Welcome To Your New Home – Opus 22!

We’ve been waiting and waiting and waiting for Opus 22, the new Village Pipe Organ, to arrive. And Hallelujah! It’s finally here! Village Church members of all ages gingerly carried in parts of the new organ on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18.

As the first group of volunteers prepared to carry in the first big piece on their shoulders, Tony Lui shouted, “OK folks, in the words from The Wizard of Oz, ‘O-Ee-Yoh! Eoh-Ah!’ …and away they marched into the Welcome Center, up the stairs and into the Sanctuary.

Choir members, husbands and wives, mothers and daughters, interns, young children, pastors and staff and more were all smiles as they brought in pieces of the organ. A joyous spirit abounded on this historic day for Village Church.

Jim Borthwick, chair of the Pipe Organ Committee, said, “It was a wonderful demonstration of relationship within a community, making Rev. Tom Are’s sermon series, ‘Love Your Neighbor,’ a reality.”

“What great enthusiasm for celebrating the arrival of an instrument that will join with our voices in making a joyful noise!” shared choir member Beverley Freberg.

Talk about enthusiasm. Choir member Barbara Anselmi observed, “When it finally came time to unload the organ case, Elisa Bickers [our principal organist], jumped up into the truck and gave it a big kiss.”

More than 200 people turned out to help unload Opus 22.

“THANK YOU, Village Church, for your good Presbyterian muscle!” expressed Dr. Bickers. “Our organ builders said that it’s never taken them so long to load a truck – and has never taken SO LITTLE time to unload it! In other words, you are rock stars.”

In worship Sunday morning, Sept. 18, we welcomed organ builders Bruce Fowkes, John Brown, Trent Buhr, Russell Draeger, Nate Perry, Jordan Schilleman, Patrick Spiesser, Brian Miscio, Dick Schulze, Dean Wilson, Andy Wishart and Debra Miller to Kansas City. They have been building our pipe organ, and will be on site for the next several weeks to install it. They are staying with church members who have graciously opened their homes to them during this installation process.

“The Sanctuary and Pipe Organ Committee wishes to offer their heartiest appreciation to those church members with whom our

Continued
organ builders are staying,”
Dr. Bickers said, “Thank you for 
your generous hospitality, and 
we hope you’ve made some new 
lifelong friends!”

Organ builders from Richards, 
Fowkes and Co., with the 
assistance of workers from Quimby 
Pipe Organs, spent the following 
week placing the 12 Apostles (the 
12 largest pipes). That was no 
small feat, considering the largest 
Apostle is 17 feet tall and weighs 
more than 600 pounds. These 
pipes have been refurbished from 
the old organ and were painted 
“Foggy Day” grey to match the 
walls in the Sanctuary.

The last delivery truck from 
Chattanooga, Tenn. arrived on 
Sunday, Sept. 25. “That truck 
contained our precious (and 
heavy) pipes and was unloaded 
by the organ builders,” said 
Dr. Bickers. “Stay tuned – in a few 
weeks our organ will sing her first 
song in her new home!”

**Plans to Dedicate the New Village Pipe Organ**

For over six months Elisa Bickers 
has kept a white board in her office 
filled with titles of music she wants 
to play on the new organ. “I’ll play 
a dedication concert whenever it’s 
finished – some time next summer. 
I’ve got stuff on the board that was 
written in the ’60s, 1900’s and the 
1700’s, French, German, American– 
a little bit of everything.”

“We also have Doug Cleveland, an 
international performing artist, who 
is coming to perform a dedication 
concert in September 2017. We’ve 
commissioned two pieces for this 
organ. Geoff Wilcken has already 
written me, and I’ve already learned the piece *Rosette*, 
which is for our new instrument. I’ll premiere that here. 
We’ve also commissioned a local composer, Joseph Kern, 
to write an *Overture for symphony 
and organ* which will happen in 
a concert of organ and choral 
orchestra works. That concert is 
scheduled for October of 2017. 
The composer is one of my 
students. The piece is based on 
Shaker songs and sounds amazing. 
*Te Deum* will certainly do a big 
concert when the organ is finished. 
We also hope to have Jan Kraybill 
come and perform.”

“Once it’s finished, I’ll probably 
work with Rodger Nishioka and 
Village U to do a class where people 
can some and get inside the organ 
and see how it works and hear 
some music. I’ll play it. We call this 
an organ crawls. Instead of pub crawls – 
organ crawls. I can take them to 
some other churches in the area 
and show them their organs. It 
doesn’t just have to be ours. We’ll 
also heavily feature it on the second 
Thursday recital series.

