

# 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](mailto:laura.davis@villagepres.org).

OCTOBER 2, 2019

## "Let Thy Love Be Heard" Concert Celebrates the Tapestry of Community

Village Church Music Ministry kicked off its new season in September. Copies of the 2019-20 season brochure are now available throughout the church. We invite you to pick up a handful and share with a friend. The fall concert "Let My Love Be Heard" is at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. Performers include the Village on Mission and Village on Antioch choirs with a string quintet. A free will offering will be taken for Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. Will Breytspraak, director of music, tells us more about the fall concert.

"This is a concert for community, for those marginalized in any way. We will look at the immigrant people experiencing poverty, and people experiencing religious persecution—not in a way that feels political or inflammatory, rather in a beautiful way that celebrates the tapestry that is our community."

"The concert is called, 'Let My Love Be Heard,' which is one of the pieces we'll sing that was written after the Paris shootings and explosions in 2015 that killed 129 people. It sings about the angels and gun violence and is represented by that piece in a way that's very healing and loving."

"We'll also sing 'The Old Church' by Steven Paulus, which celebrates communities of faith. It talks about the weary and the road up to the church, worn by the feet of the faithful as they went through the trials of life. 'For Everyone Born,' is an amazing arrangement by Tom Trenney of a hymn that Village seems to love. It says there's a place for everyone at the table. 'For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled.' And then 'To the Hands' by Caroline Shaw has a movement where singers share statistics of displaced persons internationally. It's sort of a modern idea that raw data can sometimes be where the truth really lies in looking at the way we treat people."

### Village Backstage Pass

"We've started something new this year, 'Village Backstage Pass' video conversations. We want to take the time to

give people a little bit of a 'behind the scenes' about the performers and the performance. Even more importantly, it's the relational experience of hearing from the artists, hearing from the musician, hopefully making viewers feel like they know them. 'This is somebody I can talk to at the post-concert reception.' That's why we've started 'Backstage Pass' chats, brought to you by Music Ministry. We released our first with Destiny Ann Mermagen right before her sensational season kickoff concert Sept. 13. So, look for more of those in the future on our Village Church Music Ministry and Village Church on Mission Facebook pages."

## Habitat for Humanity and Village Celebrate 40 Years of Collaboration

The Village Church fall concert on Nov. 3 commemorates the 40th year of the founding of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City and the 40th anniversary of Village Church's partnership with them. Since 1979, Habitat KC



has built or renovated more than 700 homes and at least 50 of those have been funded and constructed by the Village Church Tuesday-Thursday crew. Habitat's goal is to provide stable affordable housing through home ownership. Their work is revitalizing neighborhoods throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. You'll be hearing from one of our Habitat homeowners at the Nov. 3 concert.

**Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert  
7 p.m. This Sunday, Oct. 6 - Village Church on Mission Sanctuary**

The Kansas City Wind Symphony will present their opening concert of the 2019-20 season at 7 p.m. this Sunday, Oct. 6, in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. Admission to this event is free! The program will feature works by Bernstein and Verdi and will feature guest conductor James Barnes conducting his own piece "Malaguena." The concert will conclude with Holst's masterwork "First Suite in E-Flat."



**Second Thursday Recital with Organist Michael Emmerich  
12:15 pm. Thursday, Oct. 10 – Village on Mission Sanctuary**

Michael Emmerich, winner of the American Guild of Organists-Quimby Competition, has appeared as a recitalist in England and throughout the United States. His playing and compositions can be heard on American Public Media's Pipedreams and Pipedreams Live. Admission is free.

**Te Deum Presents "Be a Blessing"  
3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20 - Village Church on Mission Sanctuary**

Te Deum launches its 12th season with "Be a Blessing." The Beatitudes, seven verses from the Book of Matthew, are repeatedly quoted to speak truth and offer hope to Christians. "Be a Blessing" pairs a Beatitude with a non-biblical text that illuminates the humanistic values of the scripture, inspiring listeners to be generous and caring citizens regardless of faith background. Tickets are \$15 online at [www.te-deum.org](http://www.te-deum.org) or \$20 at the door. Season tickets now available. Te Deum is a proud member of the Village Church Arts Alliance.



