New Village Connect Christian Study & Conversation Series Titled “Teachers Along the Way”

This fall Rev. Tom Are will provide the next edition of his Village Connect Small Group Ministries video series. This year’s curriculum is called “Teachers Along the Way.” Sessions will visit with Zechariah who leaves the temple speechless, Jesus who turns water into wine, and a new interpretation of David and Goliath, to name a few. “In each session we will pay attention to these Biblical characters to discern ways that they instruct us in our lives,” said Rev. Are. “As we discern the purpose of daily living, it’s helpful to pay attention to those who have gone before us.”

Rev. Are and design & digital media manager Sean Tatschl recorded the new series in July at various locations around Kansas City.

About Village Connect Small Group Ministries

“Perhaps the most important thing we ever do in life is build and maintain long-term, happy, healthy, fulfilling relationships/connections with other people,” said Cindy Wilcox, director of connectional ministries. “Village Connect, small group ministries of Village Church, is a place where friendship can be found and nurtured. I invite you to participate in this meaningful ministry. Most of us would say time is one of our greatest assets, but this commitment takes just one hour a month and I have found it to be a gift in my life.”

Through an eight-session DVD video study developed by senior pastor Rev. Tom Are, these small groups provide opportunity to strengthen faith and deepen friendships through conversation. “We currently have 22 Village Connect small groups: 10 couple’s groups, five women’s groups, one working young moms group and six mixed groups (women and men). Each group of 10-12 participants has trained facilitators and is open to the community as well as our congregation,” notes Cindy. “Individual groups also decide frequency, location and meeting times through the school year months (October-May).”

Judy Frame leads the group of women in their 20s and 30s who work outside the home. “We meet the first Tuesday of every month at my house. Our group spends the first 30 minutes connecting socially, then we sit down for 60-75 minutes of group discussion. The beauty of the Village Connect group is that we talk about things that matter as women of faith. Tom’s video lessons provide us a structure for our discussions. I think talking about your faith—and how you live that faith through all the joys and challenges of life—helps you spread deeper roots to your faith.”

“I particularly like facilitating this group because of how these women care for each other,” adds Judy. “We have shared joys (15 babies born to this group since we started) and we’ve
The Reason Why- Patients Like Carson

Kids get sick. When 7-year-old Carson felt bad and started running a fever, his parents Pamela and Joe, thought it was just a virus. The fever, however, didn’t go away. In fact, it got worse, until Carson had to go to the hospital. A quick check showed that his hemoglobin was dangerously low. He was given three units of blood immediately.

Carson’s problem was not a virus or a bacterium – it wasn’t one of those bugs children pick up at school. It was hereditary spherocytosis, a genetic disorder.

Spherocytosis affects the membrane of red blood cells. The cells are fragile, and, because of their round shape and lack of flexibility, they can get caught in narrow blood vessels, especially in the spleen. Trapped, they burst, and the result can be anemia and splenomegaly, or enlarged spleen, a potentially life-threatening condition.

But that’s only part of the story. Spherocytosis is highly treatable—with a blood transfusion. Once Carson received three units of blood, his hemoglobin was back to normal within hours.

“It’s a good thing the blood is there,” says Pamela. “And it’s there because people understand that donating blood is nothing compared with the difference it can make in someone else’s life.”

As for Carson’s dad, he can’t donate blood because he, too, has spherocytosis, but he helps by coordinating blood drives at work. He understands that he and his son are proof that donated blood saves lives.

Four times a year, Village Presbyterian Church on Mission hosts a blood drive. If you would like to share the gift of life, you can do so from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village on Mission. Visit esavealifenow.org and use the sponsor code “villagepres” to make an appointment online, or stop by our registration table in Friendship Hall between 9 a.m. and noon this Sunday, Aug. 11. Contact Ann Colston at 913-722-0165 or acolston1113@gmail.com for additional details.
Food Pantry
Even though hot temperatures surround us, the Food Pantry realizes the value of hearty soups for lunches. Four Sundays in August - if each member would donate one can a week, we will fill the Pantry's shelves! The Clothes Closet needs donations of housewares for the Closet's clients - dishes, small appliances, kitchen utensils, pots and pans - the Closet has plenty of room on the shelves for these items. Please help with your continuing donations during these summer months.

Village Church BackSnack Sign-Up Coming Soon
The 2019-2020 school year is just around the corner and Village Church members Nancy Gatewood and Debbie Smith invite you to consider helping out with the BackSnack ministry at Village this year.