We have a pretty wide range of 
things that we want to do. I want to do 
a children’s concert of music that is just 
specifically for the kids. I can introduce 
them to the instrument and show them 
its fun side and its flirty side and its serious 
side. Hopefully, I can also reach out to the 
kids at 99th Street and our preschool here.”

Dr. Bickers puts the new Village Church pipe 
organ at the top of all organs in the Kansas 
City area. Clearly, she is one proud Mama of 
our spectacular new instrument.

Jan Kraybill, who, like Dr. Bickers, is also a 
Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, 
has served as our consultant for the 
Village pipe organ project. Jan said, “This 
newest addition to KC’s organ family will 
be a source of much joy and inspiration for 
this congregation and their organist, the 
wonderful Elisa Williams Bickers. Thanks 
to Bruce Fowkes, Ralph Richards, and all at 
Richards, Fowkes, and Village, who have worked many 
hundreds of hours to make this longtime dream a reality!”
It’s Time Once Again for Thanksgiving Baskets for the Food Pantry

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and the Food Pantry is making preparations to give away 500 Thanksgiving Baskets! This year the Sunday food drives will be on Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13. We encourage you to donate early as we begin distributing the Thanksgiving Baskets to deserving families on Nov. 16. If you prefer to let us do the shopping, $25 will serve a family of two and $40 will serve a family of four. The shopping list below will also be distributed between services. Thank you for helping to make Thanksgiving a special day for the families who need our Food Pantry!

Thanksgiving Basket Shopping List

- Stuffing mix
- Canned green beans
- Canned corn
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Gravy mix (no glass please)
- Canned broth
- Pie crust mix
- Pumpkin pie mix
- Evaporated milk

We do not need cranberries this year thanks to an early donation!

Guess the Village Turkey…

We’re having some Thanksgiving fun to get you thinking about donating items for Village Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets.
See if you can name our fine feathered turkeys!
Food Pantry

Fall is here. The cooler weather is coming in, and it’s the season for SOUP. The Food Pantry is requesting all kinds of hearty soups. Hearty soups are much more nourishing and satisfying than the condensed ones and keep hunger away longer. Pick up a couple to bring into church each Sunday.

The Clothes Closet is now accepting fall and winter clothing and coats. Time to check your closets and see what no longer fits and drop them off at the church or the Clothes Closet. Drop off schedule for the Clothes Closet is on the back page of the Good News.

Village Service Night • Sunday, Oct. 9

Join Village Church from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9, to help pack hygiene kits to be sent to areas of need served by Heart to Heart International, assemble sack lunches for City Union Mission, create fleece blankets for Hillcrest Transitional Housing and help the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership prepare for upcoming mission trips. Worship together at The Gathering at 5 p.m. and stay after to serve our community here and abroad.

All ages are welcome. No special skills needed. Food is provided to all who participate. You can sign up to volunteer at www.signup.com/go/VPCServe.

Seeking Host Families for Christmas International House

Village Church will again be hosting students in the Christmas International House program this Christmas season, and we are looking for host homes and volunteers! If you are interested or would like more information, contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, at 913-671-2390 or andrea.huffman@villagepres.org.

DRMP Needs You!

The DRMP wants YOU to join their medical teams! We are looking for medical and non-medical participants from Village Church to join us on one of our many trips to the Dominican Republic. For more information, contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission.

Blood Drive Oct. 25

Village will host a blood drive from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25, in Rooms 132 and 133. To make an appointment online, visit https://www.esavealifenow.org/ and use sponsor code of “villagepres” or stop by our registration table in Friendship Hall between 9 a.m.-noon on Oct. 9 and 16. For additional details, contact Ann Colston at 913-722-0165 or acolston1113@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars – Tour Our Village Signature Mission

Please join us for an Operation Breakthrough Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Smartlab Open House. This is Village Church’s 2016-2017 Signature Mission. Join us from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Operation Breakthrough, 3039 Troost Avenue in Kansas City, Mo. Parking is available to the north of Operation Breakthrough off Troost.
Weekly Wednesday Church Dinners
All Are Welcome!

Wednesday church dinners will start up at 5:15 p.m. Chef Emily prepares a full, hot buffet with salad bar for $7, salad bar and dessert for $6. And children age 3-10, $3. Children under 3 are free. The menu is posted on the Village Church website, in the Sunday bulletins and the Good News.

Reservations are required by noon every Monday. Just call Liz at 913-671-2359, email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to http://www.villagepres.org/wednesday-dinners.html.

We hope you’ll take a night off from cooking each week and join us!