**Kansas City Chorale with Organist Elisa Bickers  
7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 – Village on Mission Sanctuary**

This concert will pair the Kansas City Chorale singers and conductor Charles Bruffy with the power of the Village Church pipe organ played by Dr. Elisa Bickers. The program includes Mozart's "Regina Coeli," Faure's "Requiem," Jean Langlais' dramatic "Messe Solennelle," and Brahms' "Geistliches Lied." Get tickets online at [www.kcchorale.org/faure-brahms-mozart](http://www.kcchorale.org/faure-brahms-mozart).

**Kansas City Wind Symphony Veteran's Day Concert  
6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 - Village on Mission Sanctuary**

The program includes "The Star-Spangled Banner," "American Fanfare" "Farewell to Gray," "God Bless America," "Armed Forces Salute," "Stars and Stripes Forever," "Taps" and more. Admission is free.

## Be The Church Service Day Marks Its Fourth Year

On Sunday, Oct. 27, Village Church will take part in Be the Church Service Week founded by a small group of churches in the Heartland Presbytery, including Village Church. We asked Deborah White, director of mission, a few questions about Be the Church.

**Q: How many people and organizations have benefitted over the past four years?**

**A:** During the past three years, more than 1,400 individuals have participated in Be the Church Service Week across the metropolitan year. Six hundred of those folks were from Village Church. At Village on Mission and Village on Antioch...

- 1,350 hygiene kits were assembled for relief efforts in areas hit by disaster.
- 1,108 packages of vitamins and medications were packed for the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership mission trips.
- 815 sack lunches were packed for City Union Mission.
- 283 Thanksgiving cards were created for Village Food Pantry clients.
- 260 socks were stuffed with snacks for the homeless.
- 85 blankets were made for various agencies serving the homeless.
- 76 peanut pillows were stuffed for hospital patients.
- 30 pieces of materials were prepared for shoes to prevent jiggers in Uganda



**Q: How do you decide what projects to do?**

**A:** Village Church has collaborated with a number of agencies throughout the years and selected projects for those agencies that can be completed at the church following worship services. Service night offers activities for ages three years and older. The tasks can be completed in an hour and the items are delivered to local nonprofits within the next several days. If a volunteer wishes to work outside the church walls, opportunities exist with other partnering churches listed on the website at [bethchurchservice.com](http://bethchurchservice.com).

**Q: What do people say about the program?**

**A:** The following are comments shared by participants from previous years:

- "This has been a great way for my children to experience mission and service work."
- "Preparing the medications for our patients in the Dominican Republic is one of the most tedious, but also most important, things that the DRMP does. With help from volunteers from Village, a usually mundane task turned into an enjoyable event where people chatted around the tables as they counted and packed the pills. It felt very much like a family coming together in service of the greater good."

- "It seemed like everyone came with open and willing hearts for service."
- "The day offered a chance for fellowship as participants shared worship, a meal and service to the community."
- "It really does take a Village."
- "Let's do this again."

**Q: How do folks get involved this year?**

**A:** You can check out the website at [bethchurchservice.com](http://bethchurchservice.com) to find out more about which churches in the Heartland Presbytery are participating. For Village on Mission and Village on Antioch, you can see the activities being offered and can sign up at [www.bit.ly/bethchurch2019](http://www.bit.ly/bethchurch2019). Or call at 913-671-2369. If you didn't sign up in advance, you can still participate. Ample opportunities for service work are available on Oct. 27.



## Food Pantry

Fall officially arrived on Sept. 23, which means the bountiful donations to the Food Pantry of garden-fresh produce have almost stopped. As a result, the Pantry is asking for all varieties of canned vegetables. The clients love the green beans and corn, but they also like a variety from which to choose – i.e. spinach, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, black beans, etc. Fall's cooler temperatures mean the Clothes Closet is asking for winter clothing, sweaters, jackets, hats, warm socks, scarves, etc. Check your closets for clothes no longer being worn at your house. Thank you.

## Front Porch Alliance Rise and Shine Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6

Front Porch Alliance's (FPA) fundraiser, the third annual Rise and Shine Breakfast on Wednesday, is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Linwood Area Ministry Place Campus (3210 Michigan Avenue). Village Presbyterian Church started FPA in 1999 in partnership with the Ivanhoe neighborhood (31st to 47th Street, The Paseo to Prospect), providing educational opportunities for underserved children and families on our city's east side. The event will celebrate FPA's 20th anniversary and feature David Warm, executive director of the Mid-America Regional Council and supporter of the Linwood Area Ministry renovation, as its keynote speaker. More information is available at <https://frontporchalliance.org/riseandshinebreakfast.html> or you can call 816-921-8812.



