Rev. Tom Are’s first words during our first worship service back in the Sanctuary were, “Good Morning Village and Welcome Home!”

The service included a blessing of the gifts of the room, such as the baptismal font, the Bible and the elements of communion. And how fitting that on the third Sunday of Advent when we returned to the Sanctuary we would light the candle for “Joy.”

The improved acoustics were quite noticeable with Elisa Bickers and her beautiful playing on our newly restored Steinway concert grand piano and the choir filling the air with their joyous strains. Darin Heyen and Ryan Warman of Pearce Construction and Barry Rogers were recognized in the congregation. Tom Are also recognized Jim Borthwick, chair of the Sanctuary/Organ/Welcome Center Committee, who was singing in the choir. Tom quipped, “Jim was in the youth group when he joined this committee.”

In his sermon Tom said, “It is our prayer and intent that this room — this room that we have worked together to create — will be a manger; a place where the love of God lives; where the love of God is spoken; where the love of God shapes us; where the love of God is known and trusted; where God’s holy love saves us.

It will happen right there at that font. Parents will bring their little ones. Like Mary herself, they will be exhausted and filled with wonder; they will be overjoyed and scared to death. They will want to believe that there is a place in this world that their sons and daughters can belong, and this will be just such a place.”

It was a glorious day for Village Church. While it may have been raining outside, it was beaming with sunshine inside because Village was home for Christmas!
**Second Thursday Recital • 12:15 p.m. Jan. 14**
**Guest Artists: Elizabeth Suh Lane, Douglas Niedt & Elisa Bickers**

The Jan. 14, 2016 Second Recital Series will feature violinist Elizabeth Suh Lane, guitarist Douglas Niedt, and harpsichordist Elisa Bickers performing selections from Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*. This free concert will take place at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, in the chancel of our freshly renovated sanctuary!

**Tidings of Joy 2015**

The 15th Annual Tidings of Joy Concert packs the Village Sanctuary, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015. It was glorious to hear our magnificent choir in our newly renovated Sanctuary. Many thanks to the entire Music Ministry team, the Village Choir, Alegría, Village Chamber Choir & Orchestra and guest artists Barnaby Bright.

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**Weekly Wednesday Dinners**

Dine before or after your Wednesday class. Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open from 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy a well-balanced meal that is convenient. A full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar & dessert is $6. Cost for children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under—no charge. Contact Cindy (913-671-2331) or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org for a reservation.

WND Menus:
- Jan. 13—Smothered Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetarian Entree
- Jan. 20—Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries, Onion Rings
- Jan. 27—Chicken Pot Pie, Vegetable Rice Pilaf

**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.

- SL.001 *Sing Before Supper*, Mark Ball, 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesdays in the Chapel
- SL.001 *They Were Just People: Lessons from the Holocaust*, Bill Tammeus and Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn - 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays now-Feb. 3, in Rooms 126 & 127
- BT.006 *Short Stories by Jesus*, Gus Breytspraak - 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 20-Feb. 3, in Room 232.
**Food Pantry**

Christmas is over and everyone is getting back into their normal routines and the normal routine of the Food Pantry is to feed the hungry in our area. Our wish is that your routine this year will be to bring one or two food items with each visit to our church. It’s such a small effort on your part but you can imagine the large impact on hunger in our area it would make if each member would get into the “routine” of doing this! This week we are requesting cereal - cold or hot. We never have enough hot cereals - oatmeal, regular or instant; cream of wheat, regular or instant - and how inviting that sounds on a cold morning.

The Clothes Closet is looking for winter coats, in all sizes - clean and gently used. Warm blankets, winter hats and scarves, gloves - all the things that warm the bodies. Your continuing support is always needed and always appreciated. Thank you.