Menu:
Oct. 12 – Salmon fillets with cream sauce, lemon horseradish roasted new potatoes (V & GF), zucchini herb casserole (V & GF)
Oct. 19 – Beef Stroganoff, egg noodles, (GF pasta available), roasted vegetable stew with quinoa (V & GF)
Oct. 26 – Halloween! Chicken and white bean chili, vegetarian chili, battered cod mini fillets

Wednesday Night Classes- Village U
For questions or registration, call 913-671-2333 or email marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

See class descriptions in the Village U Catalog or at villagepres.org.

CL.007 A Tactile Advent, 6:30-8 p.m. now-Nov. 16, in the Chapel
CL.008 Christians, Race and Culture, 6:30-8 p.m. now -Oct. 26, Room 232
CL.009 Wisdom for Living the Good Life, 6:30-8 p.m. now -Oct. 26, Room 233
FL.005a FamilySearch.org & Ancestry.com, 6:30-8 p.m. Oct. 19-Nov. 9, Room 230
HW.004 Sabbath Yoga Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. now-Dec. 14, Rooms 307/309/311. (no class Nov. 23)
LS.004 Intermediate Computer Class, 6:30-8 p.m. Oct. 26-Nov. 16, Room 316
LS.005 Real Life Ethics for the Workplace, 6:30-8 p.m. now -Oct. 26, Room 15

Age Specific Dinners
Event for 60s
Manny’s Mexican Restaurant • 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21

Village Church is offering a fun dinner opportunity for people in their 60s (couples and singles)! We have reservations at Manny’s Mexican Restaurant at 207 Southwest Blvd, at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21. Each person is responsible for their own tab. The reservation is under “Village Church Group, Liz Middleton.” Space is limited. Please RSVP to cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331.
Tickets Now Available For “And Thou, America!” • A Patriotic Concert of Celebration

Get into the patriotic spirit right before the presidential election. Reserve your seat now to our patriotic concert “And Thou, America!” at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are free and may be reserved through the Kauffman Center, either online at www.kauffmancenter.org or by calling their box office at 816-994-7222.

“And Thou, America” is a concert of celebration. The program includes music and poetry of great American Artists such as Whitman, Frost, Copland and Bernstein. One of the featured works is Howard Hanson's Song of Democracy. There'll even be an opportunity for the audience to sing along!

Performers include the Village Chamber Choir, the Kearney High School Chamber Choir, singers from Lawrence Free State and Lawrence High School, and the Kansas City Wind Symphony, a member ensemble of the Village Church Arts Alliance.

The concert will be directed by Matthew C. Shepard, Dr. Phil Posey and Pat Setser. A retiring offering will be taken to support the wonderful work of Kansas City Youth Ambassadors.

Sacred Shapes Concert Featuring Te Deum Antiqua Choir

7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16 • Rainbow Mennonite Church (1444 Southwest Blvd, KCK)
Matthew Christopher Shepard, Conductor

The Te Deum Antiqua Choir presents “Sacred Shapes,” a faithful celebration of America’s earliest choral music. The term early music usually elicits thoughts of European music. But the United States has its own Early Music. William Billings is the biggest name in 18th Century America, and soon after him came the new notational device, shape notes. In this concert, the original sound and notation will be used to produce, as closely and artfully as possible, the earliest choral music in the United States.

Te Deum is a member of the Village Church Arts Alliance. A $15 donation is suggested. Visit www.te-deum.org to learn more.
Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert • 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, in the Village Sanctuary
Guest Artists – Opera Star Qiulin Zhang along with Jacob Sentgeorge, tenor, and Ron Witzke, baritone

Dr. Phil Posey, conductor of the Kansas City Wind Symphony, has planned an exciting array of concerts for this 19th Season of performances. The first concert of the season, entitled “A Night at the Opera,” is at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, in the Village Church Sanctuary. Internationally known guest contralto, Qiulin Zhang, along with tenor Jacob Sentgeorge, and baritone Ron Witzke, will perform selections from Carmen and other opera favorites. This concert is free.

Qiulin Zhang made her American and San Francisco Opera debuts as Granny Jia in the world premier of a new opera based on a Chinese novel Dream of the Red Chamber. Trained in China and France, she has performed at many of Europe’s prestigious opera houses and concert halls. She most recently performed the role of Suzuki in Madama Butterfly at the Avenches Festival in Switzerland, the Hong Kong Festival, La Monnaie Royal Theatre in Brussels, and the title role in numerous productions of Carmen. Qiulin Zhang was the principal soloist with the Shaanxi Symphony Orchestra in Xi’an, China, during the years that Dr. Posey served as their principal guest conductor. For more information, visit www.kcwindsymphony.org or call 816-605-2810.