Harvesters’ BackSnack program provides a weekly bag filled with nutritious, child-friendly food for schoolchildren to take home over the weekend. More than 100,000 children in Harvesters’ service area receive free and reduced-price school meals during the week, and many of those are at risk of hunger on weekends. School principals and/or counselors determine which children receive BackSnacks at each school.

For the past 10 years, Village Church volunteers have participated in the BackSnack program and during the 2018-2019 school year, Village provided food weekly to 80 children at Overland Park Elementary and Nieman Elementary, totaling more than 1,500 meals for the year. Food is generally packed up on a Wednesday at the Village Food Pantry and delivered on Thursday or Friday.

Thanks to the efforts of Harvesters and organizations such as Village Church, participating schools report improved grades, attendance and behavior with students better prepared to focus and participate in school.

Space fills quickly. If you are interested in helping to pack and distribute meals to our partner schools during the 2019-2020 school year, call Nancy Gatewood at 913-638-1922 or nngatewood@gmail.com or Debbie Smith at 913-522-8130 or debbie.smith@villagepres.org.
**SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

**People Like Us**  
**Through Aug. 18**

The Bible is filled with stories of people. Some of them are of amazing and inspiring folks. Others’ stories tell of folks in desperate need. Many tell of ordinary times. These people we discover in pages of sacred scripture are, however, people like us. This summer we will meet – or meet again – a collection of people who can serve as examples as we seek to live as God’s children amidst the realities of the world in our time and place.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Preaching</th>
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<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>The Stranger – Rev. Hallie Hottle preaching</td>
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<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Youth Sunday at VOM; Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick preaching at VOA</td>
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**MUSIC MINISTRY**

**Village on Mission Music Ministry Team Expands**

Violinist Destiny Ann Mermagen, who was instrumental in starting our new chamber music program, The Village Players, will now be a more significant fixture on our music team, working 10 hours a week at Village on Mission. Destiny will work to continue the Village Players’ efforts, expanding its reach to include more youth instrumentalists. Destiny will also be featured in a concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. Admission is free.

**CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

**Single Adult Ministry Summer Speakers Series**  
**Understanding More About Social Media Platforms**  
**6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14, Room 232 - Village on Mission**

Join long-time Village Church member and Computer Ministry leader Dee Couch for a general overview of social media. Her presentation will focus on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Please RSVP to Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.

**Wednesday Family Dinners, September 2019-May 2020**

You’re invited to our weekly Wednesday Family Dinners beginning Sept. 11. People of all ages can gather before attending a Village U class, choir practice or just take a night off from cooking. Chef Emily prepares a hot buffet, salad bar & dessert ($7) or salad bar & dessert ($6). Children under age 10 eat for free! Emily is conscientious about wonderful options for children as well as gluten free, meat and vegetarian. Credit cards accepted. Menus can be found on our website at www.villagepres.org, in the Sunday bulletins and weekly Village on Mission eNews.

Reservations are required by noon every Monday. RSVP to Liz at 913-671-2359 or liz.middletonevillagepres.org, or RSVP online at www.villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners.
PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Grief is a Difficult Journey

We are here to help you through the loss of a loved one. Consider coming to the next series of “Growing Through Grief.” A pastor leads this six-week class that meets from 5:30-6:45 p.m. every Wednesday, Sept. 4-Oct. 9. You’ll receive your own copy of “Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart,” by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. There is no charge, but registration is required. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.

Classic Citizens Celebration is Sept. 26

Food. Laughter. Fellowship. Rev. Tom Are. A ride to church if you need one. All of these are a part of the annual Classic Citizens Celebration! If you are 75 or more years young at heart, plan on joining us at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, in Friendship Hall at Village Church on Mission. Invitations will be coming!

ENDOWMENT TRUST

The 2018 Endowment Trust Annual Report is now available!

This report is filled with impactful stories of how our Endowment Trust grants have enhanced the magnitude and scope of our ministries as we share our love for one another and the works of Christ with all.

