Impolite Dinner Conversation: Meneilly Visiting Scholars Explore Faith and Politics

By Meredith Holladay

Weren’t we always taught to avoid certain topics at the dinner table? Certain things are just not the stuff of polite conversation. This year’s Meneilly Visiting Scholar (MVS) lecture series welcomes two speakers who invite us to dive deep into such “Impolite Dinner Conversations” – the intersection of faith and politics. Drs. Carolyn Helsel and Margaret Aymer will guide us in considering what the gospels actually say about the politics of Jesus and how the church has tried, and often failed, to live into Jesus’ political vision for this God-beloved world.

Helsel is assistant professor of homiletics (preaching) and Aymer is professor of New Testament Studies, both at Austin Presbyterian Seminary, in Austin, Texas. Colleagues and friends, Helsel and Aymer will model for us theological and political speech that is rooted in conversation and reflection. Knowing that 2020 is a presidential election year, and as our political context (both at home and globally) becomes ever more divided and hostile, the MVS committee invited these two scholars to help us answer the questions: What is a true biblical lens for evaluating politics and religion? How might a biblical vision of the life of Jesus and the Cosmic Christ help us see and live into God’s agenda for all of Creation?

The weekend will begin on Friday evening, March 6, with a lecture from Dr. Aymer titled, “Reading the Politics of Christ.” She will invite us to consider what Jesus’ politics looked like according to the writers of the four gospels. What did he challenge? What did he uphold? When did he take sides and with whom? Looking at Jesus through this lens will call us to consider where we as a church might stand in the midst of yet another fractious political season.

On Saturday, March 7, the morning will be divided into two sessions. During the first, we will hear from Dr. Helsel on “Reading the Politics of Christians.” She will examine Christian thinkers who explicitly drew on scripture and principles of faith to both support and attack the institution of slavery and segregation, in order to help us interpret our present political moment. During the second Saturday morning session, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will engage the speakers in a conversation about their presentations and will invite questions from the listeners.

Dr. Margaret Aymer has taught at Austin Seminary since 2015. Prior to joining the faculty at Austin Seminary, Aymer served as a professor at the Interdenominational Theological Center, a coalition of seven historic Black seminaries. Her work focuses on the New Testament, and she has published two books on the Book of James. Aymer earned degrees from both Harvard University and Union Theological Seminary (Richmond, Virginia). She has been active in the PC(USA), serving on several committees and task forces, including the General Assembly Task Force on Civil Unions and Marriage (2009-2010). A native of Barbados, Aymer grew up in the British Methodist Church, and abides a deep love for hymns, noting that singing, particularly hymns of the church, ground her. Don’t be surprised if she peppers her lecture with familiar refrains of song. She lives in Austin with her husband, Laurent, a software engineer, and their young son.

Dr. Carolyn Helsel describes herself as “preacher, teacher, mother, professor, writer, painter, drummer, clutter-spreader. I’m also a white woman who wants to help other white people talk about race.” She has also taught at Austin Seminary since 2015. Prior to that, she served as transitional pastor for The Presbyterian Church in Sudbury, Massachusetts. She is a native Texan and completed her formal education at Whitworth University, Princeton Theological Seminary and Emory University.

Continued
MENEILLY VISITING SCHOLARS CONTINUED

University. Helsel published two books in 2018: “Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Race,” and “Preaching about Racism: A Guide for Faith Leaders.” Together, both books earned the 2018 Book(s) of the Year Award from the Association of Parish Clergy. She is ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). Her husband, Philip, also teaches at Austin Seminary; they live in Austin with their son and daughter.

Rev. Jessie Light, a former Village youth and youth ministry intern, studied under both scholars. She offers this encouragement: “They are profound thinkers who, speaking from their own social locations, illumine the scriptures in revelatory and liberating ways and weave the story of faith together with the stories of our lives. I feel so privileged to have spent three years learning and growing in their classrooms and know that you will be blessed and challenged by all they will share!”

Thanks to a generous gift from the Village Church Endowment Trust it’s free to attend our Visiting Scholar events. We do ask that you register online at www.villagepres.org/visiting-scholar.