## Adopt a STAR Family

Village Church will again sponsor "Star" Families from Operation Breakthrough. We will help provide Christmas gifts for families and holiday meals. Stars will be available on the bulletin board, from 9 a.m.-noon Sunday, Nov. 3, in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. Each child receives at least three new, unwrapped gifts; and, the mom receives a \$25 gift card to Target or Walmart. The Operation Breakthrough truck will be in our parking lot to receive the donations on Sunday, Dec. 8. Monetary donations to Village Church will be accepted for holiday meals: \$30 will feed a family of three or less and \$60 a family of four or more. Note "Operation Breakthrough" in the memo of your check.

In addition, Village is offering an opportunity to buy individual toys for the Operation Breakthrough Holiday Store. Nearly 750 kids who don't attend Operation Breakthrough but live in the same urban community benefit from this one-day shopping event. Pre-registered parents come and pick out gifts for each of their children with a volunteer. If you are interested in donating a new toy to the shop, you will find a list of the needed items for all ages at the reception desks at Village on Mission. You can deliver these individual toys for the store to Village on the morning of Dec. 8.

The children who receive Christmas aid all come from low-income families. Some are homeless. Many are in foster care because they have been abused or neglected. Nearly all live in single-parent families, headed by working-poor women. Questions? Contact Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 or Marilyn Borel at 913-708-1917.

## Village Church Signature Mission

On Monday, Sept. 16, the Endowment Trust of Village Church presented a check to the Mission Committee for \$23,328 from the Least of These Fund which will be used for the start-up expenses at Avenue of Life's Unaccompanied Homeless Youth House opening this fall. This project has been identified as the Village Church Signature Mission for 2019-2020.



**God May Not Be Who You Think She Is  
Through Oct. 27**

This is a study of the Prophets. Sometimes the Prophets critique those who do not trust in God, but usually, they are correcting (or reminding) people's confused understandings of God.

That's something all of us suffer from at times. Our understanding of God is never stagnant, or at least it shouldn't be. The prophets try, often unsuccessfully, to push God's people toward greater faithfulness.

- Oct. 6      A Light to the Nations (World Communion Sunday) – Rev. Tom Are preaching
- Oct. 13     What Does God Expect from Us?
- Oct. 20     Someone's Crying, Lord – Rev. Tom Are preaching
- Oct. 27     I Don't Care What Other People Think... Too Bad – Rev. Tom Are preaching



**I Believe. Help My Unbelief.  
A stewardship series.  
Nov. 3-17**

Church should be about the big things in your life and heart. It should be about joy and failure, about social struggles like poverty and racism, about ultimate questions like forgiveness and heaven. These are not questions that we face individually. God intended that there be a church because we cannot explore these questions apart from community. But it's not just any community. This is the body of Christ.

Because of the size of the issues and the expectations of our calling, Christian faith is always something that we will embrace with a degree of question or wonder. We will never move from a place of I believe, help my unbelief to a place of I believe 100%. Unbelief is a given with this gospel.

- Nov. 3      Help My Unbelief – Rev. Tom Are preaching
- Nov. 10     What Does Love Look Like? - Rev. Tom Are preaching
- Nov. 17     Because He Lives – Rev. Tom Are preaching

**Subscribe to Receive Village Pres Sermon Podcasts**

Village Church sermon podcasts are now available on the following podcast directories: Apple Podcasts (iTunes), Google Play, Spotify and Stitcher. You'll find them listed as "Village Pres Sermons." We invite you to subscribe and share Village Pres sermon podcasts with a friend.



The Apple logo is trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.  
Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC

### At the Sept. 9 meeting of the Session, the elders of the church...

- Approved the recommendation of the Village on Antioch Coordinating Council (the group of leaders that guide the ministry at our Antioch campus) to be the new location for the Heartland Presbytery Resource Center, a wide-ranging collection of ministry-related books, DVDs, curriculum and other resources free for the borrowing. The center was housed at the presbytery offices. Village on Antioch is more central to the 86 churches in the presbytery and VOA will benefit from these resources as well.
- Approved a letter from the Environmental Action Committee to be sent to the Johnson County Board of Commissioners supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the formation of a sustainability committee to guide the county's work.
- Called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, Sept. 29, following the 9:30 a.m. worship at Village on Mission for the purpose of hearing and acting upon a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The work of the committee is to offer candidates for the associate pastor for pastoral care positions.

