Our new pipe organ is certainly a thing of beauty to look at, isn't she? Believe me when I tell you that she will sound even better than she looks. We carefully selected Richards, Fowkes & Co. as our organ builders not just because of their excellent craftsmanship and stunning visual design, but because they make the most exquisite sounds out of wood and metal pipes that our committee had ever heard.

Each of Opus 22’s nearly 3,800 pipes has been "pre-voiced" already. That means that they are very nearly in tune and are ready for the final voicing process, which takes place in our instrument, in our Sanctuary. During this process, each pipe's very personality will be completed - its volume, speech and timbral characteristics.

There are many techniques to voicing, because there are many parts to a pipe (see diagram). Changes can be made to the toe, body, beard, ears and mouth of a flue pipe, each producing a different result. For reed pipes, changes are made to the toe, resonator and tongue in order to personalize them for the instrument. Of all the varied tools used for voicing, the most exceptional and specialized tools are the voicers' ears. These guys have years of experience and technical know how that have informed their ears. They will listen to the pipe up close, and in our chancel, and in an empty Sanctuary, and in a full Sanctuary. They'll thoughtfully consider how different ranks need to work together to best support our congregational singing and to best interpret Bach's finest fugues and to best accompany Vaughan Williams' Festival of Carols.

Continued
THE ART OF VOICING A PIPE ORGAN

Continued

My role in voicing will be to listen to and play the freshly voiced pipes every day, and give my feedback. For example, when the voicers go for lunch every day, I’ll go to the organ and review what they’ve just voiced. And when they come back from lunch, we’ll put our heads together to make sure we’ve got it right. Their experience as voicers and my experience as Village’s organist will combine to help us get the best sounds for our organ and our people.

When they are finished, we are absolutely certain to have one of the very finest instruments in the country. I can’t wait to hear it!

*Dr. Elisa Bickers is principal organist and associate director of music for Village Church.*

MISSION

Parents Share Stories of Their Struggles in the Land of Opportunity

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, Village Church hosted representatives from Operation Breakthrough, Amethyst Place and Mothers in Charge during a dinner and forum focusing on the struggles that families living in poverty face every day in Kansas City. Operation Breakthrough Executive Director Mary Esselman moderated a dialogue which covered topics such as the impact of drug addiction and sexual abuse on family stability, the poverty trap, the “cliff effect” in social service supports and programs that are helping create sustainable change. One hundred twenty attendees shared fellowship and conversation with the “courageous, resilient women of Operation Breakthrough,” as described by one of the participants.

Another attendee shared, “It was an honor to be among these women who have the fortitude and determination to make a better life for themselves and their children, despite the environments, roadblocks and hurdles they may have to jump over each day. It took courage to stand in a room full of people who most likely have never had to face the circumstances they’ve experienced and tell their stories.”

If you would like to lend your support to Operation Breakthrough as a volunteer, contact Tasha Miller at 816-329-5233. Also, you might consider becoming a Faxon School PAL reader (contact Charlotte Davison at 913-648-6045).
Food Pantry

Thanksgiving Baskets are on the mind and in the energy of the volunteers at the Food Pantry this month. The collection Sundays for the Thanksgiving baskets donations have begun and will continue for the next two Sundays, Nov. 6 and 13. The Food Pantry (with your generous donations) is giving baskets to 500 families.

See the shopping list at right. The Pantry does not need cranberries this year. Distribution of the baskets will be between Nov. 16-19. Please be generous in making the clients' Thanksgiving dinner as delicious as yours!

It’s early November, and the Clothes Closet is pushing their requests for winter coats - all ages, all sizes, clean and gently used! They all will find someone who is thankful for them. Thank you!

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!

Andrea Huffman Follows Ministry Calling

On Nov. 11, Village will say farewell to Andrea Huffman who will leave her job as director of international mission to pursue her calling into ministry. Andrea has returned to seminary to obtain her Masters of Divinity, and she also has accepted and started a part-time position as a youth pastor at a church in Liberty.