VILLAGE ON MISSION STAFF UPDATES

Meet the New Coordinator of Adult Educational Ministries

Laura Hobbs is the newest staff member of Village Presbyterian Church. She started last month as the coordinator for adult educational ministries. Laura is a church member, teaches Sunday school and is a participant and leader with Presbyterian Women. She is coordinating ministries with adult faith formation and Presbyterian Women, working with Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka and Rev. Sally Wright.

Laura most recently worked as a paralegal manager and legal assistant with firms in Kansas City, Missouri. She brings excellent skills in coordinating and managing complex projects and tasks with fine attention to details. She has demonstrated gifts in leadership and effective communications and relating well to others.

“I am so grateful that Laura has joined our staff,” said Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor. “She brings a wonderful combination of kindness and competence. It is a joy to welcome her to our ministry team as a Village Presbyterian Church staff member.”

Our New Village on Mission Receptionists

You may have recognized new faces at the Village Church on Mission south reception desk. Karen Reimer and Karen Cox are sharing the position of facilities coordinator and receptionist previously held by Mary Cashin. Karen Reimer works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Karen Cox works on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If they look familiar to you, it may be because they previously worked in the Village Cup. Together, they are coordinating the scheduling of facilities at Village on Mission as well as working the switchboard. Village Church continues its commitment to have a human voice answer the phones whenever possible. They began their work in December. “We rely on these two remarkable women to be the voice and face of welcome for Village Church,” said Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor. “In just these few weeks since they joined us, they have helped to improve our facilities reservations process and greet each person with warmth and grace. We are so glad to have them working with us.”
At the Jan. 13 meeting of the Session, the elders of the church…

- Called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Jan. 28 at Village on Mission and Feb. 4 at Village on Antioch.
- Approved the communion schedule provided by the Worship and Music Committee and the serving of communion at several additional events and worship services scheduled throughout the year.

The Session heard reports about…

- The 11 new Stephen Ministers commissioned on Jan. 12. Rev. Sally Wright noted that there are 82 active Stephen Ministers at Village Church. We are grateful for the spirit of grace and truth of our Stephen Ministers.
- Selling the house owned by the church near 67th and Mission Road (formerly occupied by the Lueckerts). The house has been listed.
- Heartland Presbytery is hosting an Open House from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, for the new Resource Center that has recently been relocated to Village on Antioch.

The Session closed the meeting with prayer including all persons on the prayer list. The next meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 3, 2020 in Rooms 132-133.

What is the Session? The Session is the governing board of the congregation. The 29 elders, elected by the congregation serves for a three-year term and meet monthly except for July. Currently the Session is comprised of 13 women and 16 men, two of whom are young people. The Rev. Tom Are, Jr. is moderator of the Session; pastors and ministry directors also attend the meetings.
UPCOMING SERMONS

Feb. 16   Rev. Hallie Hottle preaching  
Feb. 23   Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

What Freedom Looks Like

Freedom is important and something that we should not take for granted. But what does it mean to be free? There is certainly a political way to answer that question. There is also an economic way to express freedom. But human freedom is first a spiritual category. How does Christianity understand what it means for a person to be free? What would it take for us to live toward freedom in our day?

March 1    Freed From What? Freed For What?  
March 8    The Devil Loves Binary  
March 15   Rich in All the Wrong Markets  
March 22   You Shall Know the Truth, and the Truth…  
March 29   Lessons Learned From A Servant  
April 5 Palm Sunday   It’s My Job  
April 12 Easter Sunday   This is Just the Beginning

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Village Church on Mission – We will have an early service from 8-8:30 a.m. in the Village Church on Mission Chapel, where a continental-style breakfast is available starting at 7:30 a.m. There will also be a 7 p.m. service of worship with traditional Ash Wednesday hymns and music of Mozart with the More Love Chorale, Hallelujah Children's Chorus and string quintet.

Village Church on Antioch – We're doing something new at VOA this year: drive-by ashes from 7-8 a.m. in the VOA parking lot. Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick will be imposing ashes and doing a brief prayer with folks while they wait in their cars. Village on Antioch will also have a 7 p.m. traditional Ash Wednesday service.