### The Session heard reports about...

- The new season for the music department from Will Breytspraak, director of music ministry. The Session received a beautiful brochure showing the highlights including special music for worship.
- The search for a director of finance and administration. Rev. Tom Are is working with that search committee. Stacey Janssen is the chairperson. Ruling Elder Sam Wendt is a member. A search firm has provided a group of candidates.
- The upcoming Classic Citizens Celebration to be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, in Friendship Hall from 1:30-3 p.m. Elders were also invited to participate in bringing communion to members in their homes in November.
- 174 children participating in the first day of Sunday School, now known as "The Lighthouse" on Sept. 8. This is a record number and signals a new spirit and excitement in our ministry with children and their families.
- The humidity levels in the Sanctuary continue to fluctuate widely which can adversely affect the organ. Trustees are working on a solution.
- After an excellent summer of ministry for young adults in small groups, Theology Thursdays for young adults are resuming with a focus on "confession in a chaotic age." Rev. Hallie Hottle is the leader.

The Session closed the meeting with prayer noting all persons on the prayer list. The next meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Oct. 7 in Room 132.

**What is the Session?** The Session is the governing board of the congregation. The 29 elders are elected by the congregation. Each one serves for a three-year term. Currently the Session is comprised of 13 women and 16 men. Two of the elders are young people. The Session meets monthly except for July. The Rev. Tom Are, Jr. is moderator of the Session. Pastors and ministry directors also attend the meetings.

## VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH

### Village on Antioch Fall Festival 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26

Village on Antioch will host a fall festival from 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26. It will be a family friendly event with bounce houses, lawn games, fall drinks, snacks and more! Admission is free.

### Wednesday Family Dinners

People of all ages can gather before attending a Village U class, choir practice or just take a night off from cooking. Chef Emily prepares a hot buffet, salad bar and dessert (\$7) or salad bar & dessert (\$6). Children age 10 and under eat free! We've also added a children's play area. Emily is conscientious about wonderful options for children as well as gluten free, meat and vegetarian. Credit cards accepted. Reservations are required by noon every Monday. RSVP to Liz at 913-671-2359 or [liz.middleton@villagepres.org](mailto:liz.middleton@villagepres.org), or RSVP online at [www.villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](http://www.villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners).



Standing reservations, for more than one date, only available on a pre-pay basis. Contact Liz Middleton [liz.middleton@villagepres.org](mailto:liz.middleton@villagepres.org) if you are interested in paying for a month, several dates, or the rest of the meals through Dec. 11, 2019.

**Menus:**

- Oct. 9 salmon fillet, roasted new potatoes, zucchini tomato casserole, corn
- Oct. 16 Swedish meatballs, buttered noodles, vegetarian dish, vegetable
- Oct. 23 No Wednesday Family Dinner. Come to the Youth Chili Cook off.
- Oct. 30 Halloween Dinner! Chili dogs, SW quinoa black bean bake, corn chips, Halloween dessert
- Nov. 6 Fall flavors menu: roast pork w/apples, scalloped potatoes, vegetarian dish, vegetable

### Wednesday Family Dinner Halloween Party

Join us for a Halloween Party from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. Adults and children; wear your favorite costumes. Reservations required by noon Monday, Oct. 28. Contact Liz at 913-671-2359, email [liz.middleton@villagepres.org](mailto:liz.middleton@villagepres.org) or [www.villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](http://www.villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners).

### Flu Shots

Get your flu shot between 9-11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 20 in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. We are offering flu shots just one day this fall. Please bring your Insurance card & photo I.D.

### Save The Date All-Church Chiefs Game Watch Party Potluck Monday, Nov. 18



The Village Church Connectional Ministries Committee invites you to the first Chiefs Game Watch Party. We will enjoy the Kansas City Chiefs vs. Los Angeles Chargers Monday Night game on the big screen from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, in Friendship Hall. Bring a hearty potluck dish to share. Drinks, hot dogs, buns and condiments will be provided.