Over the past two years, Andrea has given international mission at Village new life. She has refined the organizational structure of some of our ministries, defined criteria for mission work abroad and crafted orientation materials for service trips.

Andrea has cherished her experience at Village. “I am grateful for every moment that I got to be a part of the Village Church staff, and I have no doubt that the positive impact you all had on me will last for the rest of my life,” said Andrea. We wish Andrea the very best on her new journey.

Meanwhile, the Mission Office has begun the search process for a new director of international mission. If you know someone who may be interested in this job opportunity, contact Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or email deborah.white@villagepres.org.

Village Church Members Honored by Talk, Read, Play

Village Church members Marilyn Borel, Janet Baird, Marilyn Pattison and Charlotte Davison received the Betsy Vande Velde award on Sept. 30 from Family Conservancy of Kansas City for Talk, Read, Play which Village has supported.

DRMP Needs You

Want to answer Jesus’ call to love our neighbors? Want to use your skills to positively impact the lives of impoverished families in the Dominican Republic? Come see how you can participate with Village’s DRMP, even if you aren’t a medical professional or can’t travel abroad.

Check out information tables in Friendship Hall Sundays, Nov. 13 and 20, and join us at 6 p.m. on Nov. 20 after The Gathering to learn about getting involved!
There’s Still a Chance to Enjoy
“And Thou, America!”
A Patriotic Concert of Celebration
This Sunday, Nov. 6

Reserved tickets are no longer available through kauffmancenter.org. However, those without tickets should still plan to attend the concert at 4 p.m. this Sunday, Nov. 6. The Kauffman Center box office will be giving vouchers on the day of the concert to ticketless patrons. Ushers will seat those with vouchers in empty seats following the first piece on the concert program.

The program includes music and poetry of great American Artists such as Whitman, Frost, Copland and Bernstein. 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.

Audacity – Te Deum Chamber Choir
3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13 • Village Sanctuary
Matthew Christopher Shepard, Conductor

Te Deum Chamber Choir presents “Audacity,” an exploration of hope, defiance, scriptures and love. History has shown that audacity is what changes the world—not accepting the status quo but believing in one’s self. This performance at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, in the Village Sanctuary, will explore the audacity of asking for forgiveness, Jesus’ bold claim to his Disciples to be Fishers of Men and expressions of joy and hope audaciously expressed through Spirituals.

A $15 donation is suggested. Free child care is available by contacting Marjean Lindquist at 913-671-2322. Te Deum is a member of the Village Church Arts Alliance. Visit www.te-deum.org to learn more.

Second Thursday Recital Nov. 10
Featured Artist Alison Sneegas Borberg

Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, in the Village Church Chapel, for our next Second Thursday Recital. Our guest artist is soprano Alison Sneegas Borberg who will be accompanied on piano by her mother, Marvie Sneegas. The program will be a mixture of spiritual, standards and favorite musical theater standouts.

Alison is delighted to share the stage with her mom at Village Church. Alison has worked at the major theaters in town, in favorite shows including Side by Side by Sondheim, Bernstein’s Broadway, Cinderella in Into the Woods, Sarah in Guys and Dolls and Mary in It’s a Wonderful Life and dozens of cabarets at Quality Hill Playhouse.
Weekly Wednesday Church Dinners
All Are Welcome!

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 & dessert is $7. Salad bar and dessert is $6. Children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under-no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon Monday.

Menu:

**Nov. 9** – Meat loaf (GF), macaroni & cheese (V), scalloped potatoes (GF), vegetable, apple pie

**Nov. 16** – Thanksgiving potluck – Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, rolls and butter will be provided. Please bring a side dish (salad, vegetable or dessert) enough to share with eight people. RSVPs are requested no later than Sunday, Nov. 13.

**Nov. 23** – Happy Thanksgiving – NO DINNER!

**Nov. 30** – Spinach enchiladas, beef enchiladas, pinto beans

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 www.villagepres.org.