Second Thursday Recital Oct. 13 • Featured Artist Tabitha Reist Steiner

Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in the Village Church Chapel for our next Second Thursday Recital. Our guest artist is harpist Tabitha Reist Steiner. The 30-minute program will be works for solo harp and accompanied works including Ravel. The performance is free and open to the community.

Tabitha began her musical studies at the Mount St. Scholastica Conservatory of Music at age four in piano and at age eight in harp. She has since become in demand in the Midwest as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher.

She currently performs as principal harpist with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. She is former principal harpist of the Chamber Music Society of Kansas City, the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, the Tulsa Opera Orchestra and the Wichita Grand Opera Orchestra. In addition, she has performed with the Kansas City Symphony, Summerfest Chamber Music Festival, Kansas City Chorale, Sunflower Music Festival, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and the Washington, D.C. Summer Opera Orchestra. In addition to a busy performance schedule, Steiner holds an adjunct faculty position at Washburn University while maintaining a private teaching studio.

Coming up on Nov. 10, soprano Alison Sneegas Borberg will be accompanied on piano by her mother, Marvie Sneegas, for a mixture of spiritual, standards and favorite musical theater stand outs.

Alison is delighted to share the stage with her mom at Village Church. Alison has worked at the major theaters in town, with favorite shows including Side by Side by Sondheim, Bernstein’s Broadway, Cinderella in Into the Woods, Sarah in Guys and Dolls and Mary in A Wonderful Life and dozens of cabarets at Quality Hill Playhouse. In addition, she's been featured as a soloist with the KC Symphony and given a command performance for President Jimmy Carter. Look for Alison in January at Musical Theater Heritage in her one woman show, “A Night on the Town with Alison Sneegas Borberg.”
Earth Care Note from the Environmental Action Committee
It takes 10 times more water to produce a pound of beef as a pound of wheat. Eating one vegetarian meal per week is the carbon equivalent of taking half a million cars off U.S. roads.

The Taizé Service Has A New Time, New Location!
The Taizé worship service has moved! Join us at 6:30 p.m. every second Sunday of the month at the Village Church Child and Family Development Center at 9900 Mission Road in Overland Park. We’re excited about being in this beautiful new location. Our next service is this Sunday, Oct. 9. If you are looking for a service that has song, silence, scripture, and communion, come to Taizé.

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, Oct. 23
Please bring your animals to our Blessing of the Animals on the front lawn of Village Church at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23. We’ll also include a blessing for veterinary staff. All animals welcome, leashed or otherwise safely restrained.

Electronics Recycling Event: Safely Dispose of Old Electronics and Help the Earth
9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 22
The Environmental Action Committee of Village Church is partnering with the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition (SSC) to host a Recycling/Reuse Event from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 22, in the south parking lot. There is a suggested $20 tax deductible donation per car to support SSC and its mission to foster earth care in congregations. Additional donations are welcome.

Drop-off your old, obsolete, unwanted, or unused E-waste: computers, components, printers, copiers, cell phones, A/V equipment, and small appliances (NO TVs). Household items (including gently used clothing, shoes, blankets, linens, housewares, books and toys) will also be accepted.

Contact Jerry Rees at 913-568-4250 or reesveenstra@aol.com for more information. Please, no drop-offs the day before. No removal of sensitive computer data is provided on site. Donations go to Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition, a non-profit that helps congregations engage in Earth Care (www.ssckc.org).

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Visiting Scholar Tickets
Go On Sale Oct. 10

Dr. Beverly Roberts Gaventa is the 2017 Presbyterian Women Visiting Scholar on Feb. 24 and 25, 2017. Dr. Gaventa will present three sessions on the theme “Reopening the Letters of Paul.” Individual talks include “Giving Paul Another Chance,” “When in Romans.. Look to the Horizon,” and “When in Romans … Pay Attention to the Road.” Starting Monday, Oct. 10, tickets will be available through the Village Church website villagepres.org – Connect – Adults – Visiting Scholar.

Amazing Graces Bible Study

All women who would like to explore their faith through Bible study and conversation are invited to join the Amazing Graces Bible Study, which is starting a new curriculum this fall. We will be using film and discussion questions based on the parables of Jesus. This study, The Stories Jesus Loved to Tell, was used in last year’s Village Connect (formerly Core Connections). Our group will gain fresh insights into these parables as we read and talk about them. We meet at 4:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of most months in Room 133. We start with a social time and begin the study at 5 p.m. No preparation is needed prior to our meetings. Contact Lisa Schellhorn at 913-236-6837 or schell5@aol.com for more information. We will meet Oct. 19, Nov. 2 & 16, and Dec. 7.

