

Making Space for Young Adult Ministry

by Rev. Hallie Hottle

In the summer of 2016, we began Young Adult ministry outside the walls of the church. This beginning was intentional, as one of the generational markers of millennials is that we're not prone to wander into traditional church buildings (hence, the aesthetic differences in the new churches around town targeting millennials).

After four and a half years of nomadic ministry and community growth, we found ourselves frustrated with a repeated question, "Where are we going to do this?" We met at restaurants and bars, in various rooms within the church, in the homes of young adults, and different community spaces. These experiments were informative but have prevented this ministry from scaling. If continued growth (in number and in depth) is desired, we have to evolve, and move from our nomadic existence into having a home base.

With this need in mind, Trustees invited us to begin to imagine what the ideal space for Young Adult ministry might be. We contemplated different areas of the city—residential and commercial property. But as we discerned, we found ourselves in the ancient exodus story. Now, by no means are we young adults comparable to the wandering Israelite generation. But it was a promised land we were looking for, so the story welcomed a discerning read.



Read the end of the exodus story closely. During all those 40 years of wilderness wandering, children were being born. And it's them, not their parents, who left the bonds of Egypt. It's those children, now young adults, who cross the river with Joshua to make the promised land their home. No, our millennials aren't the ancient Israelites. But... we do know a little something of being born into wild days. We know something of navigating a landscape that feels barren, deserted by institutions that held previous generations firm. We know something of standing in the shadow of golden calves, disenchanted by the propagating of empty religion, searching for something "more," because we trust it's here.

Our discernment led us right back here—to our own building. See, it's one thing to invest in a space that might encourage this ministry in the coming years, but it's another thing entirely to make space right here at home. Our building is busy. To make space here means that other priorities will need to be shifted. It means that some of the ways we do things will have to change. And rather than lamenting that change, this space-making ultimately, even begrudgingly, acknowledges that these are the ones who will get closer to the promised land than we have—just as those who come after them will get even closer, and so it goes.

The investment in this new home for Young Adult ministry is significant, initially now in resources, but it will also require all of our ministries to "make space." The different style of the space isn't merely aesthetic. It reflects cultural differences

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY FOR YOUNG ADULT SPACE

valuable to younger generations. The gender-neutral bathrooms aren't just convenient. They mark the space as one of welcome for transgender members of our community. Being located near our newest main entrance will, hopefully, be a sign for all who enter that while we value the tradition of those who came before us, we are not a community who squanders promised-land opportunity in order to stay where we've always been.

Watch the creation of this new space, and when we're back together again, come and check it out. Offer a prayer as you do, for those who will gather here, and for Village herself, that she continues to be a place that "makes space" for all. 🌸



Design and Construction Updates

The project will result in a 2,600-square-foot open-concept space that includes a small kitchen, soft-seating groups, countertop workspace and high-top tables for dining and two gender-neutral restrooms that open into the existing hallway. There will be space for a small stage where coffeehouse-style performances can happen. It will be easy to find since the new room is located close to the north entrance. And it is near the church's child care area, which will be convenient for parents who may need to drop off children before attending an event. Rev. Hallie Hottle may be most excited about an 18-ft. table that will accommodate as many young adults as possible to sit and break bread together when we can safely gather again. It will be a home that holds all kinds of possibilities.

"There are seasons when wilderness wandering is good. God shows up in the wilderness," says Rev. Hottle. "And there are other seasons where it's time to build houses and live in them. The Spirit has been creating new community with us for four years now, and it seems she's called this next phase of life together to take shape here, in this space, that will become our home as we live into it together."

Construction began on Feb. 1. Mantel Teter designed the remodel, the same firm that created the Welcome Center and Village on Mission sanctuary renovation, and Pearce Construction is doing the work. This space had been vacant and was



being used for storage after the Welcome Center was erected. The funds are coming from two primary sources: the proceeds from the sale of a home the church previously owned and a very generous gift from a Village Church member.

Construction is projected to be complete by the end of March.

Visit www.villagepresya.org/space or follow @VillagePresYA on Instagram for the latest construction photos.