MISSION

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry thanks you for your generous donations of soup and crackers for "Souper Bowl Sunday." Results will follow. During the remainder of February, the Food Pantry is asking for canned fruit - (all varieties) to make a nice selection for the clients. The Clothes Closet is asking for bed and bath linens - blankets, sheets and towels - you might have some you are not using. The Pantry's clients would love to have them.
Second Thursday Recital Recital with Jane Christison
12:15-12:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13
Accordionist & singer Jane Christison is known for her trademarked “Music With A Smile®.” Her performances are filled with personality and an enthusiasm for playing the accordion that shines through. The recital will be in the Village on Mission Chapel. Admission is free.

For the Love of Singing: Celebrating Love Through Song
7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 – Village on Mission Chapel
Landlocked Opera, Kansas City’s newest opera company, will feature many voices in a true celebration of love through a wide variety of wonderful songs. Admission is free with a free-will offering for this organization.

American Guild of Organists Presents “Around the World in 80 Minutes”
with Jeanine & David Jordan
4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16 – Village on Mission Sanctuary
This very popular, fast-moving and multimedia concert celebrates the diversity of the music of the world in incredibly creative and unique new ways. Admission is free.

Te Deum Presents “A Spanish Lament”
7 p.m. Sunday, March 1 – Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
On the first Sunday in Lent, Te Deum’s Antiqua series will present Thomás Luis de Victoria’s Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Lamentations of Jeremiah in the beautiful acoustics and serene atmosphere of Our Lady of Sorrows Church. A special aspect of this concert will be bringing in the world’s foremost expert on performing liturgical chant, Professor Eugeen Liven d’Abelardo of the Netherlands.
Tickets are $15 online at www.te-deum.org or $20 at the door. Te Deum is a proud member of the Village Church Arts Alliance.

Wednesday Family Dinners
Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. Full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar & dessert is $6. Children under 10 eat free. Youth ages 11-18 is $5. Contact Liz Middleton at 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon Mondays or RSVP online at www.villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners. Standing Reservations, for more than one date, only available on a pre-pay basis. Contact Liz Middleton liz.middleton@villagepres.org if you are interested in paying for a month, several dates, or the rest of the meals through May 13, 2020. (No dinner March 18 due to Spring Break)

Menus:
Feb. 12 Chicken breast caprese, rice pilaf, macaroni & cheese, strawberry shortcake
Feb. 19 Beef pot roast, roasted potatoes & root veggies, vegetarian entrée, cherry cobbler a la mode
Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday - pasta, vegetarian pomodoro sauce, meatballs, vegetable
March 4 Beer battered cod, red beans & rice (vegetarian), chicken tenders, coleslaw
*special kids’ activity planned
Spring Village U

“But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16

Writing to the fledgling group of new Christians in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul calls upon the believers to grow up in every way. From the first days of the church, all of us are called to grow. Village U is a wide umbrella encompassing over 60 opportunities for adults to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, with one another, with the church, and with the world. Classes are open to both church members and community members. The instructors are engaging, knowledgeable and passionate. All classes are free; however, a few select classes have a small fee for materials and resources.

To see the full catalog and to register, go to www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

The spring semester classes are grouped into seven sections.

Art & Leisure

• Handworks and E-Works classes offer an opportunity for young parents to take advantage of our excellent child care and to have two hours to work on various projects, catch up on email or read and relax with friends.

• Multiple opportunities are available for the knitter, needle pointer, and sewer. Judy Bliss leads the ongoing Boomerangs which invites persons to work on any project. A sewing circle, a yarn works circle and needle pointers offer both expertise and companionship for textile artists.

• Continuing Watercolor offers opportunities for the novice and the expert to hone their gifts in painting with watercolor.

Christian Life

• Bible study opportunities abound from a men’s breakfast with Senior Pastor Rev. Tom Are to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to a study of 1 & 2 Corinthians with Senior Associate Pastor Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka.

• Growing in faith through reading and discussing books especially for women is led by Rev. Diane Quaintance and through Path with Heart led by Marcene Borthwick.

• Faith Seeking Understanding is a 14-week course that will study a text used by many seminary students in their Introduction to Theology class. Each week, the class will read one chapter. Students must purchase and read in preparation for each class. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is the teacher.

• Engaging what it means to be a servant leader in the business, political and religious arenas is a three-week course facilitated by Brad Stratton. Stratton will use panel discussions for each class, inviting thoughtful leaders to offer their insights and wisdom.

