Welcome Center 2.0 for Young Adults

Not everything has been postponed in this strange year. In fact, some wonderful plans are being brought to fruition. Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of Young Adult Ministry, the Board of Trustees, and several others have been meeting since June about a “special project” within the walls of Village Church on Mission: a renovation of the Welcome Center's lower level. This space will be outfitted primarily for use by our Young Adult ministry, which has had no place to call its own before this time.

“In the summer of 2016, we began Young Adult ministry outside the walls of the church. This beginning was intentional, as one of the generational markers of millennials is that we’re not prone to wander into traditional church buildings,” says Rev. Hottle. “After four and a half years of nomadic ministry and community growth, we found ourselves frustrated with a repeated question, ‘Where are we going to do this?’ We met at restaurants and bars, in various rooms within the church, in the homes of young adults and different community spaces. These experiments were informative but have prevented this ministry from scaling. If continued growth (in number and in depth) is desired, we must evolve and move from our nomadic existence into having a home base.”

This new project is the result of much discernment on the part of our young adults and trustees, who have come alongside one another to ensure space is made for a new generation of ministry to thrive at Village Church. In October, the Board of Trustees approved investing up to $500,000 in the build-out and furnishing of the lower level of the Welcome Center to provide a gathering space for the Young Adult and Youth Ministries, as well as other church and community events as needed. The funds are coming from two primary sources: the proceeds from the sale of a home that the church previously owned [on 67th Street near Mission Road] and a very generous gift from a Village Church member.

Mantel Teter is designing the 2,600 square foot space, which has been used for storage up to this point. Mantel Teter also designed the Welcome Center and Village on Mission Sanctuary renovation. “Plans are being finalized now and we’ve received preliminary estimates from the contractor, Pearce Construction,” said Jim Tilden, senior director of business operations. “Construction is expected to begin by the end of November with a target completion date as early as December. I think January 2021 is probably more realistic,” adds Jim.
At the Nov. 2, 2020 Session meeting held on Zoom, the Village Church Session approved the following…

Suspended in-person worship for another three-month period through Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021 due to the dramatic increase of positive cases and hospitalizations in Johnson County and the greater Kansas City area. While Session members very much want Village Church to return to in-person worship, they want to be sure it is safe to do so and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Approved welcoming outside groups to church buildings subject to established COVID-19 protocols (health forms, masks, social distancing) and existing space capacity limitations. The Session noted that several church-sponsored groups have been meeting safely in our spaces since September and given the requests of several outside groups with whom we have a long history, voted to welcome them again.

Changing the fiscal year-end to Jan. 31 each year starting in 2021. The church’s fiscal year has been from Jan. 1-Dec. 31. The Trustees approved this change to help with budgeting and allow for a more orderly year-end close on the church’s books. Giving statements will continue to be done on a calendar year basis. To accomplish this change, the fiscal year 2020 will have 13 months, Jan. 1, 2020 to Jan. 31, 2021.

A Sneak Peek at the Design

In addition to providing a home for young adults, and available for use for some Village youth programming, the space will be a wonderful location for retreats, meetings and coffeehouse-style concerts. It is an open design that will have the look and feel of a coffee shop with soft-seating groups and a countertop workspace with access to power. It also includes a small kitchen and a high-top table for buffets and group dining. The space can be configured for small-scale performances and sit-down dinners for 40-50 people. On a day-to-day basis, it will serve as a place for young adults to work, meet with friends, and relax. The project includes the construction of two gender-neutral bathrooms that open into the existing hallway.

Watch for more updates as this project gets underway and offer up some prayer for all those who will one day gather in this space.
Farewell and Blessings to Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Session called for a Congregational Meeting [held Nov. 29, after the Good News went to print] to act upon the resignation of Pastor Brandon Frick and to “dissolve the pastoral relationship.” This language comes from our Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order. Brandon shared his intent to resign his position as site pastor at Village on Antioch on Oct. 26.

“In a short period of time, Brandon has had a significant impact at Village on Antioch,” said Rev. Tom Are. “He has loved this congregation, provided a prophetic voice that has inspired us, taught us with integrity and made us laugh often. He will be missed by all. We wish God’s richest blessings to rest upon Brandon, Aaryn, Nathan and Levi.”

