upon Jesus and Jesus got angry with the disciples for holding the children off, and he bid them to ‘Let them come, for they represent the Kingdom of God.’ It’s a pleasure to be here today. Anything I’ve had the opportunity to do through Village Church in years past has been very providential, I can assure you. It’s nice to be a part of it this time and have such a successor as Tom Are. Happy Day! And thank you for this great place!”

In his closing remarks, Rev. Are said, “The commitment to children that started at Village Church in its earliest days is one that remains vital and important to us. When parents are at work, the thing they worry about the most is ‘Will my children be ok?’ This building is Village Church’s response to that anxiety and what we’ve said to this community is that your children will be safe here. Your children will be loved here. Your children will thrive here. Your children will be celebrated here. Your children are God’s children and so in this place and in this church we will treat them as if they are our own children. I want to thank Rosemary Marshall who has been watching after the children for this community for many years.”

Rev. Are closed with a word of prayer. Guests then took guided tours of our new child care facility that includes a community room and conference rooms that can be used for community events and activities. The Open House & Dedication fell almost exactly two years after the building groundbreaking on June 7, 2015.
Age 60s Dinner at Dragon Inn Oriental Cuisine
6 p.m. Friday, July 14

Village Church is offering a fun opportunity for people in their 60s (couples and singles) at Dragon Inn, 7500 W. 80th St. in Overland Park, at 6 p.m. Friday, July 14. Dragon Inn, a family owned business, serves Peking and Szechuan dishes. Each person is responsible for their own tab. The reservation is under “Village Church Group.” RSVP to liz.middleton@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2359. Check out the menu at http://dragoninn.us/.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WOW Lunch at Aixois

Women of Wisdom (WOW) has scheduled a noon lunch on Wednesday, July 19, at Aixois, a casual French restaurant at 251 East 55th St. in Kansas City, Mo., a few blocks north of the Brookside area. Parking is easy on either the street or in a church parking lot directly across the street. Aixois features food with a French flair, (as well as a burger and fries!), priced slightly above average, and served in a pleasant atmosphere with a warm ambience. You may want to allow a little extra time to visit some of the charming shops along the block that is anchored by Aixois.

As always, all women are most welcome to join us for our last lunch of the summer season before WOW’s next event during the second half of September. RSVP by Tuesday, July 18, to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net or 913-432-4321, and indicate at that time if you need transportation. We really hope that you can join us!

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Village Cares for God’s Creation

Grow some natives this year. They save on water and fertilizer; they’re good for wildlife, like native bees and butterflies, and some are resistant to the local pests; they are not invasive; and they’re beautiful. Native shrubs and wildflowers come in many shapes, sizes, and colors and can be found in specialized nurseries all around the country. And let the children help.
Land of the Free, Home of the Brave
Thank you to all who serve in the military, keeping our country strong and safe. You and your families are in our prayers. We would like to add you or any family members or friends who are currently serving in the military to the church’s prayer list. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org with name, rank and any other information you would like to share.

Sometimes Life Throws You a Curve Ball…
If you are facing a challenge, a loss, or need someone to listen, consider requesting a Stephen Minister. A Stephen Minister will meet confidentially one-on-one with you and listen, pray, and support you. If you are interested, contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347 or len.carrell@villagepres.org.

Summer Adult Sunday Morning Class
Faith Seeking Understanding. Conversations On the Sermon Text for All Adults
Today and continuing each Sunday through Aug. 20, all adults are invited to study and discuss the Bible text for the day’s sermon. The class welcomes persons who are new to the Bible as well as those who are more familiar with the Bible. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will guide the class today, July 16 and July 23. Rooms 126-127. 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Now That You Have Your Google ID, What Do You Do With It?
The Village Church Computer Ministry is hosting “water cooler sessions” on the first Wednesday of the month. Remaining sessions will be held on Aug. 2 and Sept. 6. Learn how the Google suite of products can be used to collaborate with others while doing God’s work in the church and the community. Topics will include Gmail and InBox, Google Calendar, Google Docs, Google Spreadsheets, Google Drive, and Google Keep. 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 316.

