



Maestro Breytspraak and His Road Back Home to Village Church

Will Breytspraak's parents Gus and Linda have been members of Village Presbyterian Church since 1976. Will was born in 1978 and was baptized at Village Church. His earliest memories of Village are being in the children's choirs in kindergarten and in church plays. "Instead of *We Three Kings* we did *Three Wee Kings*, and I was one of the kings. I did a lot of music and sports activities around town, but Village was always a place where I felt welcome; and I could be myself. I was able to be friends with people of all ages."

"I really got engaged in about the 7th grade, singing in the New Spirit Singers choir. I got to go on tours with that group. We went to Canada and sang in all these churches and did home stays. I was a little alto and a soprano for a while. My voice hadn't changed. That was an amazing experience to get to see the world with my church choir. The director would have us play, like if we played piano or another instrument, in addition to the choir singing. So it gave me a chance to share that. It was a safe place to share your gifts but not as pressure cooked as everything else."



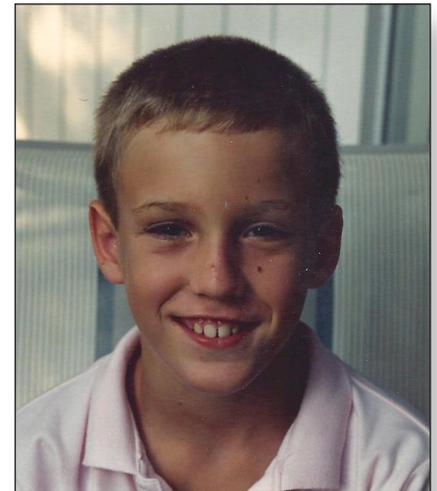
Will's baptism day at Village



Will (right) in *Three Wee Kings*

"When I was a junior in high school at Shawnee Mission East, my choir director, Rika R. Heruth, called me really sick one night and said, 'Will, I need you to direct all of the choirs tomorrow. Are you up for it?' And I said, 'Yeah!' I couldn't have been more excited. I got to go to several hours of choir. I remember an incredible feeling of knowing what to do. I'd been sitting in rehearsals and there were things I wanted to work on. And it helped that I had a confidence there. I had a fantastic accompanist and I'm up in front of the class leading. Without that moment, I don't know if I would have gone into this whole profession."

"I think in churches and schools our job is to look out for peoples' potential, their gifts, and their passions, and nudge them along maybe into uncomfortable areas and show them what they can do. She did that for me. She pushed me. That's when it went from a possibility to a reality."



Continued

"I was also influenced by a couple of choir directors I had at an 8-week summer music camp in Michigan I went to called Interlochen. I was with kids from all over the country and the world who were passionate. But I think in high school, going to that camp, I found out what some of my skills were. And it was a good point in my life realizing that maybe choir directing – because I loved singing, I loved playing piano, and I loved directing – was a good path for me. So when I came back, I wanted to do it."

Will began to look for colleges where choir was the main focus. "I chose St. Olaf because choir was the main thing. Also at St. Olaf, because the choirs are not just comprised of music majors, it's more like a church in that you have people with other interests. The choirs there are really a community, like a family, which was really fun."

I was more focused when I went to Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey for my masters. That was a totally different type of experience. It's just 500 people who are all singers or organists or pianists. I learned as much there from my classmates as I did from professors."

Will met his wife Kate at the grocery store in Princeton. "I had a cold and I was walking out with chicken noodle soup, and she was walking in with another friend I had just met. The rest is history. She's from Wilmington, Delaware; and she's an opera singer. Her thing now is operations, arts management. She'll be singing in the Village Choir."

Will and Kate have two girls. "Nell is 7, and she just started the 2nd grade at Corinth Elementary. She loves to sing and loves to dance. Edie is 4. She'll be going to Village Church Preschool. She's wild. She loves to dance. They're both really creative. Half the time they love each other. Half the time they're in a complete war. We're working on that."

What intrigued Will about coming back to the Midwest and Village Church? "At First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, I had done this and loved it for seven years. After doing public teaching at a Performing Arts Magnet program, I started working with the children at this church. Things there evolved to where I directed their Performing Arts School and I became assistant director of music and then director of music. I absolutely loved the challenges of it, the joys of it. The church work demands of me everything I've ever learned—whether it's administration or playing the piano."