Free child care (from 6:30-8:30 p.m.) with a reservation by Nov. 11 to [marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org](mailto:marjean.lindquist@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2322.

Do you want to learn how to pray more faithfully? To be more welcoming? To grow in your walk with Jesus? The FEAST is a journey that begins with a day-long retreat on Saturday, Oct. 19, and continues for four Saturday morning sessions. Engaging and very practical, you will grow not only in your relationship with God but also with others. FEAST leadership: Ed Dexter, Bob Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Michelle O'Neal, Karen Reimer, and Susan Satterlee. Space is limited to 20 persons. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka at [rodger.nishioka@villagepres.org](mailto:rodger.nishioka@villagepres.org).

## Upcoming Fall Village U Classes

Online registration for Village U is encouraged.

**Facing the Refugee Crisis: Caring for the Least of These – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 16 & 23, Room 133.** There is a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding about the immigration program of the United States. In this two-session class, participants will come to understand the true plight of refugees and ways we can help welcome them just as Christ called us to be in ministry with the “least of these.” Facilitated by Neil Douthat, Village Church member and volunteer in the Refugee and Immigration Services Program of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

**For Hannah is Barren? Coping With Infertility, Miscarriage and Adoption Loss – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 16, 23, 30, Room 127.** Infertility is not talked about in the Bible but being barren is talked about. In a world full of IUIs, IVFs, D&Cs, how can we talk about God walking along-side us in our journey to potential parenthood. Sessions will focus on how we define family, how we define being a mother, and how we struggle with God in the midst of infertility, miscarriage and adoption loss. Facilitated by Rev. Sally Wright.

**A Culture Divided: Managing Conflict in All Areas of Our Lives – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 23, 30 & Nov. 6, 13, Room 232.** We are facing new challenges in American culture as we seem to be more divided than ever before. This four-part series is designed to help us reflect and move us toward more peaceful and meaningful engagements by examining what our faith tradition teaches us about relationship, doing some personal reflection to help us better understand ourselves in the midst of conflict and learning from a trained mediator how to work through conflict in productive ways. Facilitated by Carol Thrane.

**Richard Rohr: Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy: The Legacy of St. Francis – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 23, 30 & Nov. 6, 13, 20, Room 126.** This class will view and discuss Father Richard Rohr’s five-session video series which has discussions of atonement theology, eco-spirituality, the cosmic Christ, orthodoxy vs. orthodoxy and mysticism over moralism. Father Richard Rohr is a globally recognized ecumenical teacher bearing witness to the universal awakening with Christian mysticism and the Perennial Tradition. Facilitated by Dr. Gus Breytspraak.

**Adolescent Anxiety & Development Hurdles – 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 23 & 30, Room 233.** In this two-class series, we will talk about the seven essential strands of development in adolescent girls as well as discuss what research tells us about adolescent anxiety and how parents and families can help their children navigate these busy and flourishing years. While the classes will focus primarily on adolescent girls, there are applications for both girls and boys. Facilitated by Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries.

**Life on the Border: Notes from Agua Prieta – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, Room 133.** Last fall, 14 Village Church members and friends visited with Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-workers in Agua Prieta, a town that sits on the Mexican side of the border across from Douglas, Arizona. Come for an evening to hear and ask questions as together we seek to understand more of what is actually happening in one place on the southern border. Facilitated by Lora Garrison, Dr. John Hall and Rev. Hallie Hottle.

**The Murder of Emmett Till – 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, Rooms 132 & 133.** On Aug. 25, 1955, Emmett Till whistled at a white woman outside a Mississippi grocery store. Three days later, the 14-year-old African American boy from Chicago was kidnapped, tortured, murdered and thrown into a river. For 50 years, there was not a single memorial to Till’s murder in the Mississippi Delta. This presentation introduces the audience to the various Till memorials and uses them to explore the competing narratives of exactly what happened on the night of the murder. Facilitated by Dave Tell. This event is sponsored by Humanities Kansas.



## ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

**Pancreatic Cancer Awareness – 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, Rooms 132 & 133.** November is National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Please join us to learn and discuss topics surrounding the world's toughest cancer. Education is a crucial step in winning the battle against this horrific disease. Facilitated by the Edgerton.Life Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

**Basic Microsoft Publisher – 1-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, Room 316.** This class is an introduction to Microsoft Publisher. The objective of this class is learning to use the Microsoft Publisher software to create greeting cards, business cards, calendars or simple newsletters. Topics to be covered include accessing templates, editing templates to customize documents and printing documents. Registration is necessary. Child care is not available.

