Spring Village U to Explore Themes of Leadership, Suffering and a New Bible

The spring semester of Village U, the variety of faith formation opportunities for adults, starts in February. Online registration opens for Village Church members on Monday, Jan. 6, and for community members on Monday, Jan. 13. This spring will feature three new opportunities for growing deeper in one’s faith.

Servant Leadership

When two of Jesus’ disciples ask to be given places of power in his coming kingdom, Jesus replies, “I came not to be served but to serve.” For followers of Jesus who are elected officials, work in the corporate world or work in the church, the call is to be a servant leader. In these days, leading as a servant is fraught with challenges and tension yet also offers extraordinary opportunities to lead in a way that honors all persons and transforms the world for God’s glory.

In February on consecutive Wednesday nights, Brad Stratton will lead three panel conversations about servant leadership looking through the lenses of elected officials, business leaders, and religious leaders.

Brad Stratton is an elder, president and CEO of Overland Park Wealth Management and Shawnee Mission School Board president. He was recently nominated by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly and confirmed by the Kansas Senate to serve as a trustee for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, which oversees the investment strategies for the state’s multi-million-dollar fund.

The Suffering of God

The God of the Old Testament has been commonly understood by many in and outside the church as a God of judgment and wrath. This God is hard to reconcile with the loving and compassionate God of the New Testament shown in Jesus Christ. Contradictory images of God can be stumbling blocks for people of faith and diminish for them the importance of the Old Testament. With attention to Old Testament texts and the writings of several Old Testament scholars, this three-week class in late March will attempt to broaden our understanding of the kind of God portrayed in the Old Testament as the God who suffers. This image of God has been neglected in both church and scholarship. Rev. Becky Chamberlain will share how an understanding of the suffering of God has impacted her faith and life in hopes that others can be impacted as well. Becky is Village Church parish associate for pastoral care working with our congregation’s Stephen Ministers. She recently served as our interim pastor for pastoral care.

The Saint John’s Bible

In 1998, master calligrapher Donald Jackson was commissioned by Saint John’s Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, to create a handwritten and illuminated Bible, the first commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey since the invention of the printing press. The seven-volume work was completed in December 2011. When the Bible was completed, the Abbey proclaimed,
“At the dawn of the 21st century, Saint John’s Abbey and University seek to ignite the spiritual imagination of believers throughout the world by commissioning a work of art that illuminates the Word of God for a new millennium.” The Bible is stunning in its beauty and is cited as a work of art and theology. It includes 160 illuminations. One of the Bibles was acquired by Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral here in Kansas City. For four Wednesday nights in Lent, the Very Rev. Peter DeVeau will lead a class that explores the themes and art of the Bible.

Then on Saturday, March 14, the entire Saint John’s Bible will be on display at Village Church. A thrill in both sight and substance, it will be an extraordinary opportunity to see a contemporary illuminated manuscript of the whole Bible.

The Very Rev. Peter DeVeau served as dean of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral from 2011-2018. Now retired, he is a frequent visitor to Village Church and is skilled in exploring and teaching about the wonder and beauty of the Saint John’s Bible.

Find the Spring Village U Catalog on our website at www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

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**2020 MENEILLY VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE**

**Impolite Dinner Conversation: The Politics of Christ and the Church**

According to a recent survey from the Public Religion Research Institute, 74% of Americans feel we are extremely polarized. Mario Benavente, a North Carolina republican, said that “Political debate right now is a blood sport.” In March, 2020, nine months from a U.S. presidential election that promises to continue the trend of dividing more than uniting the nation, two scholars are coming to help us explore what Jesus Christ and the church have to do with the tense times in which we live.

Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer is professor of New Testament Studies at Austin Seminary. She teaches courses on the New Testament and African American womanist biblical interpretation.

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Helsel is assistant professor of Homiletics at Austin Seminary. She teaches preaching and worship and is the recent author of two books on race.

In describing their presentations, Drs. Aymer and Helsel write: “Christians claim to follow Jesus, but often we follow our own construction of who Jesus must have been, a construction that looks remarkably like ourselves. This impacts not only our politics but also our life of mission in the world.” These two scholars will invite us to consider 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.