We moved to DC and the balance changed. It was partly in order to be closer to my wife's family. They're in Wilmington, Delaware. In DC, I did part-time church work. I worked full time in a school as an administrator and teacher and I worked a lot at the opera there. I did eight operas with the children's chorus. I think from getting away from the balance that I had in Atlanta, and the challenges of church work, I just missed it. And I knew that I wanted to do full-time church music ministry. I was just waiting for an opportunity. Then this came up, which is closer to my family. It has all of the challenges. It was miraculous. The two things just kind of aligned."

How would you describe yourself as a music director? "I love to have fun working really hard. Even though the community is the most important thing, a musical experience as a group is different than getting together for a nice big dinner, or going to an athletic event. I think it's good to remember that the music is food for us."

"I go into rehearsal ideally having spent hours and hours of study of the music, however easy or difficult it is, so that it's internalized for me. And then I can get out of myself and help other people experience it. I think the more I've done this the less people notice me in a rehearsal, the more you notice the music, the experience they're having, because it's not about me. I'm getting out of the way, giving them the experiences they need to do it better and to relate to each other and music."



Photo by Wirken Photography

Will recognizes that he is standing on pretty big shoulders stepping in to lead Village Church Music Ministry. "Mark Ball is an inspiration to me, getting to

see what he's done over all these years. Also Matthew and Elisa, and the members of the choirs, the ministry. It's pretty amazing to come into that.

Will shares a few ideas he's exploring. "I really like emphasizing the intergenerational opportunities – finding chances for kids to sing with adults. Part of the fun and challenge of church music is there are so many opportunities. So when we're working at the church here, we're looking at the pastor's sermons and Scripture. That's a lot of inspiration right there. And then we're looking at all the music we're just excited to do. Then we're looking at all the teams we're fielding. Then you've got all these instrumentalists and soloists. I'm excited about exploring those possibilities with such talented colleagues, and that's pastors, that's members of the choir leadership team, and the worship and music committee. I'm really excited to sort of play – now that I've gotten to know enough of the elements."

"I have things in mind that will get the kids involved in worship in a more holistic way. It's a very powerful thing when kids learn that they, too, can be worship leaders. They're not coming in to perform.

They're going in with a job. I'd say to my children's choir in Atlanta, "Are you ready to go in there and cheer some people up?" Yes! "Give me some reasons people might be hurting today." The kids will blow you away with their answers. Then this group of elementary-age kids in their little robes sing a couple of anthems, and they go out and don't just sing to a crowd, they sing for a congregation and they uplift and they have a sense of purpose about their ministry. That's really powerful. I'm just so excited to support Jenny Hull's ideas and efforts and team up."

I'm also super excited about the organ and collaborating with the choir. Village is committed to mission. I'm really interested in music that represents our actual mission projects and passions."

Music rehearsals begin this week and Will extends you an invitation to share your gifts. "We think you'll find a place in the music ministry family but if not, that's ok, too. We're excited to worship with you."

Rehearsal times have changed slightly. Visit villagpres.org, click on Music>Music Ensembles for the complete rehearsal schedule.

Upcoming Music Events at Village on Mission

Second Thursday Recital Sept. 14

We thrilled to kick off the Second Thursday Recital Series with Dr. Lara West, organist, at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, in the Village Sanctuary. Dr. West is organist at Trinity Lutheran Church, associate professor at Benedictine College, and a proud graduate of the University of Kansas. Her varied program will include Kenneth Leighton's Toccata on Hanover. Admission is free.



Celebrating Opus 22 – Douglas Cleveland Sept. 24

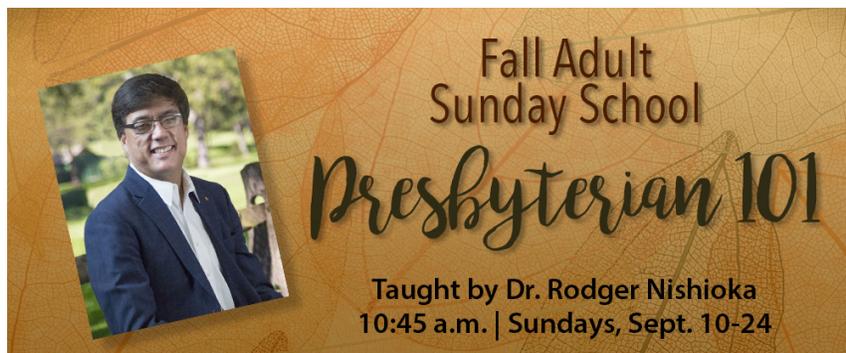
Internationally acclaimed concert organist, Douglas Cleveland, will perform on Opus 22 at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24. This concert is jointly offered by the Village Presbyterian Church Music Ministry and the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. No tickets or reservations required.