• Comparing and contrasting the Qu’ran, the holy scripture of Islam, and the Christian Bible is a five-week course taught by Biagio Mazza, a pastoral associate at St. Sabina Parish in Belton, Missouri. Mazza says there is much misinformation out there and seeks to help Christians experience first hand how the Bible and the Qu’ran are similar and different.

• Ecclesiology is the theological term for the study of the church. Rev. Dr. John Borden is an expert on the life of the church past, present and even future. He teaches a two-week class on what the church is and how we got to be here.

• As we enter into Lent and the journey with Jesus to the cross, Dr. Gus Breytspraak will lead six classes drawing from video clips of Professor Amy Jill-Levine. Levine, professor of New Testament and Jewish studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, has written a new book on the Passion of Jesus.

• The Saint John’s Bible is coming to Village Church! Rev. Peter DeVeau, retired Episcopal priest and dean emeritus of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri, will introduce the stunning handwritten and illuminated Bible created by the Saint John’s Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota. The Bible took 13 years to produce and includes 160 illuminations. Over the course of four evening classes, Rev. DeVeau will explore two volumes each class and then on Saturday, March 14, all seven volumes will be on display at Village on Mission.

• Believing and unbelief. One of Senior Pastor Tom Are’s frequent prayers following his sermons is “We believe, O God. Help our unbelief.” (Mark 9:24). Rev. Dr. John Borden leads four classes in examining what it is we believe and how our beliefs shape our actions in the world.
• Does God suffer? If so, why and how? Parish Associate Rev. Becky Chamberlain is teaching a three-week course on the suffering of God. She will explore the God of the Old Testament as a God who suffers in three ways. Then she will link God’s suffering to our suffering as human beings created in God’s image.

• All of us will die. Will we die well? Today, thanks to gifts of advances in medicine, we are living longer and when confronted with declining health and dying, we have more choices and new choices. Pastor for Pastoral Care, Rev. Sally Wright, will teach a two-session course on dealing with the end of life. She will explore Christian beliefs about death and dying and practical challenges and decisions around death.

• One of the tenets of the Christian faith is the “priesthood of all believers” meaning that all believers are called by God to serve faithfully. But how do you discern what is your calling? In this three-session course, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will help each person discern their calling by God. These classes will complement a preaching series by Rev. Tom Are, Jr. on God’s calling.

Environment

• The scientific consensus is clear: global warming is happening, and it is caused by human activity. Further, the effects of global warming are a threat to the whole world. From fires in Australia and California to floods in South Asia and drought in Africa, climate change is a threat to all creatures. Charles “Chick” Keller will teach a session on what we can do to help solve global warming. The good news is each of us can make an impact.

Health & Wellness

• Margaret Tlapek is an expert in helping adults exercise safely to offer the greatest benefit for one’s health and wellness. She leads seven different cardio classes. Her classes come with a $5 fee.

• Hula hooping has enjoyed new interest in recent years as a playful way to develop fitness and stay fit. Sirenna Beyer is an experienced and enthusiastic instructor. Her class is open to beginners as well as the experienced hula hooper.

Informational

• Battle Over Ballots offers a panel conversation with Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast, Kansas state representative Brett Parker and Lindsay Behgam, director of voter engagement for the Mainstream Coalition. All will be discussing current issues and voting in Kansas. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is moderator for the evening class.

• Many adults are facing housing options as they get older. When should you consider downsizing? What kind of retirement communities will be best for you? Evie Curtis offers a wealth of information and important questions to consider as we all age.

• Come for a lively evening conversation about four women sculptors and their visionary art environments. Erika Nelson is curator and creator of the world’s largest collection of the world’s smallest versions of the world’s largest things. Her traveling exhibit is fascinating in and of itself.

• Need to get your life better organized? Helen Austen has practical strategies for a clutter free life for peace of mind. She is a counselor turned professional organizer. Participants will benefit from her wisdom and step-by-step suggestions.

• The Harlem Renaissance was a momentous time in American history that exposed the world to the art, culture and intellect of African Americans. Historian Lem Sheppard will explore the wonder and impact of the Harlem Renaissance for all persons.

• How did the Islamic State come to be and why was it so destructive? Professor of Military History Brian Steed will help participants understand what ISIS is and why it gained power so quickly. He will also help us understand its evident demise and how it still is threatening persons.