You will find this new report online at www.villagepres.org. Click the Endowment Trust tab at the top right, or you can find copies at each entrance to Village Church on Mission. You may also contact Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325.
The Exciting Year Ahead for PW 2019-2020

Presbyterian Women is an organization for ALL women of Village Church and the community; everyone is welcome. We are hopeful that you will participate in several of this year’s PW opportunities for fellowship, service and growth. Here is a look at some of what will be happening this year, starting in September:

PW Fall Event: Reflect and Connect – Sept. 11
Women of all ages are invited for a time of fun, food, connecting with new friends and reconnecting with old. Together we’ll reflect upon our hopes and dreams for this coming year and infuse our lives with hope and courage as we reflect God’s light! Join us from 10 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, Sept. 11, in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. RSVP by Tuesday, Aug. 20, to Sunni Battin at sunni.battin@villagepres.org or 913-671-2333. Contact Kathy Ray at kathydray@gmail.com or Susan Satterlee at sgsatterlee@sbcglobal.net with questions.

Advent Celebration – Dec. 3
We welcome Rev. Sarah Are, associate pastor for youth and young adults at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, to give our meditation. Join us as we embrace one of our own sisters in Christ to lead us into the season of Advent. Come for the joy of fellowship and for the peace in holy worship.

Celebration of Faithful Women – March 21
The featured speaker will soon be announced. We will celebrate all women of Village Church along with special recognition of a few Village Church women at this lovely luncheon.

PW Spring Retreat: Encouraging One Another - April 24-25
Our featured speaker at this restorative retreat will be Rev. Dr. Dee Cooper, pastor, therapist, USAF facilitator, interim executive Presbyter for Heartland Presbytery and entrepreneur. Come for fellowship, learn something new, meet a friend and be refreshed going forward.

Ongoing ways to connect with Presbyterian Women:

Alive Now Bible Study – This dedicated group meets from 8-9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and is open to women of all ages. Various theological and biblical subjects with application to life’s daily journey are studied. Contact Judy Cooper at 913-268-8719 or judycooper@gmail.com for more information.

Amazing Graces – Amazing Graces is a fellowship of women who meet during the day and evenings for book club discussions, dinner groups, speakers, yoga classes and field trips. Contact Martha Tatman at 913-221-5280 or matatman@hotmail.com for more information.

Circles – Circles meet at Village Church on Mission on the second Tuesday of each month and at Village Church on Antioch (VOA) the second Monday of each month (6 p.m.). They are open to women of all ages. This year’s PW Circle Study is Horizons Bible Study, “Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.” Contact Leslie Conrad at 913-341-2734 or conradleslie@aol.com for more information.
Mission Sewing -- We make and distribute items for schools, hospitals, nursing homes and local and international agencies. We welcome women of all ages who enjoy machine sewing, hand sewing, knitting, crocheting and good fellowship! Non-sewers are welcome, too, for cutting, counting, pressing and other tasks. At-home projects are also available. If you would like to participate, simply drop by the Sewing Room (Room 115) any Tuesday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. or any Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. We do not meet in December. If you have questions about Tuesdays, contact Cheryl Brady (cba50@mindspring.com or 816-589-0513) or Anna Staton (staton.anna@yahoo.com or 913-669-6743). If you have questions about Thursday mornings, contact Nancy Cantril (Nancy.cantril@gmail.com or 913-638-8049) or Dee Gound (dkgound@kc.rr.com or 913-961-7473).

Page Turners – Women of all ages are welcome to join this group for lively discussions of books selected with the guidance of Vivien Jennings from Rainy Day Books. Page Turners meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Contact Rosella Hoglund at 913-642-3574 or Judy Lockett at judylockett@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Operation Breakthrough Reading Group – This heartwarming group of women and men meets at VOM for one hour on Wednesday mornings for six weeks in the fall and six weeks in the spring to read to preschool children from Operation Breakthrough. Contact Cindy Whitham at 913-262-3062 or ciwhitham@aol.com for more information.

Women of Wisdom – This fellowship of women welcomes women of all ages and meets for lunches and dinners. Contact Marvie Sneegas at 913-209-9608 or sneegi@kc.rr.com for more information.

Women with Spirit – Women with Spirit (WWS) is a community of women who share a similar stage of life, juggling families, work, home and beyond while working to grow in faith together. Child care is available for most events, including dinners, brunches and various social outings. Contact Shelby Krumm at 913-341-6875 or shelbykrumm@yahoo.com for more information.

Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing needs Christmas fabric. Minimum one-yard pieces, please. Drop-offs at the switchboard, marked Mission Sewing or on Tuesdays in Room 115, the Sewing Room.
Remaining Summer Adult Sunday Morning Classes

10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. in Rooms 126 and 127
Aug. 11 – Led by Rev. Dr. John Borden
Aug. 18 – Led by Rev. Jay McKell

Please note that most regular Adult Sunday Morning Classes resume Sunday, Sept. 8.