## WELCOME BACK, REV. DR. RODGER NISHIOKA!

We joyfully welcomed back Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka on Sept. 3. He returned after a three-month summer sabbatical and shares how he spent his time away from Village.

Dear Village Family,

Grateful. That is the first and last word that comes to my heart as I reflect on the gift of a sabbatical this summer. When I was called to Village Church, I was on a full-year sabbatical at Columbia Theological Seminary. I left that sabbatical early to start my work in April 2016. With our Senior Pastor Tom Are, Jr.'s recommendation, the Session agreed to grant me a summer sabbatical the year after Tom's summer sabbatical, so I could complete some of the work I had to set aside. Tom had his sabbatical last year. This summer it was my turn. My time away this summer enabled me to...

- Complete the manuscript tentatively titled, "YOUth in the Bible" – a survey of the importance of young people in the scriptures
- Complete three chapters on a second manuscript on adult faith formation discussing how adults grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.
- Preach for two weeks at the Montreat Worship and Music Conferences in Montreat, North Carolina, with the Rev. Jenny McDevitt
- Preach for a week at the United Church of Canada's Berwick Camp outside of Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Scatter my father's ashes with my brothers on the grounds of the Japanese Presbyterian Church in Seattle where our father served as pastor
- Teach for a week at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea
- Explore the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York with my older brother
- Explore the city of Osaka and eat the most delicious sushi I have tasted in my life
- Rest and pray and read

One of the most important books I read is titled, "To Change the World. The Irony, Tragedy & Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World." James Davison Hunter is a professor at the University of Virginia. His book is a thoughtful discussion about how Christians are to live today. He writes: The church is God's gift to his people and part of what makes it a strategic gift in our time is that it is a community and an institution. Constituted by powerful ideas, truths and narratives, patterns of behavior and relationship, social organization and a wide range of resources, churches are a social reality that are larger than the sum total of individuals who make them up. Only within strong communities can one find the relational means to sustain the difficulties endemic to life in the modern world.

In so many ways, Hunter describes what I experience daily here at Village Church. It is why I am so grateful and so proud to serve as one of your pastors. And it is why I was eager to return!

—Rodger

## PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

### Home Communion is This Month

Would you like to receive home communion? Home communion will take place the weeks of Oct. 14 and 21. If you would like a pastor to come to your home and share this sacrament with you, let Linda Alley know at either 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org).

### Annual Remembering Your Loved Ones

The annual Remembrance Service honors those loved ones we lost. It will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, in the Village Church on Mission Sanctuary. If your loved one passed away during 2019 and Village Church was informed, his or her name will be included in the program. If you would like to include any other names, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org) by Friday, Nov. 22.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Seeking PW Honary Life Member Nominations

Submit candidates for the 2019-2020 Honorary Life Membership award to be given at the Celebration of Faithful Women Event March 21, 2020. We ask you to please nominate a Village Church woman who strives to "promote the mission of the church, nurtures your faith, works for peace and justice, and promotes an inclusive community through service and leadership to the church." Submit nominations by Oct. 15 to Ann Flanders, 913-558-2155 or Niki Krenzle, 315-767-6629 or [VPCPWHLM@gmail.com](mailto:VPCPWHLM@gmail.com).

### Women of Wisdom (WOW) Lunch at Charleston's

Women of Wisdom (WOW) invites all ladies to a lunch at noon on Tuesday, Oct. 22. We'll be dining in a semi-private room at Charleston's, 8817 State Line Road. After a delightful lunch there a year ago, we chose to return to this casual restaurant, which features traditional American classics prepared daily from scratch. We welcome all to join us for warm fellowship at this cozy and inviting location. RSVP by Oct. 21 to Marvie Sneegas, [sneegi@kc.rr.com](mailto:sneegi@kc.rr.com) or 913-209-9608.