Life Skills

• From using spreadsheets to PowerPoint to the Apple computer and Microsoft Publisher, a team of experts from Village Church’s computer ministry offers 11 computer courses for the beginner and the more advanced. Especially popular are the “Tech Talks” where each person receives one-on-one help with their questions and challenges.

Literature

• How Elizabeth Barret Browning Saved My Life by Mameve Medwed and The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander are two of the featured book conversations for this semester. Each class will be facilitated by local experts.
Let Us Know if You or a Loved One is Hospitalized

Village Church is here for you. Please have a family member or the hospital chaplain call the Pastoral Care Department at 913-671-2327 and tell us the name of the hospital, the room number and other pertinent information. After hours call the church's main number 913-262-4200. A pastor will come and visit, listen and offer comfort and prayers.

Highlights from Rev. Sally Wright’s Service of Installation

Tuesday, Jan. 21
PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

New Stephen Ministers Will Provide Christian Care
By Dave Fellers

The number of active Stephen Ministers at Village increased with the Jan. 12 commissioning of 11 newly trained folks. New Stephen Ministers are Diane Brent, Kim Carter, Sandi Edinger, Jennifer Green, Dortha Hargadine, Julie Norton, Ann Raikula, Joyce Scammahorn, Mary Ann Strickland, Sharon Valasek and Jack Whitaker.

Stephen Ministers offer confidential support to people who need a caring companion to navigate difficult times. This can include those experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life challenge.

“This is an outstanding group of Stephen Ministers,” comments Desiree Reinke, training coordinator for the program. “Their training was a Christ-centered program to equip participants with essential Christian caring and relating skills.” Classes cover active listening, confidentiality, prayer, feelings and specifics about ministering to those facing challenges of aging, hospitalization and recovery, long-term illness, grief, divorce, family problems and more. The new Stephen Ministers are ready to assist congregation members and friends in these areas.

“We are very proud of our new Stephen Ministers!” says Jane Goss, recruitment coordinator. “We encourage and invite congregation members and friends to prayerfully consider Stephen Ministry training. We will be begin accepting applications in April for the fall 2020 training program.”

Members or friends interested in being matched with a Stephen Minister or are interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister can contact Rev. Becky Chamberlain, parish associate for pastoral care and counseling, at 913-449-0713 or becky.chamberlain@villagepres.org.

Prayers for the World, Taizé Worship on Feb. 11

Does this sound like you? “Man, I’m really finding my thoughts and prayers to be siloed towards what is happening in this country…” Certainly the issues of the United States are complex and deserving of our attention. However from the Coronavirus in China to wildfires in Australia to civil unrest in the Middle East, the rest of this world is also desperate for prayers. The February Taizé service will focus on people in such places, giving space for spoken and silent prayer for our worldly neighbors amid meditative music and a celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Join us for stillness, silence and song at 6:30 p.m on Feb. 11 in the Village Church on Mission Chapel.
Women of Wisdom Lunch at Jack Stack Barbecue in Overland Park
Noon Tuesday, Feb. 18

All women are welcome to join Women of Wisdom, (WOW), for lunch at noon Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Jack Stack Barbecue in Overland Park. Located at 9520 Metcalf, Jack Stack features a menu for a large variety of tastes, including salads, soups, sandwiches and especially its award-winning barbecue. RSVP by Feb. 17 to Marvie Sneegas at sneegi@kc.rr.com or 913-209-9608.

Celebration of Faithful Women
10 a.m-12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21
Friendship Hall – Village Church on Mission

Presbyterian Women will hold the annual Celebration of Faithful Women luncheon at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 21, in Friendship Hall at Village Church on Mission.

We will celebrate all women of Village Church and recognize the outstanding individual contributions of three Village Church members who attend Village on Mission: Dee Couch, Patty Grossman and Michelle O’Neal.

Our keynote speaker will be Village Church’s own Rev. Sally Wright, whose presentation will address “Divine Scheduling.” Make sure this special event is included in YOUR schedule!

Tickets ($16) will be on sale starting on Feb. 16 in Friendship Hall and online at www.villagepres.org/pw. The last day to purchase tickets will be March 8.