- **CL.007 A Tactile Advent** - 6:30-8 p.m. now through Nov. 16, in the Chapel
- **CL.010 The Value of Doubt** - 6:30-8 p.m. now through Nov. 16, in Room 126
- **CL.011 Where Have All the Young Adults Gone?** 6:30-8 p.m. now through Nov. 30, in Room 127 (no meeting Nov. 23)
- **HW.004 Sabbath Yoga Wednesdays** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. now through -Dec. 14, in Rooms 307/309/311 (no meeting Nov. 23)

Mission Sewing

Angel Gowns

Our Mission Sewing ladies have been busy making new angel gowns for babies who are stillborn. They are made from old wedding gowns and given to hospitals. They now make outfits for infant boys, too. Our ladies also made ornaments for parents who have suffered the devastating loss of an infant. The hospital will give these to them at an annual lunch for the parents.
Village Earthcare
You've heard of cartels? In 1924 there was a lighting cartel formed to reduce light bulb life to a 1,000-hour standard. It is one of the earliest examples of planned obsolescence on an industrial scale in order to increase sales. Read the next VillageCare Verses to find out what's happening now.

Classic Citizens Celebration Sept. 22, 2016
It was a wonderful Thursday afternoon at Village Church as we welcomed 170 Village Church members age 75+ for the annual Classic Citizens Celebration in Friendship Hall. Guests enjoyed chatting with attendees, pastors and staff, as well as a beautiful buffet of light refreshments prepared by Chef Emily Berns. Rev. Tom Are shared what’s happened at Village Church the past year, followed by live Bluegrass music by The Brisbins. The event is sponsored by Pastoral Care and Counseling. We love our Classic Citizens of Village Church!
PW Advent Candlelight Dinner Tuesday, Dec. 6

Rev. Hallie Hottle will be giving the meditation on “Seeking the Sacred,” for the 2016 Presbyterian Women’s Advent Candlelight Dinner. Please join us at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, for an intimate celebration which includes an inspiring lighting of the Advent Candles, a savory meal prepared by Chef Emily, joyous Christmas Carols sung by Judy and Becky Bliss, a meaningful meditation concluded with communion and song.

Rev. Hallie Hottle, associate pastor of Young Adult Ministry, brings a warm, inviting personality and creative spirit to Village. We believe you will enjoy getting to know her, as she is full of energy and enthusiasm! Regarding the approaching Advent season Hallie remarks, “Instead of combating our culture’s encroachment of this holy day, I have become fascinated with how Christians might redeem it.”

We look forward to a Spirit-filled event and hope you plan to attend. Reservations will be taken in Friendship Hall on Sunday, Nov. 13, and on Sunday, Nov. 20 (if not sold out). Online reservations open Nov. 13 at villagepres.org.

WOW Luncheon at Ya Ya's

Women of Wisdom, (WOW), warmly welcomes all ladies to a noon lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 16. We will meet at Ya Ya’s Euro Bistro in Corbin Park, 7021 West 135th (135th and Metcalf) in Overland Park.

Ya Ya’s offers sophisticated dining, with an eclectic menu inspired by a combination of American, French, Italian and Greek cuisine. RSVP by Monday, Nov. 14, to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608.

Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing is busy filling year-end requests from our agencies. Knitters: pick up your red and green yarn for the Christmas baby hats. Call Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515 for more information.

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 has started a new curriculum this fall. We will be using film and discussion questions based on the parables of Jesus. 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 the first and third Wednesdays of most months at 4:30 p.m. in Room 133. We start with a social time and begin the study at 5 p.m. Our remaining fall meeting dates are Nov. 16 and Dec. 7.