SESSION UPDATE

At the Feb. 1 Session meeting, the Session voted to extend the suspension of on-site in-person worship through May 2, 2021. The greater Kansas City COVID-19 test positivity rate is declining slowly but still remains high. We are hopeful as more and more persons are receiving vaccinations. We deeply share the desire to return to in-person worship but only want to do so when we believe it is safe. We continue to think it is wise to suspend in-person worship for three-month increments noting that in the interim, if there is a dramatic improvement, the Session may move to in-person worship earlier.

Session will appoint a Reopening Task Force that will include health professionals to plan for how Village Church on Mission will reopen. Session will make the decision on when to reopen.

Meanwhile, Village on Antioch started indoor, in-person Sunday School for youth in February following in-depth safety protocols. If all goes well with youth meeting in-person, then VOA plans to phase in Children's Ministry indoor, in-person Sunday School in March. Email questions to Clare Stern-Burbano, director of children and youth, at clare.stern@villagepres.org.

- Session joyfully welcomed six new members to the church. Please welcome Alexa Campbell, Hunter Crawford, Ruth Draper, Caitlin Pendergast, Erin Rainer and Paul Rainer as the newest members of Village Church.
- Session approved the 2021 budget and called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, Feb. 28 [five days after the Good News went to print]. Look for a mailing with budget details.

MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, March 28

On March 28, Village Church collects for One Great Hour of Sharing. Gifts from this offering are distributed among the following: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) to rebuild communities after natural and human-caused disasters, Self-Development of People (32%) to provide resources to disadvantaged communities working to overcome poverty and Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) to support initiatives that create sustainable food systems. You can make out your check to Village Presbyterian Church. Please note on your check that the gift is for "One Great Hour."

Village on Antioch Pop-Up Food Pantry Requests for March

In March, the Village on Antioch Pop-Up Food Pantry would appreciate donations of peanut butter and jelly. We don't need food club sizes – ordinary family sizes will do. Bring your donations to the marked bins at the south entrance of Village on Mission or the east entrance of Village on Antioch. Please check the list www.villagepres.org/antioch before donating other items. Thank you!



The World Turned Upside Down
 A Lenten Sermon Series on the Beatitudes

The beatitudes launch the teaching of Jesus that describes the life that God intends, that God blesses and that God creates for us. The beatitudes describe the blessed life. But there is little question that the blessed life depicted in the beatitudes stands in tension with the pursuits of life defined by both ancient and modern cultures. And yet, blessed are you.

- March 7 Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness – Rev. Tom Are preaching
- March 14 Merciful (Matthew 18:21-35) – Rev. Tom Are preaching
- March 21 Pure in Heart (Matthew 14:22-33) – Rev. Tom Are preaching
- March 28 Palm Sunday: Rides in Humility – Rev. Tom Are preaching
- April 1 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. Online Service – Rev. Melanie Hardison preaching
- April 2 Good Friday 7 p.m. Online Service – Rev. Zach Walker preaching
- April 4 Easter Online Services – Rev. Tom Are preaching

Holy Saturday Journey with Jesus
Saturday, April 3

Come join us as we remember the journey of Jesus Christ from his birth to his calling the disciples to his ministries of healing and teaching and troublemaking to his arrest, torture and death on the cross. The journey is in-person, outdoors, self-directed and socially-distanced. Please wear masks. Come any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Village on Mission or from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Village on Antioch on Saturday, April 3. Pastors and staff will be present to accompany you.



Easter Lily Memorial Gift

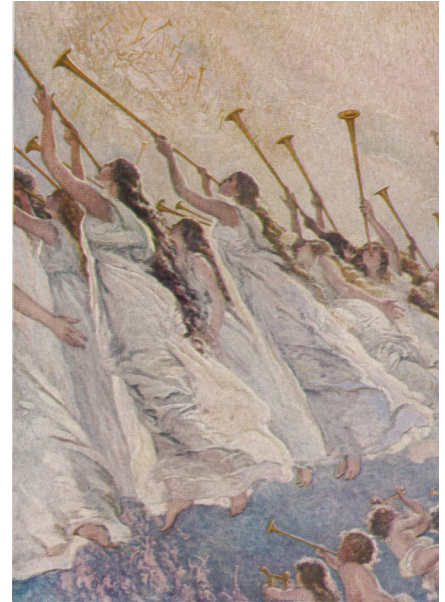
Honor the memory of a loved one by purchasing an Easter lily that will be delivered to a homebound member. Your loved one's name and your name will be printed in the May Good News. Please send the printed name and a check for \$10, payable to Village Church. ATTN: Janice Gill, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208. The deadline is Friday, March 26.