### Mission Sewing Opportunities

Join women of all ages who enjoy machine sewing, hand sewing and good fellowship. Non-sewers can participate with counting and pressing. Or you may choose home projects to knit and crochet. Find us in Room 115 on Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon. Contact Tuesday group-Cheryl Brady at [cba50@mindspring.com](mailto:cba50@mindspring.com) or 816-531-9327 or Anna Staton at [staton.anna@yahoo.com](mailto:staton.anna@yahoo.com) or 913-669-6743. Thursday group-Nancy Cantril at [nancy.cantril@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.cantril@gmail.com) or 913-638-8049) or Dee Gound at [dkgound@kc.rr.com](mailto:dkgound@kc.rr.com) or 913-961-7473.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Youth Chili Cookoff

#### 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23 – Village on Mission

This year's Chili Cookoff is, for the first time, happening in the fall on Wednesday, Oct. 23! Join us at 5:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission for this family friendly, all ages event. And don't forget, you can enter a chili to compete for fun prizes. Tickets are \$10 a person, \$35 for a family (and entry is free if you enter a chili). All money raised contributes to the middle school and high school mission trips. Tickets are on sale in Friendship Hall after Sunday services and during Wednesday Family Dinner. Contact Madeline for more information at [madeline.chamberlain@villagepres.org](mailto:madeline.chamberlain@villagepres.org).

**Village Pres Kids Learn about “The Healing Chair”  
Aug. 25, 2019**



K-6th graders in Sunday Funday heard from Jeanette Slusher, one of the founders of The Healing Chair (a wonderful resource for breast cancer patients recovering from surgery). Brooke Latas, former recipient of the “Blazer Strong” healing chair, and director of Children & Family Ministry, shared her story of courage and strength with the children.

The kids all got to try the “mini healing chair” and then made notes of encouragement for future “healing chair” recipients. It was our last day of summer “Sunday Funday” and the

Healing Chair represented our third local non-profit.



The verse we focused on this summer was the greatest commandment...our kid-friendly version was simply, “Love God. Love each other.” And we talked all summer about what it looks like to be good neighbors to those around us – in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, church, city, etc.



**Sunday School Kickoff**

On Sunday, Sept. 8, we kicked off fall Village Kids Sunday school...and we were grateful to be PACKED – with both kids and adults – 174 kids and 25 volunteer teachers combined for an awesome Sunday morning!

**Sundaes for Breakfast at Village**

The rain subsided Sunday, Sept. 8, and we had a wonderful time celebrating the end to “Sunday Funday” – our summer programming – with actual ice cream sundaes. Ice cream, sprinkles, chocolate sauce, playing on the playground and some fun conversations made for a wonderful celebration. Bring on the fall!



**Introducing Village Quest for 6th Graders**

We kicked off 6th grade on Sunday, Sept 8, with a new name (chosen by last year’s 6th graders) and a new logo. We are excited to go on a “quest” this year as we explore living authentic life together...and what it looks like to invite God into that. We are looking forward to an awesome year together!





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

OCTOBER 2, 2019  
Vol. 57, No. 10

## VILLAGE COMMITMENT

### Your Stewardship is HEART at work!

I love this time of year. Beyond fall's cooler temperatures and beautiful leaves, I am reminded of how much Village Church continues to embrace community through hospitality. Our recent Food Truck Festival provided an invitation to all, for fellowship and fun. The new concert series and Village U classes are two other areas we open doors to friends and strangers alike. Romans 12:13 says Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. In Leviticus 19:33-34, it says When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.



I am hopeful and thankful that we continue to financially support our efforts, as we continue to "be church" through programs we offer all in our greater community.

—Suzanne Willey



### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**VILLAGE ON MISSION**  
Traditional – 8, 9:30 & 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.  
in Overland Park

### 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](http://www.villagepres.org)

### IN MEMORY

Bob Hale  
Gibson 'Gib' Hart  
Grant Hilburn  
Joseph 'Joe' Holman  
Ruth 'Stormy' Shank  
Patricia 'Pat' Young



## **Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force Members Charlotte & Bruce Davison Named “Individual Advocates of the Year” by Grandparents Against Gun Violence**

Charlotte and Bruce Davison are members of the Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force of Village Church, which is one of the sponsors of the Oct. 14 Community Forum “Gun Violence: Insights from Both Ends of the Gun.” The forum is presented by the Heartland Coalition Against Gun Violence, a program of Grandparents Against Gun Violence. Charlotte and Bruce are being honored as “Individual Advocates of the Year.”