Mission Sewing

Fall is here, and it’s time to think knitting and crocheting and sewing. We need hats, all sizes; mittens, all children’s sizes; baby hats (we have special yarn for these); and scarves, child and adult sizes (we have yarn for these). We also have at home projects from cutting out items, sewing items, etc. Stop by the sewing room from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. any Tuesday. For more information, call Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515.

Women with Spirit’s Fall
Family Hayride Oct. 16

Join us from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, at Shawnee Mission Park to enjoy a family hayride, roasting marshmallows over a campfire and sipping on apple cider! $7 per person, children 2 & under are free. To reserve your spot, mail a check (made payable to Bentley Messner) to 609 W. 59th Terrace, Kansas City, MO, 64113 by Monday, Oct. 10 (space is limited). Email bentleymessner@gmail.com for more info.

WOW Luncheon at Bristol Oct. 18

Women of Wisdom (WOW) invites all ladies to mark your calendars for a noon lunch on Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Bristol, 5400 W. 119th St. (northeast corner of Nall & 119th Street in Leawood). Probably best known for fine seafood, the restaurant also features traditional American cuisine, soups, salads and their popular biscuits! We look forward to enjoying a pretty fall afternoon, a pleasant meal and warm fellowship before the busy holiday months of November and December are upon us. RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 18, to Diane Lee at 913-432-4321 or dianelee@att.net.

Expanded Hours for the Village Cup

We’ve expanded our hours in the Village Cup Coffee Shop. Please spread the word about our new business hours:

- Sunday 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Monday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Wednesday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Friday 8 a.m.-noon
- Saturday Closed

We offer cold lunches Monday through Thursday, with the addition of hot soup (October through April) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We look forward to seeing you in the Cup.
FORMING FAITH FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

KENDA CREEASY DEAN
PRESENTER

2016 MENEILLY CONFERENCE
FRIENDSHIP HALL
SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Open to all, with invitations to other churches and parents and caregivers of children and adolescents. No cost to attend.

Saturday, Nov. 5
Forming Faith Foundations for Young People
9 a.m. Gathering with coffee and pastries, fruit
9:30 a.m. Presentation One: Epic Church: Growing Young in the Age of Benign Whatever-ism.

Game scientist Jane McGonigal argues that young people steeped in video culture becomes virtuosos of hope—in ways the world desperately needs. Why are young people more likely to find hope in a video game than in the church? Twelve years into the ongoing National Study of Youth and Religion, we have some clues—now backed by research from the Fuller Youth Institute about what does (and doesn’t) seem to help churches “grow younger.”

10:45 a.m. Presentation Two: “How are the Children?” Practices for Parents and Congregations that Lay a Foundation for Young Faith.

What happens to young people’s faith after high school? Faithful young adults seem to have shared many similar assets during the high school years. Taking our cues from the second wave of research from the National Study of Youth and Religion, we will explore how parents and congregations can share faith with young people in ways that feel honest to where they are spiritually, and help youth form foundations for a faith of their own. Concludes at 12:15 p.m.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER
The Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean is the Mary D. Synnott Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ, where she works closely with the Institute for Youth Ministry. An ordained United Methodist minister, she is the author of numerous books on youth and the church, including Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church, The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry with Andrew Root and The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry with Ron Foster. A spouse, mother of teenagers, and popular conference speaker and presenter, Dr. Dean embodies that rare combination of thoughtful theologian and helpful practitioner. She is a dynamic and inspiring teacher and lives out her passion for young people and the church.

TO REGISTER:
http://www.villagepres.org/meneilly-conference.html

Fall 2016 Village U Upcoming classes include:

**A Tactile Advent** - As we prepare for the season of Advent, how can we engage the familiar story with all of our senses? Have you smelled frankincense? Have you touched rough wood and thought about laying a baby in it? We will explore the familiar Advent story in a way that engages our senses, and the Nativity story to experience the story in new and dynamic ways. Come explore how the Advent season and the miracle of Christmas can become real to you this year. Rev. Sally Wright, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, now-Nov. 16, in the Chapel.

**Christians, Race and Culture** - Past president of Spellman College, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, writes that most Whites tend to deal with race and racism in one of three ways: 1. White guilt–feeling a deep shame for racist actions in the past such as the enslavement of African-Americans or the trail of tears and the creation of reservations for Native Americans; 2. White blindness–the insistence that they are not at all racist and in fact, do not see racial difference; 3. White power–feeling threatened, the need to assert theories of White supremacy and power to preserve their way of life. Daniel Tatum writes that none of these are helpful. So what is the White Christian called to believe and do? Participants in this class will explore how to live more faithfully given the challenges and gifts of race and culture that God has set before us all. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, now-Oct. 26. Room 232.