Deepen Your Faith and Enhance Your Lenten Journey with Our Daily Video Devotionals

We are offering Daily Video Devotionals now through Easter Sunday. Each 2-3 minute video focuses on a scripture passage and will be led by one of our pastors, staff members or other congregational leaders. Sign up to receive these by email at www.villagepres.org/subscribe. They are also on our Facebook pages @VillagePres and @VillageAntioch and on our website at www.villagepres.org/dailydevotionals2021.

A Hallelujah Chorus for the Ages (and Easter!)

Village singers and instrumentalists of all ages are invited to sing and play in "A Hallelujah Chorus for the Ages." This powerful virtual project will be a collaboration between Kansas City filmmaker Jack McClain, our music team and our pastoral staff. The result: a grand rendition of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from The Messiah that will be broadcast in our April 4 Easter morning services. If you would like to participate, email carol.dale@villagepres.org.



Insight Music

Coming this month, an exciting look at instruments—how they work, and why our Village friends love playing them. Fun for kids of all ages! Insight Music is being created by music team members Destiny Ann Mermagen and Jenny Hull, with insights given by Village Church instrumentalists. You'll find Insight Music at www.facebook.com/villagechurchmusic.

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New Stephen Ministers Available to Provide Christian Care

Eight new Stephen Ministers have completed training and are available to provide congregation members with Christ-centered care.

Mark Basso, Julie Haas, Nancy Kapp, Paul Lemon, Karen A. Reimer, Samantha Sturgeon, Jill Turner and Jerry Woolsey joined the more than 70 active Stephen Ministers of Village Church when they were commissioned on Feb. 28.

“Our training emphasizes empathy and listening, rather than fixing or advising,” notes Julie Haas. “As a Stephen Minister, we’re taught to allow God to do the healing.”

Paul Lemon points out that having a Stephen Minister when he lost a job kept his heart open to stay connected spiritually. “Our training stressed those suffering are not alone... we care about their emotional, physical and spiritual well being.”

If you are interested in a Stephen Minister relationship or would consider becoming one, contact Rev. Melanie Hardison at 913-713-3098 or melanie.hardison@villagepres.org.



Photo by Desiree Reinke

Welcome Erin Sigmund

This spring, Village Church has a special opportunity to host a seminary intern from Louisville Seminary. Please welcome Erin Sigmund, who will work with us, remotely, for about 15 hours a week until mid-May and will be supervised by Rev. Melanie Hardison.

Prior to seminary, Erin coordinated service-learning programs at a children’s education non-profit. With a BA in Youth Ministry, Erin has also served as a youth pastor and youth director in several congregations.



During the pandemic, Erin has loved to hike and play boardgames with her boyfriend but looks forward to the day when she can go laser-tagging with her youth group and host in-person parties again.

We give thanks to Louisville Seminary for sponsoring Erin’s learning and leadership here at Village Church!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Save the Date: Celebration of Faithful Women 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 17

Plan to join us as we gather to celebrate the gifts of all Village Presbyterian Women and acknowledge our honorees: Dee Couch, Patty Grossman, Michelle O’Neal and Kelly Thomason.

This will be an outdoor event in the south parking lot at Village on Mission. In case of inclement weather, April 24 is our rain date. We will follow socially distanced guidelines. Attendees will have the option of bringing their own chairs for outside seating or remaining in their cars. An optional boxed lunch by Chef Andrea may be purchased for \$12, which will include a sandwich, fruit, cookie and water. Gluten-free and vegetarian options will be available.

Rev. Sally Wright is our speaker. Her message of “Being Present for the Future” (Isaiah 43:19) reminds us that even though COVID-19 has given us much to lament, scripture promises us that God is continually making all things new.