Judy Sherry, president of Grandparents Against Gun Violence, shares “Charlotte and Bruce have both been involved with Grandparents Against Gun Violence since we began in September of 2013. (We were originally founded as Grandmothers Against Gun Violence and changed our name in 2015).

Charlotte and I had worked together in a group called ‘Do The Right Thing For Kids,’ involving the Kansas City School District, and I was so impressed with her that she was one of the first people I thought of when I emailed friends and associates in 2013 telling them I was starting a MO/KS Grandmothers Against Gun Violence chapter and announcing a September meeting. Charlotte immediately responded asking if she could join even if she wasn't a grandparent yet.”

“I wasn't a grandmother, but having three daughters, I thought the chances good I would be some day,” remembers Charlotte. “Like Judy, I too was disturbed beyond words by Sandy Hook. I attended the first meeting at Corinth Library and was astonished when Judy asked for a show of hands of people who had been impacted by gun violence. Several suburban white women and some men raised their hands.”

“Charlotte was our first and only secretary,” recalls Judy. “She immediately got Bruce involved as our legal advisor. He did all the necessary paperwork to register us as a 501 c3 organization in Missouri and gave us examples of by-laws. Since then, Bruce has been there for us every time we have a legal question. He has also arranged for funding for our gun violence forum speakers every year. Together, they have gotten Village Presbyterian Church involved through the Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force.”

“This is the first time we have named a couple for our award,” adds Judy. “They clearly work as a team to support us in any and every way we ask. They are invaluable to us in so very many ways.”

**Continued**

"One of the reasons Bruce and I are being recognized this year is because of my work with the Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force in planning the forum last fall at Village, "Guns to Grace: A Hope Filled Dialogue." Our goal was to focus on inviting people on all sides of the gun debate to learn and have conversation about gun violence," said Charlotte.

"I know that Charlotte and Bruce are reluctant to share news of this honor with the people of Village Church as Charlotte has noted so many Village Church members do wonderful things in our community," said Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, "But this is a wonderful honor that shows their commitment to the Gospel and the community as members of Village Church."



Charlotte Davison speaking at the Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force forum "Guns to Grace: A Hope Filled Dialogue" at Village Church on Mission Oct. 20, 2018.

### **About the Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force of Village Church**

The Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force of Village Church identifies areas for advocacy and responds through bold faithful education and action. "In addition to gun violence, we focus on issues affecting people of our time including immigration, livable wage, mass incarceration and Get Out the Vote," shares Charlotte.

Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at Village Church on Mission. All are welcome to attend.

### **About Grandparents Against Gun Violence**

"The mission of Grandparents Against Gun Violence (GAGV) is to work to reduce gun violence to keep all children safe at home, at school and in the community," Charlotte explains. "GAGV is not against guns. We are against gun violence and for gun safety, as well as freedom from gun violence. GAGV's Lock It For Love program teaches safe gun storage and promotes responsible gun ownership. Since the inception of the program in July 2017, we have participated in 100+ community events and distributed more than 2,500 high-quality gun locks at no charge."

### **About the Oct. 14 Community Forum "Gun Violence: Insights from Both Ends of the Gun"**

The Heartland Coalition Against Gun Violence forum will be from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at KU Edwards Campus, 12600 Quivira Road in Overland Park. The keynote speakers are Azim Khamis and Ples Felix, brought together by gun violence when Azim's only son, then a 20-year-old college student and aspiring photographer, was shot and killed by Ples' 14-year-old grandson in a gang initiation gone horribly wrong. For the past 25 years, the two men have been working together to spare other families the tragic outcome from gun violence.

Charlotte and Bruce Davison will be honored as "Individual Advocates of the Year" at 9 a.m. after a welcome by U.S. Representative from Kansas' 3rd congressional district, Sharice Davids.

### **Afternoon breakout sessions include**

Heading off Emergencies	Becky Wiseman, Children's Mercy Hospital
Surviving Loss of a Grandchild	Nancy Oglesby, Grandparents Against Gun Violence
Engaging Student Activism	Sari Kaufman, Parkland Survivor
	Lucian Deanda, Students Demand Action KC Chapter
Surviving Suicide Attempt	Jennifer Levinson, SPEAK UP Foundation

Tickets to the forum can be purchased at <https://moksgagv.org/community-forum-public>