No preparation is needed prior to our meetings. For more information, please contact Lisa Schellhorn at 913-236-6837 or schell5@aol.com.
Upcoming Village U classes include:

**Understanding More about Ancestry.com** - Learn how to drill down to just the information you need while using advanced search tools on Ancestry.com. Climb higher on your family tree and discover other resources within Ancestry.com that will help you graft more onto your family tree. Find some hidden gems that will help you in your research. Parts of this class will be a live demonstration of Ancestry.com. Char Mitts, instructor. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in Room 230.

**Intermediate Excel Computer Class** - 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 9 & 16, in Room 316. This class is recommended for people who have a basic understanding of Excel OR have taken the Beginner Excel Class. Students will be creating a spreadsheet during class to reinforce learning. Room 316. Email rodger.nishioka@villagepres.org to register.

**Art in the “Church Attic” – Giving Thanks Theme** - Miss Carol, 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 “Giving Thanks” 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. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, in Room 203.

**Holiday Centerpieces** - Join special event florist Katherine Taylor and learn how to create a low-profile holiday centerpiece for you to bring home to your table. The cost includes all materials and supplies. You will receive instruction on how to maintain the freshness of your arrangement. Cost: $35 a person. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 18, in Rooms 232 & 233.

**Strawberry Hill Museum and Culture Center** - The Strawberry Hill Museum is located in the old Croatian neighborhood in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Part of the building housing the Museum is an elaborate Queen Ann style mansion built for the Cruise family in 1887. In 1919, it was purchased by St. John’s Catholic parish, expanded, and served as the St. John the Baptist Children’s Home until 1988. Today, portions of the building have been beautifully restored to the Victorian age. Depart by school bus promptly at 9:30 a.m. and return about 1:30 p.m. There is a registration fee for transportation and museum cost. A lunch featuring Croatian foods is included in the registration fee of $20. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

**God in the Arts: Hamilton and Rent** - Rev. Len Carrell extends his popular “Finding the Face of God in Art” course from the spring. *Hamilton*, a Broadway musical that won a record 11 Tony awards this spring, is a story of this nation’s founding fathers told in a urban musical style of hip-hop and rap with the entire cast being of mixed race and ethnic diversity. But before *Hamilton* there was another little show that took the nation by storm 20 years earlier called *Rent*. Both address the challenges and the terrors of their time and take on the issues of inequality, inclusion and community. And both are richly significant in the language of faith. We will look at each of these shows and the theological marks they have left on our world. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 14 & 21, in Room 126.

**Adult Sunday Morning Classes Include:**

**Village Forum - Faith in Action at the Ballot Box** - On Nov. 8 we will be casting our votes at the ballot box. The Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force of Village Church presents the final class highlighting considerations for Christians on current important social issues this Sunday, Nov. 6. with “Livable Wage/Raising the Minimum Wage,” led by Mike Enriquez, Stand UP KC. Class meets at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 126-127. Contact Vicki Ensz, vijienz@gmail.com or 913-491-4094 for more information.
At first glance, it does not seem like much of a competition. On one side, we have the Kings — regal, wise, wealthy, learned, glittering with fine clothing and accompanied by an entourage of servants from distant lands. On the other side, we have the shepherds – plain, poor, uneducated, dressed in simple garments, smelly and all local boys.

For most of our Christmas celebrations, we place both the shepherds and the wise men together in the manger with the infant Jesus, mother Mary, father Joseph, a few animals, and perhaps an angel. But a closer examination of the Bible tells us they do not belong together. Of the four gospel writers, only two of them, Matthew and Luke, even tell the story of the birth of Jesus. And the two stories differ substantially.

Matthew tells a more simple story about the birth of Jesus. Mary and Joseph are engaged to be married and Mary finds out that she is pregnant. Joseph does not understand how this can be and so an angel appears to him to convince him that this is God’s plan. Then the couple travels to Bethlehem where Jesus is born and the wise men who saw and followed the star over Bethlehem come to greet the newborn after meeting with King Herod. That’s pretty much it.