The Meneilly Visiting Scholar Lectures begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 6, and continue at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 7. Dr. Aymer will present her lecture on Friday evening titled: Reading the Politics of Christ. Dr. Helsel will present her lecture on Saturday morning titled: Reading the Politics of Christians. Then, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will engage the two of them in a conversation about their presentations and will welcome questions from the audience. The lecture series ends at noon.

“I am delighted to welcome these two scholars to Village Church,” said Nishioka. “I have experienced both as teachers and preachers. I know them to be engaging, intelligent, and thoughtful. The fact that they both teach at Austin Seminary and are good friends will add much to this year’s lectures. Given the divisiveness that we are experiencing as a nation, I believe Drs. Helsel and Aymer will help us see our current situation and one another through the eyes of Jesus Christ.”

Now in its 17th year, the Meneilly Visiting Scholar lectures bring thoughtful Bible scholars and theologians to Village Church and the wider community to: challenge us with fresh and innovative theological and biblical perspectives, increase our understanding of the wisdom of the past, and engage us to honor and faithfully serve the God whom we worship and upon whom we rely.

Admission is free thanks in part to a generous grant from the Village Church Endowment Trust. To register, visit www.villagepres.org/visiting-scholar.
At the Dec. 2 meeting of the Session, the elders of the church...

• Confirmed five new members of the Village Church Endowment Trust. They are Justin Brown, Andy Harris, Stacey Janssen, Samm Skare and Mary Hunkeler.

• Elected the Rev. Becky Chamberlain to serve as parish associate for pastoral care. A parish associate is a minister who chooses to associate with a congregation in a role different from installed or interim pastor. Rev. Chamberlain served as part-time interim pastor for pastoral care. She will work primarily with the Stephen Ministry program through June 30, 2020.

The Session heard reports about...

• Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship and the endowment trust, planning to retire Jan. 31, 2020. The Session expressed its appreciation for Molly’s eight years of service. Rev. Tom Are noted that Molly is Village Church’s first person in this position and expressed his appreciation for her help in guiding the successful Now & Tomorrow campaign.

• The Rev. Melanie Hardison, associate pastor for pastoral care, in her first day at Village Church. Rev. Hardison introduced herself to the elders and expressed appreciation for the welcome on her first day.

• Youth Elder Sam Vaughan being elected by the presbytery of the Heartland to serve as a delegate to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) meeting June 20-27, 2020 in Baltimore, Maryland.

• Rev. Tom Are hosting a meeting with five other pastors of large Presbyterian churches from New York City, Philadelphia, Charlotte, North Carolina and Chicago. This group of friends meets annually, and Tom hosted the group this year in Kansas City. Tom also reflected on the importance of his trip to the Dominican Republic and the ministry of the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership.

• As of Nov. 22, 594 pledges have been received for a total pledged amount of $2,805,964.

• 25 new members who will be joining Village Church on Dec. 8.

• All that God has done under the leadership of the 11 elders who have faithfully completed their three years of service. Rev. Tom Are composed and read a letter telling of their significant actions and decisions. Then the elders were invited to share their reflections. The elders completing their service are Jack Foster, Ted Higgins, Tim Laughlin, Ryan Manies, David Reinke, Abby Schipfer, Laura Strongman, Walt Tegtmeier, Sam Vaughan, Suzanne Willey and Elizabeth Zakaryan.

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 Jan. 13, 2020 in Rooms 132-133.

What is the Session? The Session is the governing board of the congregation. The 29 elders are elected by the congregation. Each one serves for a three-year term. Currently the session is comprised of 13 women and 16 men. Two of the elders are young people. The Session meets monthly except for July. The Rev. Tom Are, Jr. is moderator of the Session. Pastors and ministry directors also attend the meetings.

Earth Care Quotes

From Greta Thunberg, 16-year-old Climate Activist from Sweden, addressing the U.N.’s Climate Action Summit in New York City Sept. 23, 2019

“You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I’m one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth...For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you’re doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.”