Watch for the Fall 2017 Village U Catalog … coming soon!
The fall 2017 Village U curriculum is a wide umbrella encompassing all our adult learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location. Village Church is a learning community with a long commitment to providing opportunities for adults – young and older—to grow in knowledge and faith together. We hope you will spend some time discovering all that is available.

• Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time $40 fee per child for the 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.

Registration for Village U 2017 fall term:
• For Village Church members: Registration begins on Monday, Aug. 14.
• For community: Registration begins on Monday, Aug. 21.
New Little Village One
Join Children and Family Ministry in welcoming the following little one born recently: Jack Pearce (John and Lindsay Pearce, parents). Roses will be placed on the communion table the third Sunday in July to celebrate this new baby.

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! In Hero Central VBS, kids will go on awesome adventures alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God.

All VBS kids will collect for the Village Food Pantry. You may drop off your donations in Friendship Hall July 17-21.

We will also collect the following Super Hero Supplies: school supplies, socks, sunscreen, soap and soup. In addition to all those Super Supplies, kids can also bring Spaghetti-O’s to help supplement lunches for children who cannot afford school lunch.

Creations by Kids & Kids Day Out

Traveling Day Camp
The Heartland Center staff returns this summer, bringing with them fun and exciting ways to study the Bible through interactive worship, songs, crafts and games! July 31-Aug. 4 at Village on Antioch.

MENEILLY SOCIETY - ENDOWMENT TRUST

When we came to town 52 years ago, we visited a few churches. When we heard Dr. Meneilly’s sermon, we were hooked. His message applied to our lives. We needed the informational and inspiring challenge he gave each week. We understood him.

As our boys grew in the church, it was directional for them. They and their father were very active in Boy Scout Troop 91. They achieved the level of Eagle Scouts.

Today, I enjoy broadening my knowledge in the classes offered, the WOW women’s group, and the splendid music program.

The caring work of all our ministers is totally appreciated. Tom Are helps me to understand Grace of which we are assured.

I wish for the Endowment Trust to continue this inspiring work. Don and I have remembered Village Church Endowment Trust in our estate plan, knowing we are helping future generations be inspired and learn to share the love of Christ with all people.

—Miriam Thompson
Village Voices Summer Choir Tour

The Village Voices Youth Choir has just returned safely and filled with the Holy Spirit after spending four days together on a tour to Springfield, Mo. Our students sang at several assisted living facilities between Prairie Village and Springfield, bringing love, joy and excitement to hundreds of residents. After presenting a concert, our youth mingle with the residents, shaking hands, offering hugs and sharing stories. They also spent Pentecost Sunday offering music during worship with the congregation of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Springfield. In addition to showing love to others, they offered it to one another as well. Among the most memorable non-musical events were surviving a thunderstorm and flash flooding at a baseball game, sorting at a clothes closet, discovering the world’s largest fork and epic games of tag at night. The support of Village Church means so much for our young people.

Thank you!

—Matthew C. Shepard, director of Village Voices

VILLAGE CUP SUMMER HOURS

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8 a.m.-noon
Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Cup will be closed for summer hiatus. The dates will be the weeks of July 24-28 and July 31-Aug. 4.
We will be open Sundays July 23, 30 and Aug. 6.
We’ll all be back to our regular schedules on Monday, Aug. 7.
You may have heard the phrase, “knowledge is power.” I would venture to say it's true. When we have insight and understanding as to what is needed (here in the U.S. and around the globe), and how we can help, we can be very powerful.

An example of how we help locally is through the Village Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. Last year, we served 16,153 people in need of food on the table or clothes on their backs.

Thanks to the dedication of knitters and sewers through Mission Sewing, 8,632 items such as baby caps and heart pillows were created in 2016.

148 pints of blood were donated through the blood drives Village Church hosted last year for those in need.

Far from home, Village provided 3,506 patient visits internationally last year, offering life-saving medical treatments, medications and education.

In concert with the other churches in the Heartland Presbytery, we have built and staffed a health clinic, helped complete - and continue to support both a primary and a secondary school, dug a well to supply water to the community, clinic and school, completed the construction of a Presbyterian Church, and have built a Children's Home that will house 12 young girls.

Regardless of address, we are all God's children. The knowledge we have and commitment we continue to put forth with our time, talent and treasure, offer hope to those less fortunate. The power of giving is alive at Village Church!

—Suzanne Willey