Sept. 10-Oct. 15

We sometimes assume that Jesus, by the time he was old enough to talk, was fully aware that he was the Christ and knew just how to live as God's son in human history. But there were moments in the Gospel story where Jesus encountered others who seemed to teach him who he was or at least how to live as God's son. It's not too much to say that in some of these encounters, Jesus learned how to be Jesus. There is not a one of us who comes to a life of faith and faithfulness without the mentoring of others. That seems to be true for Jesus as well. Perhaps we can learn from those who taught him.

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH



**Adult Sunday School at Village on Antioch
10:45-11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

Presbyterian roots emerged with the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago in Switzerland. Traveling through France, the Netherlands, England and Scotland to America and beyond, we have a rich history and an important story to share. Together, we will explore our history, some key theological tenets and our current practices.

- Sept. 10 Presbyterian 101: History
- Sept. 17 Presbyterian 101: Church and Theology
- Sept. 24 Presbyterian 101: Practices

Volunteer Help Wanted at the Food Pantry

A volunteer is needed on Friday mornings from 7:30-11 a.m. to ride with a trained driver on the Food Pantry truck - two Friday mornings a month on average. The volunteer must be able to lift up to 50 pounds. Contact Susan Webb, 913-671-2314, if interested.

The request of the Food Pantry this month is for all varieties of canned vegetables. Some of the popular clients' requests, which are not always donated, are spinach, beets, yams, chili, etc. Each family group gets a minimum of six cans each month, so please be generous.

The Clothes Closet is accepting summer clothing until the end of September.

Community LINC Open House

Learn more about Village Church's Signature Mission effort for 2017. You are invited to a special open house at Community LINC at 4012 Troost from 4-6 p.m. Sept. 13. Tour this transitional housing program and find out more about their new trauma informed care program for homeless families. Contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org.

Huge Thanks to DRMP's Celebration Dominicana Sponsors!

Approximately 210 guests attended Celebration Dominicana, an annual fundraiser for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership of Village Church (DRMP), on Friday, June 9, at the Vox Theatre. We would like to thank our incredibly generous sponsors and guests for helping make this event such a wonderful success!

This is a critical event for the DRMP because it allows the organization to continue promoting sustainable healthcare for indigent people living in the barrios and bateyes (communities of Haitian sugarcane workers and their families).

If you interested in participating in a DRMP mission trip, please email or call Lora Garrison, director of international mission, at lora.garrison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2390. No medical experience required.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Sept. 10. This meeting will take place in the Sanctuary, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new church officers for the positions of elder, elder/trustee and deacon. At-large members of the Nominating Committee will also be elected. Ordination of new church officers will take place in early January 2018.

UNDERWRITERS

Sherry & Gary Forsee

BENEFACTORS

Christine & Ford Maurer

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Chris & Jordan Logan

Dr. James Maliszewski & Genevieve Maliszewski

Ron Manka & Susan Minnix

Liz & Greg Maday

Helen & Rich Mercer

Dr. Larry & Judy Nibbelink

Becky & Jim Tilden



**Fall Food Truck Festival
This Sunday, Sept. 10**

Bring your family and your lawn chairs and sit under the big tent in the north parking lot and enjoy live entertainment by The Aaron Linscheid Trio! Choose from six amazing, gourmet food trucks offering reasonably priced specialties: Mad Jack's Fish & Shrimp, Beauty of the Bistro, KC BBQ, Cheesy Pops' Pizza, Crave of KC and Betty Rae's Homemade Ice Cream. Food cost is on your own. Ice water will be provided.

This event is sponsored by the Connectional Ministries Committee.

Weekly Wednesday Dinners

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 and dessert is \$7. Salad bar and dessert is \$6. Children ages 4-10 are \$3 and children age 3 and under are no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by Monday noon.