Good News, Jan. 1, 2020
UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Who do People Say that I am?
The birth of Jesus comes with many claims regarding his identity. Who is this child? The Angelic choir called him the messiah. Gabriel called him God’s son. Some preferred the name Immanuel. All this and more to describe the child of manger straw. But how do we describe Jesus now? Jesus asked his own followers, “Who do you say that I am?” There’s not one answer to that question. Oh, it’s possible to answer it by quoting the creeds “his only son, our Lord.” But a survey of the Gospel writers reveals that each gospel writer speaks of Jesus differently. Over the next few weeks, we will listen to each Gospel writer’s response to the question, “Who do you say that I am?” We will end the series reflecting on how our understanding of who Jesus is influences our understanding of who we are to be.

Jan. 12   Mark: The Man in the Wilderness
Jan. 19   Matthew: The Teacher
Jan. 26   Luke: The One From the Future
Feb. 2    John: The Man of the Hour
Feb. 9    Acts: Repeating Jesus

MISSION

Food Pantry
Happy New Year from the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet! Thanks go out to all who have been so generous in 2019. It’s also time for your New Year’s resolutions. The Food Pantry would love for one of your resolutions to be that you will bring at least one food item to church on each Sunday morning. Such a small favor to ask—but that’s 52 items per person. The Pantry can feed a lot of clients with those donations. In January, the Pantry is requesting canned chicken and tuna, and the Clothes Closet is asking for winter coats and fiction books—westerns, mysteries, histories, etc.

Souper Bowl Sunday
Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 2. There is a big demand for hearty soups by our Food Pantry clients. Mark your calendars to bring your donations of canned soup—warm and nutritious on a cold winter night. Thank you for your support.

Village Church Cooks a Meal at Cross-Lines
On Friday, Jan. 10, Village will cook for and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kansas. We need volunteers from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. to serve and clean up. We also need cookie donations that can be dropped off at the Village on Mission south reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9. If you can help, you can sign up at www.bit.ly/Cross-Linessignup.

Blood Drive
Village Church on Mission will host a blood drive from noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, in Rooms 132 and 133. To make an appointment online, visit www.savealifenow.org/group and enter Group Code: BT or stop by our registration table in Friendship Hall from 9 a.m.-noon on Jan. 12 and 19. For additional details, contact Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 or acolston1113@gmail.com.
Second Thursday Recital
12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9

Join us from 12:15-12:45 p.m. on Jan. 9 for our next Second Thursday Recital featuring tenor Jonathan Pilkington. This Atlanta-based tenor’s recent engagements include solos in Verdi’s “Requiem,” Mendelssohn’s “Elijah,” and Elliott Carter’s “The Defense of Corinth at Avery Fisher Hall.” Admission is free.

Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert
2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2

Join us at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary for the Kansas City Wind Symphony concert. The program includes “Petite Symphony,” “Ecstatic Fanfare,” “The Grace in Being” and “Give Us this Day.” Admission is free.

THE VILLAGE CUP

An Invitation to Come to The Village Cup Coffee Shop

The Village Cup is your one stop coffee shop for a quick bite or afternoon pick me up. Featuring coffee from Kansas City-based The Roasterie, we offer handmade espresso and non-espresso drinks, weekly lunches Monday-Thursday (hot soup on Tuesdays and Thursdays through early spring), and snacks. The Village Blend was created especially by the Roasterie for Village Church and contains notes of caramel and chocolate covered orange. You can purchase bags of Roasterie coffee for you to enjoy at home or give as a gift for any occasion.

Our January specials are cinnamon roll latte and brewing Christopher Elbow Chocolate Blend (limited time) and available in bags, through February.

The Cup is located on the second floor of the Welcome Center at Village on Mission. It’s open six days a week. Lunch menus are posted each week on the Village Facebook page @villagepres and the website at www.villagepres.org/coffee-shop-specials. Follow the Village Cup on Instagram at @VillagePresCup.
Advent: A Holy Invitation - A Recap

Presbyterian Women’s "Advent: A Holy Invitation" was enjoyed by women of all ages on Dec. 3. Chef Emily provided hors d’oeuvres and desserts in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. The 2020 Honorary Life Members were announced. They are Dee Couch, Patty Zender Grossman, Michelle O’ Neal and Kelly Thomason, (attends at Village on Antioch). The women transitioned through the “blue hallway” to the Sanctuary for worship, which was a holy experience with Pastors Sarah Are, Melanie Hardison, Hallie Hottle and Sally Wright. Rev. Sarah Are gave a moving meditation, followed by communion. It was a beautiful evening.