ENCOURAGING
ONE ANOTHER
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT

Mark your calendars for this powerful event that brings women of all ages together to grow spiritually, connect with new and old friends, and unplug from the chaotic world we live in. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Dee Cooper will share her understanding of how play and connection are a vital component of our spiritual lives. In a world that tempts us with comparison and judgment, Rev. Dr. Cooper will teach us how our role as faithful women is to lead by encouragement. Rev. Dr. Cooper is a speaker, therapist, coach, explorer and wild animal lover, all of which led her to start her own company. She is known for her big energy and heart, and works with those who want to soar into possibilities or dive into the unknown. Following her keynote, small workshops will provide an opportunity to continue the discussion as we get to know each other and create meaningful relationships.

Tickets will go on sale at the end of February 2020.
MORE INFO: villagepres.org/pw

The cost for PW Retreat is $95 for overnight attendees and $55 for commuters (not staying in lodging).
Kids Summer Camps Registration Dates
Registration for all summer programming (Kids Day Out, Creations by Kids, Music & Drama camps and VBS) will be online this year. Children's Summer Camp registration opens Monday, March 23, for church members, Village on Mission Preschool families and Kids Day Out families. Registration opens Friday, March 27, for the community.

Createations by Kids Summer Camps: Starting June 1 and running through July 2
Music & Drama Camp: 12:30-3:30 p.m. June 1-5. This year’s production is “A Technicolor Promise,” the story of Noah and the great flood.

Vacation Bible School - Join us at Village on Antioch or Village on Mission for Cokesbury’s 2020 VBS, “Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King’s Armor!” Kids will take on the role of brave knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King’s Book. Kids take up the gauntlet and accept the challenge to “armor up” and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God’s love with the world.

VBS at Village on Antioch: 1-3:30 p.m. June 22-25
Online registration opens at midnight Sunday, March 1, for church members at both campuses and Sunday, March 8, for the community. Cost is $20 per child and includes a music CD. Cost per family is $30. Contact Clare Stern, director of children & youth at VOA with questions at 913-681-8180 or clare.stern@villagepres.org.

VBS at Village on Mission: 9 a.m.-noon July 20-24
Online VBS registration for church members, current preschool and KDO families begins May 4, with community registration opening Monday, May 11. Cost is $15 per child ($30 family max). Contact Brooke Latas, director of children & family ministry, at 913-671-2355 or brooke.latas@villagepres.org.

Get more details at www.villagepres.org/summercamps. Look for the Kids Summer Camps brochure in mid-February.

Wish Dr. Bob Meneilly a Happy 95th Birthday!
Dr. Bob Meneilly, founding pastor of Village Presbyterian Church, celebrates his 95th birthday on March 5. We’d like to help him celebrate with birthday cards from his friends at Village Church. We’re asking folks to bring a birthday card for Dr. Bob to church by Sunday, March 1. Drop your card in one of our Dr. Bob 95th Birthday Card receptacles. We’ll have boxes near the south reception desk and Welcome Center reception desk at Village Church on Mission. We’ll also have one at Village Church on Antioch.

If you can’t make it to the church, you can mail your birthday card to:
Happy 95th Dr. Bob
Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Dr. Bob led Village Church for 47 years. He retired in 1994. During his tenure, the church grew to more than 7,000 members and had the nation’s second largest Presbyterian congregation. Longtime religion writer Bill Tammeus said Dr. Bob attracted smart people to the church and compelled them to think deeply and to live their Christian values through mission and outreach. “I think there are a lot of people in Johnson County who have progressive, more open views about life and race and economics and war and peace and the environment, because of Bob,” Tammeus said. “He planted a lot of good seeds.”
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ENDOWMENT TRUST OF VILLAGE CHURCH

Introducing our 2020 Endowment Trust Board of Directors

These dedicated and skilled volunteers have agreed to manage our Endowment Trust to ensure extraordinary mission and ministries for Village Church today and in perpetuity.

Andrew Nazar, chair  Stacey Janssen
Kimberly Tranbarger, vice chair  Allen Jones
Justin Brown, treasurer  Bruce McClelland
Judy Frame  Joe Pattison
Andy Harris  Robin Reynolds
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Mary Hunkeler  Jim Stowers

You may support the Endowment Trust by remembering Village Church Endowment Trust in your estate plan, as an IRA beneficiary, cash, or through Tribute Gifts honoring or remembering someone’s memory by giving a gift to the Endowment Trust.

The Endowment Trust provides enrichment for the church’s work today, and financial security for future needs.