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is spending part of his time at our Antioch Campus to continue supporting our amazing staff and lay leaders at Village on Antioch.

A Gift to Village on Antioch from the Blue Valley Quilters Guild

On Monday, Nov. 2, members of the Blue Valley Quilters Guild presented a gift of fiber art to Village Church on Antioch. Coordinating Council members Lisa Harrison and Kelly Thomason received the gift on behalf of the congregation. The artwork repeats elements of the stained glass windows in the Village on Antioch Sanctuary. We hope to give the artwork a place of pride and allow it to bless many joyful gatherings in the church building. Thank you to the Blue Valley Quilters Guild!

ADVENT SEASON CONCERTS AND ACTIVITIES

Second Thursday Online Recital 12:15-12:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10 – with jazz pianist Roger Wilder and jazz flutist Mark Strozier. Details at www.villagepres.org/advent. Interested in joining our “Meet the Artist Zoom Reception” following the recital? Email carol.dale@villagepres.org.

Te Deum Online Concert: Peace and Joy - 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14 – Visit www.te-deum.org to purchase tickets.

Second Saturday Christmas Lights Tour Kit – 9-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, Village on Mission – Come by the south entrance of Village on Mission to grab a holiday playlist, hot chocolate for the family and a map of the best neighborhoods of holiday lights in KC!

Village on Antioch Children’s Christmas Pageant Online - Noon Sunday, Dec. 13 – The pageant will be presented on www.villagepres.org/online and on the Village on Antioch Facebook Page @VillageAntioch.

Taizé Worship: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15 – broadcast on villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube channel, and the Village Music Facebook page @VillageChurchMusic.

Curbside Pickup Christmas Dinner Wednesday, Dec. 16 – Order and pay online by noon Dec. 14 at www.villagepres.org/Wednesday-family-dinners. Food may be picked up in the Village on Mission north parking lot between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Dec. 16.

20th Annual Tidings of Joy: 3 and 6 p.m. Online Sunday, Dec. 20 – This inspired and imaginative performance will involve Village children and adults in a short “motion picture” that your whole family will enjoy. A retiring offering will benefit Literacy KC. The concert will be livestreamed on www.villagepres.org/online.

Get details about all Village Church Advent services, classes and activities at www.villagepres.org/advent.
Front Porch Alliance Names Je T’aime Taylor New Executive Director

Veteran social services and community outreach professional Je T’aime Taylor has been named executive director of Front Porch Alliance. Founded in 1999 by members of Village Presbyterian Church, Front Porch focuses on early childhood development with its Neighborhood Parents program as well educational programs to bolster the reading and math skills of youth in the Ivanhoe Neighborhood in Kansas City, Missouri.

Taylor comes to Front Porch from the Rosedale Development Association where she served as program director. A native of the Kansas City area and graduate in social work from Bethel College, Taylor had dedicated 20 years to program development and community outreach. “With a highly capable and dedicated program team, I hope to leverage my diverse experiences and leadership training to help them flourish,” shared Taylor. “I look forward to working with the board to focus future direction and build the resources necessary to further our mission.”

The Pesinas Move into New Village Sponsored Habitat Home

Marcos and Rocio knew that homeownership would help them build a bright future for their daughter, but they didn’t know where to start. That’s when they found Habitat for Humanity KC. Rocio’s brother had applied for the Homeownership Program but found that it wasn’t a good fit for him. Still, he encouraged his sister and brother-in-law to apply, knowing how badly they wanted to become homeowners.

Since they were accepted, Marcos and Rocio have worked hard to complete their 350 sweat equity hours. The pandemic had slowed their progress, but that setback did not discourage Marcos, who knew that with every hour completed, they got closer to earning the keys to their home. “Once we’re in, it will be a new start for us and I can’t wait to start that journey,” Marcos said.

Rocio says that all the hard work has been worth it to have the chance to provide a safe place for her family. “It’s a big blessing because finally, my child can say, ‘I have a house,’” Rocio said. “Now I can give her that security of having a roof over her head.”