NEW: Standing Reservations only available on a pre-pay basis. Contact Liz Middleton liz.middleton@villagepres.org

- Sept. 13** – Beef Stroganoff, egg noodles, (GF pasta available), sweet potato casserole (V & GF), vegetable
- Sept. 20** – Pork Fajitas (GF), vegetable fajitas (V & GF), flour and corn tortillas, Mexican rice (V & GF), beans
- Sept. 27** – Roasted Chicken (GF), wild rice pilaf (V & GF), tomato pie (V), vegetable



The retiring offering from the concert will be going to Grandview Park Presbyterian Church's La Paz House, an after school program for children in the community.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

New Members who joined Village Church at the Mission campus Aug.6, 2017

Lindsey Davis and Stafford Hughes live in Kansas City, Missouri. Lindsey is an internal auditor for J.E. Dunn Construction and enjoys traveling. Stafford is a Cerner software consultant and enjoys sports and traveling. Lindsey and Stafford join Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Greg Rasby and Lexie Williams live in Kansas City, Mo, and are engaged to be married. Greg is an insurance broker and enjoys sports, working out, and insurance. Lexie works in banking and enjoys tennis, Junior League and traveling. Greg and Lexie join Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Marlys Fitzsimmons lives in Lenexa with her husband, John, and is a technical information specialist. She enjoys hiking, biking, travel, going to estate sales, cooking for family dinners and working in her yard. Marlys joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



Matt and Natalie LaMar live in Kansas City, Kan. Matt is a freelance writer and enjoys music, video games, reading and roller coasters. Natalie is an insurance processor and enjoys reading, music, and cuddling with her cats. Matt and Natalie join Village by Letter of Transfer.



Laura and Patrick Sargent live in Mission with their son, Colin. Laura is a pediatric nurse practitioner and enjoys traveling, spending time with family and photography. Patrick is a consultant for Accenture and enjoys traveling and scuba diving. Laura and Patrick join Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.



VILLAGE CONNECT

2017-18 Village Connect Conversation Groups

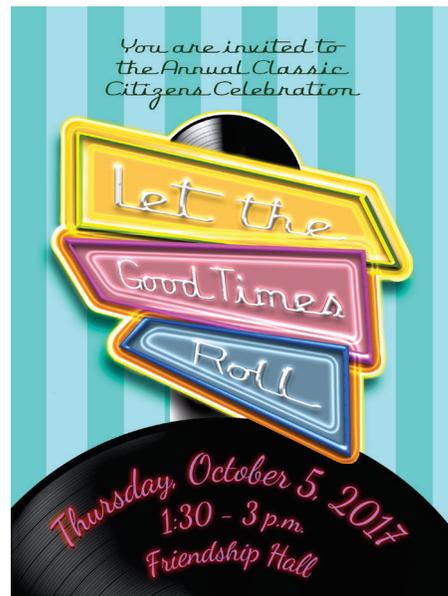
Village Connect is a way to strengthen faith through conversations, while making and deepening friendships. Village Church provides trained leaders and a DVD video study developed by Senior Pastor Tom Are, Jr. for these small groups.

The new study for 2017-18 is based on the second half of the Gospel of Mark. Our curriculum serves as a springboard for conversations, while relationship building remains a priority. Groups are launched, annually, in the fall and subsequent groups may form as needed. Types of groups include: couples, women and mixed (men & women). Each individual group decides frequency, location and time for meetings. Village Connect is open to both the congregation and community, so invite your friends and family. To join a Village Connect group, contact Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.



Let the Good Times Roll!

Music! Food! Fun! Join us for the classic citizens' celebration on Thursday, Oct. 5! If you are 75 or more years young, enjoy a fantastic afternoon from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Rev. Tom Are, Jr. will share the latest Village Church news. Need a ride? A ride to and from church is available upon request. Your invitation is in the mail – if you don't receive one, just call and come. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Operation Breakthrough Reading Program Making a Difference, One Child at a Time 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 25

*Complimentary Orientation Breakfast 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Be a reading buddy. Read to a child. Engage in literacy activities. Men and women volunteers needed. You will make a difference in the life of a child and your own!

Contact Cindy Whitham at cwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062 with questions. Child care will be available beginning Sept. 20 by calling Pam a week ahead at 913-671-2352 to make a reservation.



Wow Lunch at Pinstripes

Women of Wisdom (WOW) begins the fall season with a noon lunch on Thursday, Sept. 28, at Pinstripes in Prairie Fire, 13500 Nall. Pinstripes is known for Bistro/bowling/bocce, but we'll only dine for lunch on the bistro side, in a lovely, quiet room. Parking is on the street or in a parking garage directly across from Pinstripes. All women are welcome. RSVP by Sept. 27 to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, or 913-209-9608.