Luke tells a much more complicated story. Luke starts first with an elaborate telling of the birth of Jesus’ cousin, John, to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Then the angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her she will bear the Christ child. Mary sings a song of praise and then visits Elizabeth and Zechariah. John is born and Zechariah sings a song of praise and then finally, Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem where Jesus is born. After Mary and Joseph, the first people to learn of the birth of the messiah are the shepherds who are out in the fields. It’s a very different story.

So which is it for you? Are you for the Kings or the Shepherds? Next month, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore these two stories and why they differ and why that’s actually a good thing. So keep the kings and shepherds together in the manger. They’re good for each other!

Sign up for this Village U class by calling 913-671-2333.

---

**Thanksgiving Basket Packing**

12:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. All young adults and children invited to the Village Food Pantry to help pack Thanksgiving goodies into baskets for those who need them! Space is limited so please sign up online at signup.com/go/VillagePresYA.

**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!

**Young Adult Christmas Party**

6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12 • KC Bier Company

Everyone is encouraged to wear a Christmas sweater and required to bring a package of diapers for admission (to go to “Happy Bottoms,” a provider of diapers to the economically disadvantaged). Child care will be provided at Village.
The season of Advent is quickly approaching. Be sure to look for the Advent Insert to get the dates and times for all of our annual events and activities.

6th Grade set to go to Power Play
10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11
Come join us on your day off from school for three hours of fun. Meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. for a van ride (14 passengers) or meet at Power Play. RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 8, to Cheryl.couch-thomas@villagepres.org or 913-671-2355.

New Arrivals
Join us in welcoming the following little ones our church family: Harry Darby Pfeiffer, born to Libby and Ryan Pfeiffer; and Ruth Schindler Gray, born to Owen and Grace Gray. A rose will be placed on the Communion Table on Nov. 20 to honor each new baby. If you have a new addition to your family, please call the Children and Family Ministry office to let us know.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation
On Oct. 30, 3rd graders from Kids’ Kingdom received new NRSV Bibles. These kid-friendly Bibles help youngsters explore the Bible in a personal way, making it easy to enter into God’s Word. If you and your 3rd grader missed the Bible presentation, please call the Children’s Ministry office at 913-671-2359.

Village Church Preschool
In this season of giving thanks, Village Church Preschool would like to express our gratitude to the Frey Foundation and the H. Monroe Taliaferro, Jr. family for a generous gift designated to Village Church Preschool. Jan Roach Taliaferro, also known as Grandma to two of our current preschoolers, helped to select items from our playground wish list including a modular wooden waterplay center, ramp blocks, a wheelbarrow and a red wagon. Classroom teachers were also given an amount with which to purchase materials of their choice. This gift, which so beautifully speaks to the importance of early childhood education, has blessed our program and our hearts. Our thanks to all four generations of this Preschool family!
This is God’s world. But the ways of this world are not as God intends. Anyone can see that and many complain about the way things are, but faith invites us to hold a new perspective. Even when broken, the world is beautiful. It’s not just the color of nature or the sounds that fill the air; it is the beauty of human compassion, genuine friendship, and humble service. The broken world is still beautiful. And this world is loved by God, so it should be loved by us. Such love is the currency of Christian living.

Nov. 6 Do You See It?
Nov. 13 Blessed are Those who Mourn
Nov. 20 It is Worth the Struggle

YOUTH MINISTRY

Welcome Jenna Soltys

The Youth Department is thrilled to announce the addition of Jenna Soltys to the staff. A search committee has spent the summer and early fall interviewing candidates and is impressed at her enthusiasm, her gift at relating to a variety of ages, and her care and compassion for young people.

Jenna was an active member of the youth and music programs at Village in both middle and high school. After graduating from Shawnee Mission East in 2008, she spent five years at High Point University in North Carolina, and worked for two summers at Montreat and two others directing music for KidShine Performing Arts Camps. For the last three years she has been living in Greeley, Colo. completing her Masters in Music at the University of Northern Colorado and working at Cornerstone Community Church.