9:30-10:30 a.m.

The Faith Journey class believes it’s important to all our faith journeys to grow from listening to the insights of others. We are a community that grows and supports each other by being open to the Spirit of God in each of us. Our format is to use book studies, guest speakers and videos to explore new perspectives and our own beliefs. Facilitated by Kathy Ray in Room 230.

Foundations of Faith offers challenging discussion on a wide range of topics based on presentations by visiting teachers or video-discussion format. Class members are singles and couples who enjoy participating in discussion and exploration of new ideas while welcoming a diversity of perspectives. Facilitated by Diann Markley in Room 15.

Village Forum is a lively class of adults ranging in age from their thirties to their eighties. Class topics include biblical studies, theology, social issues and church history. Discussion is encouraged, and classes are led by visiting teachers as well as class members. Facilitated by Dr. Gus Breytspraak in Room 126.

Resuming Oct. 13

Growing Together invites you to join us in New Testament Bible study. We look for stories in the Bible and make connections using the What? So What? Now What? Framework. We are growing together in faith by applying these stories to our lives today. You will find an intimate group who uses video and discussion to make the Bible come alive. Facilitated by Lawrence Andre in Room 124.

Village U - A preview of the some of the upcoming Fall 2019 Village U classes.

Online registration is encouraged. Registration opens to church members at 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 19, and to community members at 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 26.

Continuing Watercolor – 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 25-Dec. 11, in Rooms 232 & 233. Enjoy the company of other watercolor artists of all levels—from beginner to master.

Church: What It Is and Is Not: How It Got Here and What’s Next? – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25 and Oct. 2, in Room 126. This two-session class led by Rev. Dr. John P. Borden will trace the formation and development of the church through time, relating the journey to scripture, as well as looking at what is next as we seek to understand, worship and serve God.

Book Discussion: “The Hate U Give” – 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Sept.30, in Room 126. In this young adult novel by Angie Thomas, the story revolves around the aftermath of the murder of a young Black teenager by a police officer during a traffic stop. The story is told through the eyes of Starr, the sole witness to the murder. The book discussion is led by Nicolas Shrum, a history and English teacher at the Barstow School. Registration is limited to 20.

Beginner Hula Hooping and Hoop Dancing Class – 5:45-6:45 p.m. Thursdays, year-round, Room 333. Can’t Hoop? Haven’t hooped since you were a kid? Then you’ll fit right in. Bring a friend and join this upbeat fitness class for a hooptastic time. Hula hoops provided. Hula hooping is low impact, ideal for the core and cardio, and burns big calories. Most of all, it is fun.

Italy in Translation – 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, and Oct. 3, 10, in Room 232. This fall, we will examine the culture and character of Italy through a variety of different mediums, culminating in a trip to Rome and Tuscany in 2020 for interested participants. Our exploration will begin with an overview of films from and about Italy from the mid-20th century, with particular attention paid to the work of Italian Neorealists.
Especially for Women – 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 6-Dec. 20, in Room 126. Take a deep dive into aspects of our faith experiences with an engaged group of women. Join a lively discussion about our beliefs and our spirituality as we consider Richard Rohr’s “The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe” from a woman’s perspective. Call Rev. Diane Quaintance at 913-850-8647 to order the book.

Monday Handworks and E-Works – 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays, Sept. 23-Dec. 9, in Room 127. Enjoy community and fellowship while doing those projects you want to finish but can never seem to find the time to complete. You will see everything from crocheting to recipe organizing to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities in a wonderful child care setting.

Wednesday Handworks and E-Works – 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 25-Dec. 11, in Room 233 (Room 15 for Sept. 25-Oct. 23). Enjoy community and fellowship while doing those projects you want to finish but can never seem to find the time to complete. You will see everything from crocheting to recipe organizing to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities in a wonderful child care setting.

Friday Handworks and E-Works – 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 27-Dec. 13, in Room 127. Enjoy community and fellowship while doing those projects you want to finish but can never seem to find the time to complete. You will see everything from crocheting to recipe organizing to catching up on phone calls and emails while your children enjoy making new friends and participating in fun, creative activities in a wonderful child care setting.