**Wisdom for Living the Good Life from the Pirkei Avot** - The Pirkei Avot is a compilation of ethical teachings and maxims of the Rabbis from the Mishnaic tradition of Judaism. These ethical teachings and maxims include such wisdom as showing kindness to others, respecting God, others, and self, seeking peace in one's life, being careful with one's speech, and not leaping to judge others. This class will explore some of the greater ethical teachings and maxims and how these teachings influenced the parables of Jesus. Taught by Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, now through Oct. 19, Room 233.

**Blessing of a Skinned Knee** - Rev. Zach Walker, pastor for youth ministry, and Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of Children and Family Ministry, will facilitate a discussion based on Wendy Mogel's bestselling books on parenting; Blessing of a Skinned Knee (essential points about raising self-reliant, compassionate and ethical children) and Blessing of a B Minus (helping parents navigate the teenage years). Topics will include teaching respect for adults, the value of chores and ordinary work, keeping expectations in line with your child's temperament, avoiding over scheduling and overindulgence, teenage narcissism, living graciously with rudeness, when to step in and when to step back, and more. (Copies of both book titles will be available for purchase during the course.) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Room 132.

**Last Acts of Love: Caring Conversations: What Happens When I Can’t Speak For Myself?** - A conversation about healthcare directives. Rev. Jenny McDevitt, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11, in Room 230.

**Children’s Brain Development** - In the study of human development, the most intriguing and exciting new research is emerging in the field of neuroscience. Come learn more about brain development through the lens of parenting. We will talk about kids, their brains and answer some of your most pressing parenting question. If your child is between preschool age and early elementary, this is the conversation for you. Sonya Richardson-Thomas, LPC, RPT. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, in Room 126.

**Last Acts of Love: A Will and a Way: What Will Happen To My Resources?** - A conversation about wills, trusts and the legal ways to provide for one's family through an estate. Rev. Jenny McDevitt, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in Room 230.

**Beginning Birding** - Have you ever wondered how to start birding? Join this class to learn about identification techniques, field guides, types of feeders, and online resources. In the second hour of the class we will go outside and see what birds we can find in the area. Bring binoculars if you have them. Cathy Bondy, instructor. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in Room 132.
Beginning Photography - Always trying to get those perfect shots of your family? Photographer Ashley Spaulding (www.ashleyspaulding.com) will help you get familiar with your camera so you can take better photographs! This class is geared toward beginners wanting to learn the basics of photography. Bring your DSLR camera and camera manual. By the end of the evening you will better understand your camera setting and will have a chance to practice shooting in manual mode. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, in Room 206.

Growing Your Family Tree with FamilySearch.org - Learn how to navigate the basic features of this wonderful free resource. Search for your ancestors, edit information, connect families together and search for records. Discover how to source documents of your ancestors and more as you learn to climb your family tree. Parts of this class will be a live demonstration of www.FamilySearch.org. Char Mitts, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, in Room 230.

Art in the “Church Attic” – Day of the Dead Theme - Miss Carol, the beloved owner of “Art in the Attic” is bringing her love of art and kids to Village Church. This class is for children three years and older who must be accompanied by a parent, caregiver or grandparent. The kids will be creating a project with a “Day of the Dead” theme. This is a great opportunity for your children to have fun, explore and express themselves through art in the company of a parent, grandparent or caregiver guided by an expert teacher. Cost: $7 per child. Class limit: 12 children. Carol Schleszer, instructor. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, in Room 203.

Intermediate Computer Class-Daytime and Evening - This course allows students with limited computer experience to become comfortable with Microsoft Word, the internet and email. No prior experience using a computer is required. The computers have recently been upgraded to the Windows 10 operating system. Seating is limited. These classes are free. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 25-Nov. 15; or 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 26-Nov. 16, in Room 316. To register, please contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepews.org. Class limit: 12.

Digging Deeper into FamilySearch.org - Learn how to dig deeper into finding indexed and unindexed records for your ancestors. FamilySearch is adding records daily. Some are indexed and easy to find. Others are not and take more time, perseverance, and understanding. We will explore how to attach photos, stories, and audio files to particular ancestors and discover learning opportunities that will help in your continued research. Parts of this class will be a live demonstration of www.FamilySearch.org. Char Mitts, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in Room 230.