Online registration for the event and lunch will begin on March 22 and end on April 7. Please look for specific information on how to register www.villagepres.org/pw, PW social media (Facebook and Instagram) and the April Messenger. For questions, contact Beth Brame at bethbrame@yahoo.com, or Ann DeFeo at annddefeo@gmail.com or 816-863-0074.

Summer Programs

Children and Family Ministry will be offering these awesome summer programs: Mini Kids Day Out, Mini Creations by Kids and Music Camp. Village on Mission and Village on Antioch will combine creative efforts on Hybrid VBS! Register online starting Monday, March 29. Stay tuned for more information.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 7 & 12 – 7 p.m. Te Deum Livestreamed Concerts: Kreuzige - A German Passiontide (Antiqua Series).

Performing with Kansas City Baroque Consortium, Te Deum will present some of the Baroque era's most profound music for Passiontide. Get tickets at www.te-deum.org.

March 9, 16, 23 & 30 – 2-3:30 p.m. Village U Online Class: "The Great Hymns: Then and Now." Taught by Ryan Main, director of music ministry at Village on Antioch, and Dr. Jan Kraybill, organist at Village on Antioch.

March 10, 17 and 24 and 31 – 6:30-8 p.m. Three Village U Classes taught via Zoom.

Speaking Out for Religious Freedom: On Faith and Politics – Taught by Rev. Chad Herring, senior pastor, John Knox Kirk in Kansas City and Prairie Village City Council member.

Four Giants of 20th Century American Christianity – Taught by Dr. Gus Breytspraak, professor emeritus of religion and culture, Ottawa University.

Book of James: A Practical Letter for Today – Taught by Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish, J. B. Green Professor of Theology, Columbia Theological Seminary.

March 11 – 12:15-12:45 p.m. Second Thursday Online Recital with Organist Thomas Vozzella.

Thomas Vozzella is director of music and organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

March 11, 18 & 25 – 7-8 p.m. Young Adult Ministry: Theology Thursdays via Zoom. This Lent we're meeting Julian of Norwich, a 14th century mystic who knows a little about life in our own days. Sign up at www.villagpresya.org/Thursday

March 13 – 9-10 a.m. Second Saturday Drive-Thru Family Fun "Easter Craft Bag" – Come to the Village on Mission south parking lot to grab your Easter craft bag. We'll include a fun, stained-glass craft and some "egg-stra" special surprises. We will also be collecting small item health supplies for the Thwake Village Partnership's Free Health & Dental Clinic as our service project for March. A list of supplies may be found at www.villagepres.org/thwake_collection.

March 16 – 7 p.m. Taizé Worship Online

March 22 – Online registration opens for the April 17 Celebration of Faithful Women at Village on Mission.

March 22– 7-8 p.m. Village U Online Class: Marvelous Music Movies. Led on Zoom by Will Breytspraak, director of music ministry, and Dr. Carol Dale, music coordinator. We'll have an in-depth Zoom class about the film "Thirty-Two Short Films about Glenn Gould," and then we will watch it on the big screen at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 26, in the north parking lot of Village Church on Mission. Individually packaged movie snacks and drinks will be provided.

March 28 – Palm Sunday

March 29 – Online Registration opens for Children's Summer Programs

Get more information at www.villagepres.org/upcoming-events and www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes



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A MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE GIVING COMMITTEE

YOU Make a Difference

Making a financial contribution to the church is one way to express our gratitude to God. Village's annual budget supports every aspect of our ministries and programs. Our commitments through time and money are multiplied in powerful ways: children and youth are nurtured, adults grow in faith through study and relationships with one another, older adults are upheld and cared for, we praise God through song and worship, food is given to the less fortunate. All of that – and so much more – is made possible by our giving to the church.



ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays
villagepres.org/online

The Gathering Music and Prayers
5 p.m. Sundays
vpcthegathering.org

Call In to hear the
9:30 a.m. worship service
913-203-1301

Listen to Worship on 1660 AM
8 a.m. Sundays - a week-delayed
radio broadcast of the
morning worship service

IN MEMORY

Ann Hotchkiss
Jane Ireland
James Pirtle
Mike Strain
Mary Unruh
Jim Whiteaker
Marilyn Youll