Visiting Scholar Save the Date: March 2-3, 2018

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, our 2018 Visiting Scholar, will present "What is True: Theology and the American Story" March 2 and 3 at Village Church on Mission. Dr. Jones is the 16th president and first woman to head historic Union Theological Seminary in New York. A renowned and progressive scholar in the fields of religion and gender studies, she has produced numerous books, professional papers and lectures worldwide. Join us as Serene challenges us to consider "What is True." Go to villagepres.org/visiting-scholar for more information.

AARP 55 Alive Driving Class will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 12 and 13, in Room 133. Classes will be taught by veteran instructor, Terry Barker. The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you are an AARP member) per person payable to AARP. To enroll, please call Marianne, 913-671-2333.

Upcoming Village U courses include:

Breakfast and Bible with Your Buddies - Join Rev. Tom Are, Jr. for a morning Bible study. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast, and Rev. Are will offer a reflection on passages from Scripture. There will be time for discussion as well. So, invite a friend and join the fellowship Tuesday mornings. To make a reservation for breakfast, please contact marianne.weber@villagepres.org. Cost: \$6. Child care is not available. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Oct. 31, Room 228.

Beginner Excel - Daytime - Topics include identifying the components of an Excel spreadsheet, entering data into an Excel spreadsheet, formatting information, sorting data and inserting and deleting rows and columns. Students will be creating a simple spreadsheet during the class to reinforce learning. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, Room 316.

Organ 101: Up Close and Personal - You are invited to get “up close and personal” with Village Church on Mission’s amazing new pipe organ. Dr. Elisa Bickers, Village on Mission principal organist, says there is a lot to love about this magnificent instrument. You will explore how the organ works, hear the new organ’s varied sounds, and even go inside the organ for a closer look. All questions are welcome. Please wear comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes if you would like to go inside the organ. Class limit: 20 people. 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Sept. 13, Sanctuary.



Beginner Excel - Evening - Topics include identifying the components of an Excel spreadsheet, entering data into an Excel spreadsheet, formatting information, sorting data and inserting and deleting rows and columns. Students will be creating a simple spreadsheet during the class to reinforce learning. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, Room 316.

Intermediate Excel – Daytime - This two-week class is recommended for those who have a basic understanding of Excel or have taken the Beginner Excel class. Topics include filtering and sorting data, working with functions and using Excel to create charts. Spreadsheets will be used to reinforce learning. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 19 and 26, Room 316.

Bible 101: How the Bible Came To Be - “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16) So given that all scripture is inspired by God, how did the Bible come to be in its current form? This is a basic course designed especially for persons who are new to the Bible. Taught by Dr. Rodger Nishioka. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 11, Rooms 232 and 233.

Hospitality to Strangers: Caring for the Undocumented - Village Church’s Social Witness Advocacy Task Force is currently engaged in study and action around the challenges facing undocumented persons living in the greater Kansas City area. In partnership with the Rev. Rick Behrens and members of the Grandview Park Presbyterian Church, persons from the task force will help us understand how and why these “strangers” are here in Kansas City and the challenges they face. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 4, Room 230.

The Reformation That Changed the World - The 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s presentation of 95 theses challenging key points of the theology and governance of the Medieval Church will be observed on Oct. 31, 2017. This course will explore how the European Renaissance laid the groundwork for the Reformation and how the pillars of the Roman Catholic Church cracked under Luther’s theological assault. Taught by Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 25, Room 127.

Intermediate Excel – Evening - This two-week class is recommended for those who have a basic understanding of Excel or have taken the Beginner Excel class. Topics include filtering and sorting data, working with functions and using Excel to create charts. Spreadsheets will be used to reinforce learning. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 21 & 28, Room 316.

The following Adult Sunday classes will resume on Sept. 10 at 9:30 a.m.:

Faith Journey - The class will study the book, *The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear*, by Michael Kinnamon. We live in a world driven by fear. But should we allow fear to play such a large role in our lives? According to the religions of the world, the answer is no. In this helpful and illuminating book, the author challenges readers to consider why. Led by Kathy Ray. Room 230.