Blogging Basics - Interested in starting your own blog? Join Rebecca Enslow as she helps class participants navigate the basics of blogging – sites to use, how to set up your blog, private/public settings and much more! Plus, Rebecca will share her unique way of preserving her blog posts in a family encyclopedia. 10-11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 28, in Room 232.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Bier and Bible
7 p.m. every Wednesday night at KC Bier Co. Every week this fall we’ll learn to read the Bible together, while continuing to grow in all that it means to be community. All 20s and 30s welcome!

MMPM: Midweek Morning Prayer for Mamas!
9:30 a.m. Wednesday mornings in the Village Church Chapel. Every Wednesday morning this fall, we’ll pray for each other, then join for coffee and convo. in the Cup. All 20s and 30s moms welcome!

Fall Fest! • 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29
Let’s celebrate fall together! We’ll join new friends from Second Presbyterian Church for a kickball game (a rematch from our softball game), then celebrate our victory with food and your favorite fall beverages. Child care is available if you reserve in advance! Bring friends. Make friends. Allow yourself some time to play!
Attention 6th Grade!
Join us on Saturday, Oct. 15, for a trip to the Louisburg Cider Mill. Activities: Corn Maze, pumpkin patch, hay wagon, petting zoo, and more. Cost will be approximately $10 for corn maze/Pumpkin Patch entry. Kids may bring additional spending money for cider, donuts, treats, pumpkins, etc. Call Cheryl at 913-671-2355 for more information.

Parents of 3rd Graders
Sunday, Oct. 30, 3rd Graders will receive their presentation Bible. Their new Bible (NRSV) will help kids explore the Bible in a personal way, making it easy to interact with God's Word. Each book of the Bible includes fun and kid-friendly introductions, along with definitions, facts, trivia, and questions to help kids think about their faith in new and challenging ways.

Pattie will present two free workshops for parents and kids Oct. 23 & 24. Please sign up through Village U by visiting villagepres.org or by emailing marianne.weber@villagepres.org or by calling 913-671-2333.

Kidz Power!
5-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, in Rooms 132 and 133
For ages five thru eight – Children do not have to be paranoid or fearful when it comes to safety. They simply need to learn some vital skills and strategies so they can recognize a “thumbs down” situation. In this 45-minute, age-appropriate and non-fearful presentation, children will learn that they are the “boss” of their bodies and that their feelings are the most important. Features include: 10 family safety rules, what to do if you get lost in a store (or public place), an age-appropriate explanation of physical boundaries, clarification of the “stranger danger” concept, and how to spot a “TRICKY PERSON.”

Playing It Safe!
6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, in Room 228
For ages nine through 12 – This is an interactive and age-appropriate 50-minute program focusing on appropriate physical and relationship boundaries: how to define them and how to safeguard them. Children are also instructed on how to trust their instincts and make safe choices as they gain more independence. Features include: 12 safe-smart rules for kids; what is a boundary and why it’s important; how to spot a tricky person; playing it safe by making safe choices; resisting peer pressure and nine Internet safe-smart guidelines. Don’t miss our interview with Pattie on pages 14 and 15!
An Interview with “The Safety Lady,” Pattie Fitzgerald

Q: How did your interest in teaching Child Predator Safety Awareness come about?

A: In 2001, I was hired by a national children’s agency called Parents For Megan’s Law to be their community outreach educator based in Long Island, New York. It was my job to go into the schools to teach students directly about personal safety. Based on my previous work as a preschool teacher and a drama teacher, I was tasked with making sure the right information was presented in a child-friendly manner. I was also responsible for facilitating parenting seminars to help parents understand that “stranger-danger” doesn’t really work and to help parents understand that most of the time, harm comes to a child from someone with whom they have an established relationship. My executive director there often said she hired me because I could take a serious subject and make it more approachable while still getting the important information across. After living in Long Island for a few years, my husband, daughter and I moved back to California, where my daughter was born. There, I started “Safely Ever After,” because I felt like no one was going into the schools and giving the kids the right information. I’ve always loved teaching, and as a mom, it just felt like the right thing to do…help keep kids safe.

Q: What inspired you to dedicate your life to this?

A: The combination of being a teacher and a mom…I know how vulnerable and trusting a child can be, and every kid deserves to grow up happy, secure and without harm. I also remember a few instances when I was a kid that always stuck with me and made me particularly aware of what children are vulnerable to. I just think that protecting kids from sexual abuse is such an important issue, and yet it is one that is so often ignored because it’s such an emotional and scary topic. So I decided a long time ago, that we had to bring this topic of sexual abuse out into the open and start dealing with it in a way that would actually make a difference. Take the fear out of the equation and give families practical tools that make sense and that actually work.

Q: How do you keep from frightening children and their parents in these workshops?