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

go on... grab a friend and encourage them to join you

2020 Honorary Life Members

Dee Couch
Patty Zender Grossman
Michelle O’ Neal
Kelly Thomason
**Wednesday Family Dinners**

Dine before or after your class. Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a well-balanced, convenient meal. Full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar & 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—Spring Break)

**Menus:**

- **Jan. 8**  beef stew, vegetarian stew, mini corn dogs  
  - **Jan. 15**  chicken verde enchiladas, bean & cheese enchiladas, Mexican rice
  - **Jan. 22**  roasted pork loin, rice pilaf primavera, green vegetable. RSVP by Friday, Jan. 17 for the Jan. 22 Wednesday dinner.  
    The church is closed Monday, Jan. 20, for Martin Luther King Day.
  - **Jan. 29**  turkey & noodles, vegetarian pasta dish, vegetable
  - **Feb. 5**  chili, chicken chili, cornbread, vegetable

*special kids’ activity planned

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**All-Church Winter Bowling Event**

2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26

Connectional Ministries is excited to sponsor our annual All-Church Winter Bowling event for our Village Church family from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at Ward Parkway Lanes, 1523 W. 89 St. in Kansas City, Missouri. We have lanes specifically reserved for Village Church at $5 per person (includes shoes!) for two hours of play. Come and join us for indoor fun for all ages. RSVP to Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.
**Annual Congregational Meeting/Dinner**  
**Jan. 28 at Village on Mission**  
**Feb. 6 at Village on Antioch**

This year an annual meeting will take place at the Mission campus and the Antioch campus. You are welcome to attend the meeting at either location. Rev. Tom Are will provide a review of 2019 and plans for 2020. The Session will present the budget for 2020.

**Mission Campus** – The Annual Meeting follows dinner in Friendship Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Seating is limited. If you plan to attend, please advise Marsha Hansen no later than Wednesday, Jan. 15. RSVP to 913-671-2341 or marsha.hansen@villagepres.org.

**Antioch Campus** – The Annual Meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, preceded by a light dinner at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please call 913-681-8180 or email office@villageantioch.org no later than Monday, Jan. 29.

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**Pastoral Care & Counseling**

**You Made a Christmas Miracle Happen!**

Thanks to you, 221 poinsettias were delivered throughout the metro area. Between early birds coming Saturday, Nov. 23, and others volunteering on Sunday, every single poinsettia left the building – that’s a first! The church received many grateful phone calls: “This is the most beautiful plant I’ve ever had in my life”, “I sure am overwhelmed by your kindness” and “It means so much to be remembered by Village” were some of the comments people shared. Thank you for your time and help.

**New Growing Through Grief Starts Jan. 15**

If you have lost a loved one, consider coming to “Growing Through Grief,” a five-week class where you’ll know that God is with us even through our hardest moments. 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. This is optional reading, yet many have found it to be extraordinarily helpful. The next series is from 4:45-6 p.m. every Wednesday, Jan. 15 through Feb. 12, in Room 124 at Village on Mission. There is no cost, but registration is required. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register. All are welcome.