VISITING SCHOLAR SAVE THE DATE

Meneilly Visiting Scholar Lecture Series
With Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer and Rev. Dr. Carolyn Helsel
March 6-7, 2020

Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer is professor of New Testament Studies at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Aymer earned a B.A. in U.S. history from Harvard University, and both an M.Div. and Ph.D. in New Testament and Early Christianity from Union Theological Seminary. In addition to teaching core courses on the New Testament, Dr. Aymer has expertise on African Americans and the Bible, as well as feminist and womanist biblical interpretation.

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Helsel is assistant professor of homiletics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Helsel earned a B.A. in religion from Whitworth University, both an M.Div. and Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Emory University. Her Ph.D. dissertation and recent book are on the topic of white Christians talking about race.

We are pleased to once again offer the Meneilly Visiting Scholar free of charge. We do ask that you register. Online registration will be available at www.villagepres.org/visiting-scholar. Child care will be available for all sessions, and early registration is recommended as space is limited.
Village Bids Farewell to Kathy Lueckert, Director of Finance & Administration

At Kathy Lueckert’s Farewell Reception on Sunday, July 21, Rev. Tom Are told the crowd, “In five years, Kathy has made a big mark on this church. One of her gifts is leading so many on this staff team. In her five years of service she’s overseen the completion of the Meneilly Center for Mission, the Sanctuary renovation, the installation of the organ, the Welcome Center and opened our second campus at Antioch. It’s dramatic and it’s significant… Village is better because of Kathy Lueckert. She doesn’t just work at the church. She loves the church. That is why she has ushered her remarkable skill to make us a better church and who God calls us to be.” To Kathy he said, “We are a stronger church because of your presence in our midst and we thank you.”

In her parting comments, Kathy said, “Thank you for letting Don and I be part of your family for five years. You have loved us, and we love you. It’s been an honor and a privilege to be part of the staff. Working here at Village has really prepared me for this new gig [Kathy will be president of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) A Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky]. The scope of things that happen in this building on any given day have been excellent training. I send my love to each and every one of you and will miss you deeply. Thank you!”

Village Welcomes Bob Sperry as Interim Director of Finance

Village Church member Bob Sperry is now serving as part-time interim director of finance. Bob has been coming to Village since he was five years old when his parents joined the church. He spent 39 years in banking before his retirement in 2008, and has served the church in a variety of ways.

"I’ve been on about every building committee that Village had from the year 2000 on," said Bob. "I’ve been in the choir for 43 years. I run the sound booth for weddings and fill in on Sundays. I play the pipe organ and was on the organ committee for 8½ years. I’m treasurer of the pastoral care & counseling committee, so I’m familiar with the church’s bookkeeping system. I think it will be a smooth transition."

"The Personnel Committee has already established a search committee to find our next director of finance and administration," said Rev. Tom Are. “I hope that happens by year end at the latest, but I am thrilled that Bob will be with us during the interim.”
Sunday, Aug. 18, is “Promotion Sunday” in Village Church Kids Kingdom. That means your kids move up to their new classrooms for the year. The school year is upon us!

Join Our Sunday School Teaching Team for This Fall

Will you consider joining our team of amazing volunteers who teach Sunday school? Whether you are young or old, married or single, new to Village or you’ve been here for many years, we are confident we have a spot that is uniquely perfect for YOU. Contact Brooke Latas at brooke.latas@villagepres.org or 913-671-2355.

Village Summer Camps Highlights

Music and Drama Camp-“Rescue In The Night”

Village on Antioch VBS

Village on Mission VBS
GOOD NEWS: Village Commitment

Your Stewardship is HEART at work.

Village women and men are active at Habitat for Humanity

This year at the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build, eight women from Village Church helped frame walls, set floor joists and install floor decking at a new home construction site in Kansas City, Kansas. For the past five years, women from Village Church have volunteered for a day of construction, lunch and comradery in late spring.

In addition, Village sponsors the Tuesday-Thursday men's crew that works on Habitat houses throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more or being a part of the Tuesday-Thursday crew, contact Deborah White in the Mission office at 913-671-2369. No prior construction experience is required.

SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VILLAGE ON MISSION
Traditional – 9:30 & 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH
Traditional - 10 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
14895 Antioch Rd.
in Overland Park

We return to our regular worship schedule Sept. 8.

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

www.villagepres.org

IN MEMORY
Joan Fore
Harvey “Bob” Hay
June Miller
Greg Stultz