**Blood Drive Jan. 19**

Village will host a blood drive from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19, in Rooms 132 and 133. To make an appointment online visit esavealifenow.org and use sponsor code of “villagepres” or stop by our registration table in Friendship Hall from 9 a.m. -noon on Jan. 10 and 17. For additional details, contact Ann Colston at 913-722-0165 or acolston1113@gmail.com.

**January Luggage Drive for DRMP**

Village’s Dominican Republic Medical Partnership (DRMP) is looking for large used suitcases in which to pack medical supplies and equipment to take to the Dominican Republic. If you have any large (25” or larger) luggage suitcases that you no longer need, we would love to take them off your hands! You can drop them off at the receptionist desk or at the International Mission office, Room 212c. For more information, contact Andrea Huffman, director of international mission, at andrea.huffman@villagepres.org. We will be collecting luggage through Jan. 31.

**The Giving Spirit**

This year you decorated our trees throughout the church with over 308 hats and mittens, and we collected 3,000 diapers for families through the Village Clothes Closet/Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

**Village Volunteers Have Made Our Apartment a Home for our Residents**

The Village Church volunteers have been incredibly supportive of Hillcrest Transitional Housing this year, and we want to recount all they’ve done.

- After the fire in our complex, they pitched in and cleaned and restocked our smoky, fire damaged apartment (and helped in other apartments)
- Each time a new resident moved in, they provided groceries and supplies
- At least every month, they dropped off a meal to the residents in our apartment
- The Presbyterian Women gave a handmade fleece throw to each resident
- People in the congregation provided boxes and boxes of gently used kitchenware to Hillcrest for use in all of Hillcrest’s apartments
- Finally, this Christmas they gave our current resident, everything on her Christmas wish list and an extra Christmas present (Penzey’s spices for her since she’s a chef) … and a graduation gift!

The residents and the Hillcrest staff have been truly grateful for all we’ve done. Happy New Year and a warm thank you to everyone!

In 2016, we need monthly meal volunteers. Contact Susan Morgenthaler at smorge1@gmail.com or 913-568-5527 if you’re interested.
Healing Times

Time can be a hopeful thing, but it can also be haunting. Time has the ability of tricking us. Sometimes I feel as if I have all the time in the world. I get this idea I’m going to clean out the garage, and then I get working and I realize this project is going to take me forever. Other times I sit down to read a book or put some thoughts on paper, and the next thing I know hours have gone by. Time has ways of convincing us that it is always on our side. But the truth is many times it isn’t.

During this time of year we typically wish one another a Happy New Year! And it can sometimes be our custom to look back at the previous year and ask each other, “How was your year?” If we aren’t careful this question has a way of backfiring on us quickly. It never fails that if we ask this question because we’ve had a good year, then someone very close to us will have had a very difficult one. And vise versa, if our year was a tough and rocky one, then a close friend will go on-and-on about how great of a year it was for them. And then what was intending to start a conversation just ended one.

When we lose a loved one, the truth probably is that the new year is going to be far from something happy or hopeful. It can be one we dread to face. We fear we’ll pull the covers over our heads and never leave our homes. Time can stand still, or worse yet, can come to a screeching halt. Time can become void and absent feeling, or we find it slipping away. We are often told that “time can heal.” But what happens when it doesn’t? What if time prolongs the grief and heightens the pain and brings no healing?

The poet Elizabeth Jennings writes:

“Time does not heal
It makes a half-stitched scar
That can be broken and you feel
Grief as total as in its first hour.”

The experience of losing someone we love, or something we value, leaves lasting scars that take an eternity to grow accustomed to living with. The truth may be that time alone will not heal the grief, or ease what hurts, or end our tears. Time may not heal, but these are healing times. We may need to find better ways of living through the pain together. Grief has a way of showing up when we are convinced it has ended. The biggest fear is that the pain of one moment can open up those scars that are “half-stitched,” and all those layers of awful can come rushing back again.

The Pastoral Care and Counseling Department wants to assure you that we are here for you. We will help you find new ways to live through the troubles of a new year. We are here to help you explore new ways of journeying through your grief, and to strive together in seeking new ways of experiencing healing times.