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**Please Join Us For**  
**The Service of Installation for**  
**Rev. Sally Wright**  
**6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
**In the Village on Mission Sanctuary**
### IN MEMORY OF

- Suzie Allen
- Bebe Andersen
- Paul & Barbara Arther
- Dorothy Bayless
- Kel Bayless
- Mac & Lucille Beall
- Mort Beck
- Jimmy Beuhler
- Bob Birkenmeier
- Ralph Bock
- Matt Boggan
- Paul E. Bower
- Dick Bradley
- Don & Nancy Bramley
- Christopher Brimble
- Judy Brook
- Angela Browne
- Phyllis Brownlee
- Gretchen Buchanan
- Walt & Elizabeth Butcher
- Laura Beth Cesaert
- Blanche, Jerry & Bill Cerny
- Agnes & Andrew Chonko
- Addison Cox
- Larry Culbertson
- Sara Deines
- Antoni ‘Toni’ Diehl
- Toni Diehl
- Ethel & Bert Dowden
- Courtney Drumm
- Bill Dyslin
- Joan Fore
- Wayne & E. Mae Fritz
- Matt Gannon
- Rick Gannon
- Trevor Gannon
- William Gilbert

### DONATED BY

- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Paula & Patrick Brooks
- The Arthur Family
- Anne Sweney Bayless
- Anne Sweney Bayless
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Paula & Patrick Brooks
- Elizabeth Birkenmeier
- Carla Bock
- Bob & Sandy Burdick
- John & Janet Butcher
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Nancy Bramley
- Carla Bock
- Jinny & Scott Beall
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Peggy & Jim Gray
- Marilyn McCrory
- John & Janet Butcher
- Pam & Brett Wood
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Chonko & McInerney Families
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Nancy Culbertson
- Stan & Peggy Chappell
- Sybil Diehl & Family
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Marion & Bill Dowden
- Jean Drumm
- Carole Dyslin, Betsy & Garner Fromm
- Carol Smith
- Krista & Barry Rogers
- Kirsten, Megan & Tommy Gannon
- Kirsten, Megan & Tommy Gannon
- Kirsten, Megan & Tommy Gannon
- Paula & Patrick Brooks
- Barbara Gile
- Virginia Gray
- Deke & Dottie Harberts
- Doyle Hargadine
- Helen Harper
- Robert H. Hess
- Juanita Hidalgo
- Sarah Susan Hitchcock
- Dr John & Lynn Hollyman
- Rev. Phillip & Carol Hopkins
- Bob Johanson
- Don Kimsey
- Marjorie ‘Mardie’ Kirkwood
- Helen & J.T. Lamb
- David I. Long
- Bernice & George McCordic
- Bill McEachen
- Dr. & Mrs. Howard McEachen
- Judy Gray McEachen
- Tom McIntire
- Tom McIntire
- Peter Magowan
- Teres Elaine Meier
- Annabel & Max Miller
- Ann & Max Miller
- Mary Jean Montgomery
- Maryann Mook
- Jerome B. Mook
- Joe C. Morris
- Melinda Nedbalek
- Tom O’Connor
- Edward F. Owen
- Dolores C. Owen
- Claire & Charles Pattison
- Carol Pendleton
- Clarence & Florence Pilger
- Bert Rogers
- Jim & Nancy Rogers
- Don Roper, Jesse & Mildred Perkins
- Brad & Carrie Kruse
- Peggy & Jim Gray
- Their Family
- Dortha Hargadine
- The Harper Family
- Jane & Taylor Hess
- Sonia & Jim Whiteaker
- Jennifer & Chuck Hitchcock
- Jay Hollyman
- Peter & Grace Van Veldhuizen
- The Johanson Family
- Joni Kimsey
- Tom Kirkwood
- Donna Wilson
- Betty Long
- Marion & Bill Dowden
- Richard McEachen
- Richard McEachen
- Richard McEachen
- Ann McIntire
- Ginny & Scott Beall
- Paula & Patrick Brooks
- Carla Bock
- Marilyn & Dave Pattison
- Robert Montgomery
- Michelle Mook
- Michelle Mook
- Susan Morris
- Ann McIntire
- Julie O’Connor
- Peggy & Jim Gray
- Peggy & Jim Gray
- Marilyn & Dave Pattison
- Jim Pendleton & Family
- Bob & Mary Jane Bates
- Krista & Barry Rogers
- Krista & Barry Rogers
- Thelma Roper
Welcome New Members

We joyfully welcomed two new members on Nov. 10, 25 new members Dec. 8, at Village Church on Mission, and four new members at Village on Antioch on Dec. 15.