A: I try to use common sense for starters. The world isn’t a more dangerous place than it was before. In fact, research has shown that crimes against children have gone down dramatically over the past 10 years—because we’re more aware and we’re educating kids and parents differently. That’s important to know because the media tries to paint a much scarier picture. When I announce this in a parenting class, you can clearly hear an audible sigh of relief. My perspective is basically that we are not powerless to protect our kids, and that kids are not powerless to protect themselves in certain situations.

It all comes down to empowering families with practical safety skills and common sense strategies that you can actually put to use. In most of my workshops, I actually teach parents and kids what to SAY and DO if they’re
getting an uh-oh feeling about someone's behavior, touches or other actions—so they don't have to try and think of an “exit strategy” at the spur of the moment. I give concrete examples of grooming tricks, and then tell you exactly what to say to that person so they get the message that you're not to be trifled with! People call these my “Pattie Zingers!” They’re usually one-liners that let everyone know you’re that person who isn’t easily tricked. When you have these in mind ahead of time, you are less likely to be talked into doing something.

And most importantly, I also use a lot of humor in my workshops, even though the topic is quite serious. Humor helps people retain information. I come from a huge Italian-American family. I will often sprinkle a few stories in my parent workshops about some of the silly things my parents did in the name of safety. For example, I often tell a story about how my grandmother used to tuck us into bed at night, and then tell me and my sisters that “bad people hid underneath cars and grabbed little kids.” Though well meaning, that rather ineffective example my grandmother thought was so helpful, actually had the complete opposite effect. My sisters and I thought she was a little “cuckoo” after a while. It’s just a funny anecdote, but it reminds parents that you really don’t need big, fearful misinformation to teach a child about safety. What would have been more effective was if she had talked to us about personal boundaries, and how others should respect us and our bodies. It would have been really helpful if we knew we could tell her about Mr. Creepy next door!

Q: What will kids and parents take away from your upcoming workshops at Village Church?

A: For my children’s workshops, we do a lot of fun role playing; and I try to speak to kids on their level. I can get pretty silly and animated which comes from my background as theater arts teacher. It keeps kids focused and engaged in what could otherwise be a very dull, dry lesson. I have a few zingers we all chant together including: “I’m The Boss of My Body!” “Stop-Go-Tell or Stop-Walk-Talk,” “My private parts are private!” and “No Secrets – No Way!” I also like to teach kids SAFETY RULES because in terms of safety, these are the simple do’s and don’ts that are effective and make sense to kids. Kids learn that “tricky people” try to break our safety rules but that we are too smart and we won’t get tricked! We do lots of “thumbs up or thumbs down” questions. Kids walk away from my sessions feeling very important…that their feelings matter and they have rights, too! I use words and phrases that kids can relate to. It’s a whole different ballgame from the outdated “stranger-danger” concept that not only doesn’t work, but doesn’t address the fact that most tricky people are not strangers to begin with!

For parents, my mission is that you will leave my workshops with new tools and language to put into practice with your kids. My hope is that you will leave feeling empowered, and this is now one less thing to worry so much about. My hope is that parents will look at child safety in a new way and realize there are simple ways to recognize red flag warning signs and know how to respond without getting stuck in fear or denial.

Q: Why is it so important to have kids at your workshops?

A: Kids will often listen to someone else (like a teacher) more than their own parents on certain topics…especially this safety topic because parents often approach it in a rather fearful or too-intense manner. You and your kids will have fun in Miss Pattie’s safety class, you’ll learn some new safety rules and “zingers”, and the kids will feel pretty special and empowered. Once I’ve started the dialog and parents learn the same phrases and examples I use with kids, then all they have to do is remind their children periodically with the same language I’ve already introduced. In fact, once you and your kids have come to a Miss Pattie Safety Class, all you have to do is remind your children about your family safety rules now and then, and blame it all on me! That way it’s not “one…more…thing” that you’re trying to drill into them.

Finally, this is an education that kids NEED. Their well-being is too important to leave to chance. We can’t expect kids to protect themselves from predators all on their own…but they need us to pave the way first.

As we embark on our Annual Pledge Campaign, we ask for your continued and loving generosity. We all have our passion for serving and giving in many areas of mission and ministry and with your support all good work does move forward.

The Dominican Republic Medical Partnership partners with the Good Samaritan Hospital as well as their affiliated Baptist church. Humbled by this act of giving, the good folks at the church in La Romana exemplify their love of God by passing the offertory bag from person to person, row by row. The jubilation and praise in their church service inspires one to give all they have. Maybe we worship in a different manner or language, but it all goes to God and His work. We consider this act of love as representation of paying attention to what God wants us to do in living our faith each day. We are grateful.

—Lexa Carr