—Rev. Len Carrell

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Taizé Worship Service Sunday, Jan. 10

A possible New Year’s resolution is to take a quiet moment for yourself each month and attend the Taizé worship service. Modeled after worship from the Taizé community in France, the service includes song, silence, and scripture—all experienced at a quiet, reflective pace. We will also take communion together. Taizé worship takes place on the second Sunday of every month at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. 2016 dates include: Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11.

Growing Through Grief – New Series Starts Jan. 13

Grief can be overwhelming. If you are grieving the death of a loved one, please know you are not alone. The Care and Counseling department wants to support our members and anyone who is facing this difficult time by offering a five-week class, Growing Through Grief. Join us to learn more about the grieving process, meet others who understand your struggles, and be reminded that God is with us through even the hardest of moments. The classes include helpful (optional) reading from Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. The series is offered at no cost and includes your own copy of the book. Registration is required.

The next series is from 4:30-5:45 p.m. every Wednesday, Jan. 13-Feb. 10, in Room 124.

Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.
POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF
Russell & Frances Acuff
Charles ‘Hap’ Anderson
Barbara Arthur
Dewy Ballard
James Barickman
Mac & Lucille Beall
Lyle Beets
Eliane Billington
Marian Billington
Bob Birkenmeier
Ralph A Bock
June & Gene Bockelman
James & Anna Bothwell
Paul Bower
Dick Bradley
Don Bramley
Nancy A Bramley
Judy Brook
John P Brown
Phyllis Brownlee
Blanche, Jerry & Bill Cerny
Agnes & Andrew Chonko
John Coleman
Margaret Coleman
Ralph E Coleman
Dick Conley
Bud Coulson
Addison Cox
Larry Culbertson
Sara Deines
H H “Hop” Dickenson
Antoni ‘Toni’ Diehl
Harold & Julia Diehl
Alfred Dixon
Ethel & Bert Dowden
Thomas & Helen Easton
Dottie Ellenberger
Marvin Field
Reverend Bill Foster
Dave Francisco
Keith & Lois Gallehugh
Barbara Gile
Harold, Nadine & Donna B Gooch
Edna & Eugene Goodwin Sr
Eugene ‘Gene’ Goodwin

DONATED BY
Gail Van Reen & Phil Acuff
Melanie Anderson Wall
The Arthur Family
Mary F Ballard
Barbara Barickman
Ginny & Scott Beall
Brad & Julie Beets
Wilbur Billington
Wilbur Billington
Elizabeth Birkenmeier
Carla Bock
Lynn & Ann Kindred
Sybil Diehl
Tina Bower, Janet & John Butcher & Julie Setter
Ginny & Scott Beall
Nancy D Bramley
Nancy D Bramley
Ginny & Scott Beall
The Lykens Family
Peggy & Jim Gray
Ginny & Scott Beall
The Chonko Family
Sandra & Robert Coleman
Sandra & Robert Coleman
Sandra & Robert Coleman
Betty Conley
Helen Coulson
Ginny & Scott Beall
Nancy Culbertson
Stan & Peggy Chappell
Polly Dickenson
Sybil Diehl
Sybil Diehl
Sara Dixon
Bill & Marion Dowden
Nancy & Jim Easton
L K & Shirley Ellenberger
Martha Field
Lynn & Ann Kindred
Jean Francisco
Cam Gallehugh
Brad & Carrie Kruse
John & Dee Gound
The Goodwin Family

IN MEMORY OF
Bertha & James Gordon
Carol Grainger
Dr & Mrs Neil C Gray
Virginia Gray
Mr & Mrs Stanley A Hamilton
Doyle Hargadine
Charles & Beulah Haynes
Edward Hills
Paul Hills
Harlan Hise
Harlan Hise
Harlan Hise
Harlan Hise
Harlan Hise
Dottie Harberts
Her Family