**Joined Nov. 10**
Elizabeth and Denis Jimenez

**Joined Dec. 8**

**Joined at Village on Antioch Dec. 15**
Four members joined at Village on Antioch Dec. 15:
Anton (Tony) Anderson, Crystal (Chris) Bilbay, Jeff and Angela Sebek
Souper Bowl of Caring
Throughout January, kids and families are encouraged to bring cans of soup to The Lighthouse. This mission project shows kids they can make a positive difference in the world.

Village Church on Mission Preschool Enrollment
Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year at Village on Mission Preschool begins in January. See the enrollment schedule below. Contact Preschool Director Sarah McKee with questions at 913-671-2338 or sarah.mckee@villagepres.org.

Enrollment Schedule for Fall 2020-2021
- Current Village Church on Mission Preschool families may enroll beginning Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020
- Current Kids Day Out families and Village Church members may enroll beginning Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020
- Former Village Church on Mission Preschool families may enroll beginning Friday, Jan. 24, 2020
- Enrollment opens to the community on Monday, Jan. 27, 2020

O Come, Little Children
Pictures from Advent Family Workshop, the Village Church Child & Family Development Center Nativity and Village on Antioch Children’s Christmas Pageant.
GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA monthly 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208-1799. Periodicals Postage paid at Kansas City MO POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208-0050

JANUARY 1, 2020
Vol. 58, No. 1

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

2020 Annual Fund Campaign

“Be generous with what God gave you.” 1 Peter 4:10

The Commitment Committee thanks each and every one of you who has continued your support of our mission through your annual giving. Your amazing pledged gifts toward the 2020 campaign has inspired all of us. It is so remarkable to see proof of your hope for our future through your generous pledges.

VILLAGE ON MISSION
Traditional – 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH
Traditional - 9:30 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
14895 Antioch Rd.
in Overland Park

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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
Javonne Armstrong
Beverly “Bev” Chaffee
David Craig
Andy Galyardt
Marie Haynes
Ellene Hoffman
William 'Bill' Love, Jr.
Ron Manca
John Pearce
Bill Spencer
Jackie White
MOLLY SIRRIDGE
Builder of Relationships and Trust

Molly Sirridge announced at the December Session Meeting she is retiring at the end of this month after 8 ½ years as the director of stewardship and endowment trust. She is affectionately referred to as “The Money Lady.”

Molly’s Background

Molly grew up in Godfrey, Illinois, a small township north of Saint Louis. She has seven brothers and sisters. “My dad worked for McDonald Douglas Aircraft and farmed on the side. I remember many a time riding the combine or sitting on the side of the tractor going along in the fields. I was raised Catholic. I went to a Catholic grade school, Catholic high school and ended up going to a Catholic college, Saint Mary College, in Leavenworth, where I received a bachelor’s degree in business. It was an all-women’s college at the time I attended. That’s how I ended up in Kansas. My husband Terry’s aunt was chair of the history department at Saint Mary. He would come to campus to visit and for dances. That’s how we met. We’ve been married for 43 years.”

Molly has four children—three daughters and a son. “Two of them are now out in Colorado. Dan lives in Denver and my oldest daughter Nikki, her husband and my 18-year-old grandson Alex live in Grand Junction. Then two of them are here. Beth is a nurse at Olathe Medical Center. She has a 5-year-old son, Jackson. My youngest daughter Laura has followed my footsteps and is a development manager for the Alzheimer’s Association. Laura has two-year-old twins, William and Addie. We’re a close family.”

Molly and Terry live in Piper. They are huge Sporting KC fans. In fact, the whole family is. “We’ve had season tickets for eight years. Everyone in my family loves going to those games. We’ve followed the team to Colorado and Dallas. If we’re able, we take a spring trip and pick a place Sporting is going to be and go there as a family to watch them play.”