Jenna is so excited to be back in KC and part of the youth staff at Village! Jenna started on Oct. 17 and encourages you to say hello and introduce yourself!
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

NOVEMBER 2, 2016
Vol. 53, No. 21

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

It's Annual Commitment Time

In recent years we have witnessed the amazing generosity of this church. We are building a growing community of faith reaching out to serve our membership as well as those around us. However, our work here is not complete.

With this growth we still must sustain and maintain all that we have currently; for example, our physical building that needs cosmetic attention. Funding for this plus personnel, programming, and future endeavors can only be accomplished with your financial assistance.

As leaders in the Presbyterian denomination, we strive to push ourselves to create a vision for us and also for others. It is one small way to spread Christianity in our world and keep it ever present.

What matters to you at Village Church? Please consider an increased pledge for 2017.

— Village Commitment Committee

Don’t forget to complete your commitment card and return it to church.

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

VPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE
SUNDAYS
Traditional – 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

Live Radio Broadcast
Sundays at 8 a.m. on 1660 AM KMBZ,
The Business Channel

www.villagepres.org

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
Drop-Off Hours
10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. M-F
9:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday

IN MEMORY
Grace Beasley
Victoria “Vickie” Britain
Betty Davison
Marcia Haxton
Carolyn Long
Barbara Love
Margaret MacKenzie
Marjorie Shaw
2016 VILLAGE CHURCH ADVENT SEASON ACTIVITIES

Advent Family Workshop - 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, in Friendship Hall - Don’t miss our traditional family activity. Make your own Advent Wreaths and gifts for Christmas. There will be crafts for all age levels and of course cookie decorating, popcorn and festive music. Free and open to the community.

Christmas Night Out - 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, Village Church Child Care - Send your kids to this fun-filled night from 5:30-8:30 p.m. while you enjoy a night out. Children ages 2-10 will enjoy activities and games to decorate. Cost is $15 per child with a $30 maximum per family. Registration for church members opens Friday, Nov. 4. Registration opens to the community Friday, Nov. 11. Sign up by at 913-671-2352 or pam@villagepres.org. Registration deadline is Friday, Nov. 18.

Mesner Puppet Theater - 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the Sanctuary - Mesner Puppet Theater presents “Sing Along the Road Again.” Join traveler John Paul George (puppeteer Mike Horner) and his singing dog Ringo on an interactive, musical road trip! Sing, clap and stomp along as John and Ringo sing favorites like BINGO, The Wheels on the Bus and Do Your Ears Hang Low. Even a dancing chicken tries to get in on the act! Call 913-671-2355 for more information. Admission to the puppet show is free.

Remembrance Service - 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in the Sanctuary - Join us for a special service where we thank God for our loved ones who are deeply missed, when we give voice to the grief that lingers and the love that will never let go. This service includes prayers, beautiful music, time for reflection, candle lighting and the proclamation of God’s holy, Christmas promise: that there is a light in this world that the darkness will never, ever overcome. If your loved one passed away during 2016 and Village Church was informed, his or her name will be included in the program. Please call 913-671-2367 or email linda.alley@villagepres.org by noon Monday, Nov. 21, if you would like us to include any other names.

Help Deliver a Christmas Poinsettia Dec. 4 - A long-standing tradition at Village Church is taking a poinsettia to members who are unable to attend church. You can help the Pastoral Care & Counseling Department continue this tradition on Sunday, Dec. 4. To volunteer, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

Presbyterian Women Advent Candlelight Dinner - 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in Friendship Hall - All women are invited to an inspiring, intergenerational evening as we begin the Advent season. Our speaker is Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of Young Adult Ministry. Cost is $16 a person. Reservation sales begin Sunday, Nov. 13. Make a reservation online at villagepres.org or in Friendship Hall starting at 9 a.m. Nov. 13. Child care is available with advance reservation. Contact Sarah McKee at sarahmckee810@yahoo.com or 913-439-0035 with questions.