DONATED BY
The Goodwin Family
Her Family
Richard & Judy McEachen
Peggy & Jim Gray
Sara, Laurie & Ben Hamilton
Dortha Hargdine
Eleanor & Jim Lear
Marian Hills
Barbara Hise
Jeff, Julie, Jim and Spouses
Bryan, Lyndsi, Whitney, Matt
Katie, Tommy, Joey, Maddie
Megan & Jim Hise
Lynn & Ann Kindred
Her Family
Verna Hoel
John S Hollyman
Michele & Jim Stowers
Michele & Jim Stowers
Lynn & Ann Kindred
The Kieltyka Family
The Kieltyka Family
Miscellaneous
L K & Shirley Ellenberger
Sandra & Robert Coleman
Sandra & Robert Coleman
Carol Keller
The Kieltyka Family
Mark & Melissa Anderson
Joni Kinsey
Tom Kirkwood
Ruthie Kline
The Kids
The Grandkids
The Great Grandkids
Mom, Dad, Adam & Abby
Donna Wilson
Donna Wilson
Carolyn Langdon
Eleanor & Jim Lear
Diane, Duane, Pam & Dayna
Tony & Jan Liu
Mazie Long
Betty T Long
Spend an Evening with Women with Spirit at Miss Carol’s Art in the Attic 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21

What better way to show our spirit, ladies, than with a little art? Join us for a night of creative fun at Miss Carol’s Art in the Attic! After ten years as an instructor for the Nelson, Miss Carol moved her love for the Arts a little closer to home... quite literally! Join us inside Miss Carol’s attic studio for an inspired adult evening to explore our more creative side. Only a “can-do” attitude necessary; no prior art knowledge required!

They say timing is everything. So with Saint Valentine’s Day right around the corner, get set to create a large, modern metal heart, perfect to warm up your front door or any special spot in your home!

The cost is $30 per person, to cover materials & Miss Carol’s instruction. Please bring a salty or sweet treat to share as well as a drink for yourself, if desired.

RSVP to Shelby Krumm at shelbykrumm@yahoo.com. Need child care? No problem! Just make sure to email Pam at pam.southerland@villagepres.org or call her directly at 913-671-2352 no later than Jan. 14 (space is limited).

For more information on Miss Carol’s classes, go to www.misscarolsartintheattic.com.

Amazing Graces Winter Event at the Nelson, Thursday, Feb. 4

Join us at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art for our winter event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4. We’ll meet in the lobby of the Bloch building for small plates & drinks followed by a docent guided tour featuring religion in art. Your $10 Check by Jan. 18 is your reservation. Send to Kathy Collins, 4716 W. 86th St., Prairie Village, KS 66207. Drinks are an additional charge and museum parking is $8.

Presbyterian Women’s Spring Retreat

Change A Place Where God is Active
April 22-23, 2016
Heartland Presbyterian Conference and Retreat Center
Parkville, Missouri

Don’t miss the inspiring and creative sessions led by Rev. Meg McLaughlin and her mother, Rev. Margaret Peery.

The retreat will include times for fellowship, prayer, reflection on Scripture, singing and worship. We will have opportunities to deepen our faith and our friendships with one another, as we explore how our lives are always transforming and how we can bring our faith into these transitions.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 28.
For more information, contact Jennifer Stradinger, 913-707-4918, or visit www.villagepres.org.
Deadline for sign up is April 8, 2016.

You’re Invited...

To meet other young women, approximately the same age, and at the same stage of life, to simply enjoy, have coffee with, meet after work, or plan an event with, philanthropic or social.