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

Growing Together class is for adults in their 40's and 50's who are interested in growing together in context of their families. Most participants either have kids at home or are empty nesters. The average attendance is 20-25 participants; some are regulars and others come as their schedule allows. Growing Together welcomes anyone who is looking for opportunities to grow using Christ's principles as we apply Jesus to our lives today. The format is lively discussion based on a video clip. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre. Room 124.

Village Forum - The Search for God - Evolving from Search into Theology - This three-week series continues the five-week series led by John Borden in the spring. The Sept. 10 session will address the development of our beliefs into theology, the Sept. 17 session will cover the key questions of theology, and the Sept. 24 session will pull it all together into a look at various current theologies. Room 126.

SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

Seeking Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly with God

Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force members recently traveled to Chicago to join thousands of low-wage workers and union and faith allies in a march on the annual shareholder's meeting of a fast food giant and this country's second largest employer. The workers were asking for an hourly minimum wage of \$15 and the right to unionize.

Village Church members on this trip were particularly moved by the young working parents who carried their babies and pushed strollers in the steady rain as they marched in downtown Chicago.

As they marched, our church members thought about how corporations treat labor as a commodity. This trip and other local marches like them have impressed on them that labor is not a commodity; it is men and women, parents and grandparents who make the items and provide the services that enable corporations to make a profit.

When asked whether his participation in events like Chicago make any difference, one member said that he was raised to believe right will win out over wrong, and justice will prevail over injustice. He takes comfort in the belief that his, in some small way, will help lift low-wage workers out of poverty.

Village Church's Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force seeks to educate and advocate about social and economic issues such as hunger, gun violence, mass incarceration, health care and immigration.

For more information about the work of the task force, see the Village Church website under connect>adult>social justice.

Electric Cars at Village Sept. 13

Local electric car enthusiasts will display their vehicles (including a Tesla!), answer questions, and get you revved up to consider whether an electric car would fit into your lifestyle. Cruise through the South parking lot from 4-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 (and enjoy the weekly dinner while you're there?). The Environmental Action Committee sponsors this annual event during National Drive Electric Week. Contact Al Pugsley at apphs58@yahoo.com for more information.



Shoe-In in October

During the month of October, the Environmental Action Committee is partnering with Shawnee Community Services to hold its fourth Shoe-In. Please bring your gently used footwear to church and place them in the barrels that will be located inside the North and South Entrances of the Church. The first Sunday for pick up is Oct. 1, and the last Sunday is Oct. 29. All sizes and types are needed.

Shawnee Community Services will be re-distributing this footwear free to those in need in the Kansas City area. Call Bob Siemens at 913-216-2000 if you have questions or want more information.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday School

By now you should have received our fall mailing. This packet is loaded with information about what goes on here every Sunday and during the week too!



If you haven't received yours, please call the Children and Family Ministry office at 913-671-2350. Remember Sunday, Sept.10, begins our new year at Sunday School!

Story Time

The first Tuesday of every month is just for you and your young child. We meet in the Children's library for Story Time and then enjoy time with hands-on activities and crafts. Our next Story Time will be at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 3. No reservations required.



For 6th Grade

Each month, your 6th grader is invited to join us for fun and fellowship. We are planning different activities throughout the school year. Watch for emails and letters sent to your home for more information. Upcoming activities include overnight retreat at Heartland Center, laser tag, snow tubing plus some service projects. Call the Children and Family Ministry office at 913-671-2350.



GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA monthly 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208-1799 Periodicals Postage paid at Kansas City MO POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208-0050

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017
Vol. 55, No. 17

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Your stewardship dollars don't take a summer vacation -- quite the opposite, actually! Adult Education and International Mission are just two areas benefitting from your generosity:

- This summer, the Village on Antioch adult Sunday school class has been viewing and discussing the Village Connect DVD series on the Parables of Jesus, featuring Rev. Tom Are, Jr. The conversations have been lively and engaging, affording these attendees one more way to get to know each other and their new senior pastor.
- Tom Are and Dr. Rodger Nishioka co-taught the adult class for the intergenerational Vacation Bible School. Attendance averaged 70 adults each night as the group explored how people of faith experience reformation as individuals, as members of the community, as the church and in the world.
- In July, long-time Village member Dr. Ted Higgins and a team of 11 American volunteers and five Haitian surgical residents, spent a week at the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope in Fonds-Parisien, Haiti. They performed 77 life-saving surgeries on people who would otherwise have no hope. Higgins Brothers Surgicenter, located on the campus of Haitian Christian Mission, celebrated its grand opening this past December.