On Becoming a Fundraiser

“My first job after having four children was with Brotherhood Bank and Trust. I worked in the personnel department and in marketing. While I was there, Brotherhood was very involved with March of Dimes and Walk America. I was the liaison between the bank and March of Dimes and sat on the March of Dimes Steering Committee. That gave me a taste of not for profits, raising money and putting on events. When I thought about what I wanted to do next, that’s the direction I went. I was hired to work at the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. There was just the executive director and me. We grew it from the ground up, getting board members, organizing first events. Our first walk we put on raised $98,000. When I left six years later, we were at $880,000. My oldest daughter has Type 1 diabetes or juvenile diabetes. I felt like I was working to find a cure for my little girl. So, after JDF, I worked for the American Heart Association. I was active with my Alma mater, serving on the alumni board, when I was recruited to come work in the Advancement Office at Saint Mary. After 7 ½ years there, I went to Avila University for a short stint. Then Chuck Hitchcock, a Village Church member, recruited me to come work here.”

When Molly first came to interview, director of stewardship and endowment trust was a new position for the church. The interview process took six months. “They wanted me to meet with the Stewardship Committee and the Endowment Trust Board. I remember telling them I didn’t know much about Presbyterians. So I hesitated. But I kept going home and telling my husband, ‘These are the nicest people. It was a calling. God called me here.”

Project Managing the Now & Tomorrow Capital Campaign

“I was asked during my interviews if I had experience with a capital campaign. I did, but never one that was $23 million. That experience was my favorite of all I’ve done during my time at Village. It was a huge time commitment,
VILLAGE SPOTLIGHT - MOLLY SIRRIDGE

but I loved every minute of it. I loved working with Judy Heeter and Greg Maday as co-chairs.

“Molly was an absolute delight to work with on the Now & Tomorrow campaign,” said Greg Maday. “Her thoughtful guidance helped keep us on track. We raised more in one campaign than Village had in all its previous campaigns combined. We couldn’t have done it without her assistance.”

What She Loves About Her Job

“First of all, it’s relational. I love people. I love getting to know them. Second of all, it makes a difference in people’s lives. Why wouldn’t I want to raise money to help feed the hungry or help get homeless youth off the street with our Signature Mission Avenue of Life? I think you have to be passionate about what you do. If you talk about it and ask for money and you don’t have that passion, the person you’re asking can tell. I think a successful fundraiser has to believe in the cause.”

Molly has taken annual giving to a year round status. Endowment Trust has grown to $23 million with new events being introduced. There was no Meneilly Society or Legacy Society when she came. “We had to identify those who have had Village in their estate plan and then let people know that we have this wonderful thing called the Endowment Trust, and to remember Village and their estate plan.”

Molly said her proudest moments came when Village broke ground for a new Welcome Center and the new Child & Family Development Center. “All that hard work had paid off. We were successful. It was being built. It was coming true.”

The Decision to Retire

“I’m past retirement age. My husband’s been retired for about seven years. Most recently he’s been having some health issues. That has made me realize that we don’t know the future. It’s time to take time to do some of those things that we always said we’d do when we retire. We’ve lived in our house for 34 years but it has a lot of steps. We are having a new house built at Piper Lake just down the road a little bit west. It’s all on one floor. I’m looking forward to sitting out on my deck and looking out on the water. Terry’s looking forward to fishing when he’s able.”

“Terry’s always wanted to go on road trips. He’s got a few places that he would love to see. With our daughter Nikki being in Grand Junction, Colorado, on the west side of the mountains, there are these places in Utah that we haven’t ventured to. It will be nice to be able to take trips out of Nikki’s house. But getting Terry healthy is the very first thing. And there is hope that all will be good with him.”

To the Village Congregation and Staff

“I love them. I’ve never felt so welcome in a job and so blanketed with friendship, care and respect. They are wonderful people to work with. My office was right across the hall from Meridee Jordan’s and Stacy Fischer’s – these two ladies took me under their wings, showing me the ropes around Village and became my very good friends. I am going to miss everybody and coming to work every day, but I hope to keep connected.”

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“The people of Village are so generous. They have always come through. They love this church and everything it does. If there is a need, they will step forward no matter what.”

After Molly announced her retirement at Session, Rev. Tom Are said, “It’s been a remarkable season. We wouldn’t be where we are today without the talent and the discipline and persistence that Molly has brought to us. So we are grateful. I am really grateful. Molly, we send you with blessings into retirement.”