Wednesday January 6th
For Coffee 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
or
For Wine and Cheese 5 to 6:30 p.m.
at
Jennifer Burns’ home
6457 Verona Road, Mission Hills

Child care will be available at the church with reservations in advance; contact Pam Southerland at 913-671-2352 or pam.southerland@villagepres.org
Carol Are, Our Senior Pastor’s Wife, to Speak at “Celebration of Faithful Women” Luncheon, Feb. 20

Carol Wells Are was born in Richmond, Virginia. The youngest of four and a child of the manse, her Presbyterian heritage reaches as far back as great grandparents who were ministers and Bible teachers. When her father graduated from Union Seminary, the family moved to North Carolina where she grew up.

Carol’s personal sense of call led her to study nursing. Upon graduation from UNC Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science, she worked as a nurse for three years in a Cardiovascular Intensive Care unit. It was a wonderful learning experience, yet she felt as though she was meant to be a nurse missionary.

Following this call, she moved back to Richmond, Virginia to pursue her Master’s in Christian Education. It was there she met Tom, as the Presbytery School for Christian Education shared a student center and library with Union Seminary. They fell in love and married after dating for 15 months. She fondly remembers wonderful advice from her dad who said, “You will serve the work of the Lord by being in a healthy marriage.”

As Tom’s career in ministry evolved, they moved often, living in many places. After Tom’s graduation from Union Seminary, they moved to Charleston, South Carolina where Tom was an associate pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Next, they moved to New Haven, Connecticut where Tom attended Yale for a second Master’s program. They also lived in Columbia, South Carolina, Jacksonville, Florida, and we all remember happily embracing them when they arrived in Prairie Village 11 years ago.

Along this journey, Carol benefitted from her education, both her B.S in Nursing and her Master’s in Christian Education. Whether she was working as a nurse full-time or part-time, she found time to teach Sunday School, Parenting Classes, Growing Together and the PW Bible Study Leaders. In nursing, her first position in Kansas City was working as a float nurse at the KC Cancer Center near St. Luke’s Hospital. Over time, she realized her passion for being in the lives of her patients. She transitioned to Grace Hospice in 2007, where she worked as a field nurse, a care manager and currently serves as the Grace Hospice nurse educator.

“Hospice is the most holistic of all nursing: caring for the whole person and their family,” says Carol. She enjoys developing relationships and nurturing people in both their physical needs and spiritual sense.

With daughter Sarah in Seminary and son, Nathan, a senior in college, she finds a little time to garden, dabble in watercolor painting and take long walks in their Brookside neighborhood.

Carol is delighted to be the speaker for the Celebration of Faithful Women on Feb. 20. “I find that honoring women in our church and learning their faith journeys is inspiring for us all,” she remarks. She will reflect on “Walking Willing,” motivated by an interview she listened to with Sister Simone Campbell.

Join us as we celebrate all women at Village Church! May we all glean the spirit of willingness to “walk the walk,” just like the disciples of Jesus.
Registration for Spring 2016 Village U is open. You may enroll for all courses online at villagepres.org, by email (marianne.weber@villagepres.org), by calling Marianne at 913-671-2333 or in person in Room 119 at Village Church.

**Upcoming Village U Classes:**

**Breakfast and Bible with Your Buddies**
Join Rev. Tom Are for a morning men’s Bible study. Chef Emily will prepare a hot breakfast, and Rev. Are will offer a reflection on passages from Scripture. There will be time for discussion as well. So, invite a friend and join the fellowship Tuesday mornings. To make a reservation for breakfast, please contact marianne.weber@villagepres.org. Cost: $6. Child care is not available. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 19 through March 8, in Room 228.

**Funding College Expenses and the Benefits of 529 College Savings Plans**, Peter Vrooman
We will discuss estimating the costs of college expenses and how to allocate resources to help cover the costs, as well as the features and benefits of 529 College Savings Plans. Mr. Vrooman is first vice president, investment officer, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, in Room 232. Taught by Peter Vrooman.

**Transforming Your Basic Store-bought Flowers into an Extraordinary Display!**
How do you take a store-bought flower arrangement and make it look like a professional display? Join us to learn from a special event florist how to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. Bring a vase and store-bought arrangement, and we will use provided materials to create something beautiful. Additional cost: $5 for materials. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, in Room 232. Taught by Peter Vrooman.