None of this could happen without the generous contributions of Village members and friends. Thank you!



VILLAGE
COMMITMENT

WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS

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

Bill Dyslin
Lorene Merkel
Ruth Opperman
Debra Prunty
Louise Simmons

CARING COMPASS

SEPTEMBER 2017



Stephen Ministry: Trained to Walk, Listen and Heal – by Peg Borden

A Stephen Minister is one who has been trained to walk with his or her care receiver through a difficult journey in life. Stephen Ministry caregiving is distinctively Christian in nature and thus places a special emphasis on using the tools of faith in caring for another. If we listen through one's pain, walk with the person through difficult times, and present hope in Christ, we offer Christian caring.

One of the most important training topics is "Feelings: Yours, Mine and Ours." Stephen Ministers learn caregiving skills to help care receivers recognize, accept and express their feelings, and we invite them to trust in God to give them healing. Stephen Ministers offer care; God cures.

Listening and the act of "being heard" is how Stephen Ministers discover the worries and fears of their care receivers. Listening takes skill and is probably the most important gift a Stephen Minister can bring to his or her care receiver. Being a patient listener is important in all areas of life, though. So the training each individual receives in these sacred spaces is definitely skills practiced for a lifetime. It speaks to the importance of really hearing another person and holding their prayers and concerns with care.

Several key units in training are confidentiality (a topic taken most seriously), grief and stages of grief, life crises, divorce, depression, age-related losses and memory sensitivity concerns. Stephen Ministers are not qualified to make diagnoses or treat serious problems and need to know when to refer their care receivers to a pastor or doctor, or other specific care professionals of care. Stephen Ministers learn about the many degrees of these difficulties and how people are challenged by their situations to find new ways of coping as they go through them. Stephen Ministry training addresses all of these growing areas and encourages people to move toward healing and wholeness.

Listen to my friend, and one of my life-long ministers, and his deep appreciation for Stephen Ministers and their training: Rev. Arnold Frank of Phoenix, Arizona, says, "Since we began Stephen Ministry 15 years ago, I sleep better knowing there are 23 people receiving very high quality care on a weekly basis from our Stephen Ministers. As a Pastor, I simply don't have another 23 hours a week to provide that care myself. It is a joy and comfort to know that people in need are receiving that care from our Stephen Ministers."

Our own senior pastor, Rev. Tom Are Jr., says, "The church is, at her core, a network of relationships that are characterized by care. When life is good and when life is hard, we care for one another. The compassionate care provided by Stephen Ministers is an essential ministry of Village Church."

Rev. Len Carrell, also our pastor and liaison for Village's Stephen Ministry says, "The skills taught and learned in Stephen Ministry training are central to all Christian formation. Listening as healing, holding holy boundaries, non-judgmental compassion, walking with others through dark valleys; these are all examples Christ has set before us. These are life-long ministry skills."

Each year our training is from September through December from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Village Church Stephen Ministry program has been an essential part of the Pastoral Care & Counseling Department since 1995. Hundreds of people have both received care and been trained to care for many of God's children in our midst. Currently we have 70 active Stephen Ministers.

For more information about receiving a Stephen Minister, please speak with a pastor or Stephen Minister. There are ministers all around us. You can identify them by their nametags. They are here to listen, care and pray. To learn more about becoming or receiving a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347, or call the Care and Counseling Department.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry's Caring Formation - Upcoming Events

All are invited! Presentations are at 5 p.m. in Room 132.

Sept. 28 - Rev. Tom Are, Jr., Village Church: (TBD)

Oct. 12 - Rev. Hallie Hottle, Village Church: "Learning How To Better Communicate, Relate And Understand Millenials"

Oct. 26 - Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Village Church: "Learning New and Meaningful Ways to Pray"

Nov. 9 - Peg Borden, Stephen Minister, Village Church: "Caring For Those After Death Of A Loved One, Focusing On Don't Sing Songs To A Heavy Heart."

Other Dates

Dec. 14 - Stephen Ministry Christmas Party

April 21, 2018 - Regional Stephen Ministry Conference

Stephen Ministry Leadership Meetings

Sept. 19

Oct. 17

Nov. 21

December— no meeting

Inspiring words...

"Grief can be the garden of compassion. If you keep your heart open through everything, your pain can become your greatest ally in your life's search for love and wisdom."

—rumi