The Kings vs. the Shepherds- Village U Wednesday Night Class Taught by Dr. Rodger Nishioka - The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell different stories about the birth of Jesus. The wise men only appear in Matthew and the shepherds only appear in Luke. Why is that? We will examine both the familiar and perhaps the unfamiliar components of these two stories comparing and contrasting them with one another. Come discover what God is revealing to us as we prepare to welcome the incarnation of God in the birth of Jesus once again. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7-21, in Room 127.

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials - A poinsettia that decorates the church this Advent season may be purchased in memory of a loved one. Make your check ($10) payable to Village Church, clearly printing the memorial name with your donation. Send to the church, Attn: Janice Gill, by Friday, Dec. 9. Call 913-671-2362 for more information.
Christmas Dinner - 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in Friendship Hall - Chef Emily and her culinary team will create a scrumptious Hotel-style buffet including a carving station, tossed salad, cheese, fresh fruit and assorted cheesecakes. Cost is $7 a person, $3 for age 10 & under. RSVP by calling 913-671-2359 or emailing liz.middleton@villagepres.org. Enjoy Christmas caroling from 6-6:30 p.m.

The Children’s Christmas Pageant– 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in the Chapel - See the greatest story ever told through the eyes of the children at Village. Come for Wednesday Night Dinner and stay for the pageant directly following.

VCCFDC Pancake Dinner with Santa – 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in Friendship Hall - The Village Church Child & Family Development Center will host its annual “Pancake Dinner with Santa” at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in Friendship Hall. Enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes by Chris Cakes and get your child’s picture taken with Santa. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for children age 2 and up. Children under 2 eat free. Contact Linda Harmon at 913-671-2310 or linda.harmon@villagepres.org for tickets. Come to the Sanctuary at 5 p.m. and enjoy the preschoolers’ version of the Christmas Story.

16th Annual Tidings of Joy Concert - 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, in the Sanctuary - A beloved tradition in our community, “Tidings of Joy, A Celebration of the Season’s Most Beautiful Music,” is presented by the Village Choir, Alegria and the Village Chamber Choir. Admission is free. A retiring offering will be taken to benefit the Haitian Christian Mission.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services in the Sanctuary
Saturday, Dec. 24 - 5 p.m. Children and Family Worship; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services; 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service.
Sunday, Dec. 25 – We will have one worship service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day.

Advent Season Mission Collections

Star Families - Adopt a Family for the Holidays - Village Church will again sponsor “Star Families” from Operation Breakthrough. We will help provide Christmas gifts and holiday meals for families. Stars will be available for adoption from the bulletin board near the south entrance inside Friendship Hall on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 9a.m.-noon. Each child receives at least three new unwrapped gifts; and, the parent receives a $25 gift card to Target or Walmart. Star Families tend to be adopted quickly on a first come first served basis. The Operation Breakthrough truck will be in our south parking lot on Sunday, Dec. 11, to receive the donations. Monetary donations to Village Church for Star Families will be accepted for holiday meals from Nov. 6 to Dec. 11. Just $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. Contact Marilyn Borel at rmborel@sbcglobal.com or 913-708-1917 for more information.

Deck the Village Trees with Hats and Mittens - A Village tradition, our Hat and Mitten Trees, return for the holiday season. From Dec. 2-25, come decorate our Christmas trees with hats and mittens to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/Food Pantry. You will find the trees located at the south entrance to the church and in the Welcome Center. The Pantry serves 500 households a month and your contribution will literally help spread the warmth of the season to many of these families. Contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org with any questions.

Diapers in December - Village children will be collecting diapers throughout December to give to the Village Food Pantry.

Stephen Ministry Is Here For You
If the holidays are a challenging time for you, consider receiving support from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one, confidential care to individuals who could use some help navigating some of life’s harder moments. Contact Rev. Len Carrell at 913-671-2347 or len.carrell@villagepres.org.