**Short Stories by Jesus**
The renowned biblical scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus’ most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers. In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, the author offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus’ narratives. In Short Stories by Jesus, she analyzes these “problems with parables,” taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Child care is not available. 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 20-Feb. 3, in Room 232. Taught by Gus Breytspraak.

**Wright’s Native Son and Albert Camus’ The Stranger**
*Native Son* tells the story of 20-year-old Bigger Thomas, a black American youth living in utter poverty on Chicago’s South Side in the 1930s. Struggling with his plight, Bigger acts, committing a terrible crime. In *The Stranger*, Meursault, a French Algerian, kills an Arab man. Both novels reflect on a terrible crime, which brings self-awareness to the protagonist, and perhaps to the reader. 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 21-Feb. 25, in Room 232. Taught by Kelly Fast and Michael Sanem.

**Jeff Goble Book Signing and Discussion about Nest Egg**
6:30 p.m. Jan. 20, in Room 230
*Nest Egg* is not your standard “how-to” investment book. It is much more. It’s a book that teaches you how to take the long-term investment view and build emotional discipline for creating and managing your nest egg. It is about having a retirement plan years ahead of the day you stop working so that you can fully enjoy what you have built for your golden years. Just follow four key steps instrumental to your long-term investing success. There is no sales pitch. It is a review of several classic investment texts and investing guidance written by noted and respected authors including Benjamin Graham, Warren Buffet, Jeremy Siegel and Howard Marks. Moreover this is a book about the joy of giving in both small and large ways, and how generosity can actually be more gratifying than building your *Nest Egg* in the first place!

Author Jeff Goble was executive V.P. and managing director of UMB Bank for 35 years. He has served on the Bank’s Funds Management Committee and also its Markets and Economic Research Committee. He is founder and editor of the UMB Daily Market Comment. He and his family are members of Village Church. Jeff will discuss his new book and have a book signing from 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20, in Room 230 (Small Dining Room).

All royalties from *Nest Egg* benefit the following seven Kansas City charitable organizations: Ozanam, Operation Breakthrough, Chains of Hope KC, Rose Brooks Domestic Violence Center, Wayside Waifs, Habitat for Humanity, City Union Mission.
Children’s Christmas Pageant

If you missed the beautiful worship service with children presenting the time honored Christmas pageant, you can check out the pictures on the Village Church Kids Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/VillageChurchKids

Souper Bowl of Caring: Tackle Hunger

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than $98 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Throughout January, children are encouraged to bring cans of soup to Kids’ Kingdom and Preschool Church School. This mission project shows kids they can make a positive difference in the world.

Sixth Grade Goes Snow Tubing

Our next outing will be tubing at Snow Creek in Weston, Missouri on Jan. 9. Parents of 6th graders… look for details to be mailed to your home. Or, call Cheryl for more information at 913-671-2355.

Village Kid’s Day Out Program

The Child Care Department is pleased to offer our Kid’s Day Out program for the 2016/2017 school year. This program is for children ages 2-4 years on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and is in session from Sept.-May. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where your child can grow and learn. We provide your child with many opportunities to explore and be creative. We have a loving, energetic staff that will make your child’s experience a positive one.

Fall enrollment begins from 8 a.m.-noon Monday, Feb. 1, for Village Church members, KDO Alumni siblings and Village Preschool families. Enrollment for community members is from 8 a.m.–noon on Monday, Feb. 8.

Any questions? Contact Marjean in the Child Care Department at 913-671-2322

Enrollment for Village Church Weekday Preschool begins in January!

Village Preschool begins accepting applications for the coming school year (2016-2017) in January. Several years ago a tiered schedule was implemented due to the high demand for limited spaces in our program. This allows for currently enrolled families and Village members to have priority. For more information check the preschool page on the Village website or contact Terri Gaeddert at 913-671-2338.

Enrollment Schedule for Fall 2016-2017:

On Jan. 19, enrollment opens for: Current Preschool Families and Village Church Members
On Jan. 21, enrollment opens for: Current Village Church Kid’s Day Out Families
On Jan. 25, enrollment opens for: Community Families
Village Welcomes Rev. Hallie Hottle

Rev. Hallie Hottle is our new associate pastor in Young Adult Ministry. She was introduced to the congregation on Sunday, Dec. 6. “Her love for the church, enthusiasm for young adults and passion for God drew us to her immediately,” said Laura Strongman, chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. “It was when we sat down face to face with Hallie that we fell in love with her sense of humor, her warm and inviting personality and her creative spirit. The APNC is very excited to be welcoming Hallie and her husband Nick into the Village family.”

About Rev. Hallie M. Hottle

“I grew up in the cow and corn-filled plains of the Midwest, in Monmouth, Ill., the oldest of three children, daughter of two loving parents,” said Hallie. “I was spoiled by the proximity of family, with a grandmother who lived across the street, and two grandparents who lived across town. We spent Sundays in worship at Faith United Presbyterian Church to please one grandmother. And we spent summers on the Mississippi River, to please the other. The ministries of that church, along with the experience of God’s creation on that river, were the beginnings of a quiet call to ministry.

After high school, I went to study art at Coe College, the first in my family to go to college. One year, a sorority, and some spiritual wondering later, I changed my major to psychology, and began to take religion classes. My draw to art, counseling and exegesis felt conflicted at the time, but now make up the heart of my ministry.

During the summer before my senior year of college, I returned home for an internship at my home church. I took the job simply because it paid, proving that God can use even the smallest of paychecks to move the most stubborn of people. My pastor took time off to begin his D.Min., and I was left with an office, a Book of Common Worship, a Presbyterian Planning Calendar introducing me to the lectionary, and instructions not to burn anything down. I preached, I counseled, I captured (hid from) a lot of bats, and in the end, God was pressing so deeply on my heart I found it hard to breathe.

I attended Princeton Theological Seminary, wrestling with God and academia in some kind of love-hate relationship I have yet to understand. By God’s grace, I worked during this time at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. I entered seminary thinking I would be some kind of college chaplain, but because of that church, I entered my last year of seminary madly in love with Church, and unconsciously settled on working for her with all my heart.

Following seminary, I found myself in Clearwater, Fla. for a year-long CPE residency. While there, I received a call from Miami Shores Presbyterian. I’ve experienced many challenges in my first call, including the fact that our head of staff retired almost immediately.

Despite these challenges, I’ve watched this congregation grow and flourish. It was this congregation who stood with me in ordination, who literally carried me while I was on crutches during Easter, and who witnessed my marriage. God has affirmed that I continue to be called to Church, even when she’s a mess.

I am eager to join the staff team and church family of Village. I continue to be fueled by the love for Christ’s Church, God’s pressing on my heart, and my humbling role with this thing called ministry.”

Hallie began her new position at Village Church on Jan. 1.
Because of Your Generosity...

In 1999 Village Church started Front Porch Alliance (FPA) in partnership with the Ivanhoe neighborhood (31st to 47th Street, Paseo to Prospect). One of the programs offered is PAL Mentoring that allows a volunteer to support two students at Faxon Elementary School by helping with reading and math skills and establishing meaningful relationships with students.

FPA PAL Ruthie Biggs teaching her student about where to find the Dominican Republic on the globe.

VPC Service Times
Traditional — 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering — 10:45 a.m.
In Friendship Hall

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

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours
10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. M-F
6–7:30 p.m. Thursday night
9:30–11:30 a.m. Sat. morning

IN MEMORY
Ralph Canning
Joan Danneberg
Jann Lund
Carol Pendleton
Roland “Ron” Roepe