Every year, Village Church makes a financial grant to Habitat for Humanity to pay for the construction of a house like the one Marcos and Rocio now own. On Nov. 9, they took ownership of their new home. In addition, members of the Village Church Tuesday-Thursday Crew assisted with its construction and did so safely throughout the pandemic.

If you are interested in being a part of Habitat’s volunteer team, contact Jude Huntz, HabitatKC’s outreach manager, at jhuntz@habitatkc.org or 816-924-1096.

An Update on Avenue of Life’s Homeless Youth Home-Our 2019/2020 Signature Mission

After multiple delays due to the pandemic and after receiving approval from the public health department to house up to 12 residents (each with their own bedroom), the Avenue of Life’s (AOL) Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Home is now occupied.

In 2019, the Mission Committee selected the youth house as our Signature Mission. The new youth home provides 30 long-term beds for homeless youth ages 16 to 18 and 10 beds for emergency housing. Two professional staff are onsite 24/7 for 8-hour shifts. The home offers 18 bedrooms and adequate space for transformational, wraparound support. Youth can call this new facility home through high school graduation and on to career and higher education. These teens now have a home, and many have never been given the opportunity to dream about what life could look like beyond their current circumstances. Earlier this fall, 40 robes made by the Village Church Mission Sewing team were delivered to the home for distribution to the young residents.
**Joy and Christmas Offerings**

Since the 1930s, the Joy Offering is one way the Presbyterian Church joins Presbyterians from around the country to meet the needs of vulnerable people. This offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.

Rev. Dr. Stewart Pattison (pictured right) and Adelite Hategaka (pictured left) know first-hand how the Joy Offering can make a difference. Pattison received a grant that allowed him to continue to minister to church members in Chicago even with multiple sclerosis. A Presbyterian scholarship to Hategaka allowed her to complete her education at the Presbyterian Pan American School.

Coinciding with the Joy Offering is the Christmas Project Offering which collects funds to support holiday projects in our community such as Operation Breakthrough’s Christmas distributions and the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.

This year’s Joy/Christmas Project Offerings are scheduled during Advent, concluding on Sunday, Dec. 20. If you wish to make a gift, you can send a check to Village Presbyterian Church. Please note on your check or in your mailing that the contribution is for the Joy or Christmas Offering and the percentage you wish allocated to each. If you have any questions, contact Deborah White at deborah.white@villagepres.org or 913-671-2369.

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**Hat and Mitten Collection for Cross-Lines Community Outreach**

Village Church’s annual holiday tradition of collecting hats and mittens for those in need in our community is underway. “We are approaching this mission project differently this year,” said Deborah White, director of mission. “Rather than hanging hats and mittens on Christmas trees inside the church, we will have large weatherproof bins stationed at the south entrance of Village on Mission where contributors can leave their donations.”

As winter sets in, the donations will be delivered to Cross-Lines Community Outreach, a social service agency in Kansas City, Kansas frequently supported by Village Church with grants to its food pantry and volunteer service at its community kitchen. Cross-Lines will distribute the items collected to those struggling in our community including many who are homeless. If you have any questions about this holiday project, please contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org.
Remembrance Service This Sunday
The Remembrance Service will be at 4 p.m. this Sunday, Dec. 6, and held online at www.villagepres.org/online. This annual worship experience provides an opportunity for members and the community to remember those who have died and are missed during the holiday season. All worshipers are invited to have a candle or candles available that they can light at home during the service, as collectively we will light candles to remember our loved ones.

Poinsettias: Honoring Loved Ones Brightens the Season for Others
Village Church delivered 300 poinsettias to homebound members prior to the first Sunday in Advent. Each poinsettia is made possible through church members purchasing these poinsettias in memory of loved ones. You still have time to honor a loved one by purchasing one of these poinsettias. Please send the printed memorial name and a check for $10 to Village Presbyterian Church (6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208) by Monday, Dec. 21. Make your check payable to “Village Church” and send to the attention of Janice Gill. For more information, call Janice at 913-671-2362. The list of loved ones memorialized by these poinsettia gifts will be published in an upcoming edition of the Good News newsletter.

Parking Lot Pastoral Care
Pastor Melanie or Pastor Sally will be under the canopy in the south parking lot of Village on Mission for pastoral visits from 4:30-5:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Dec. 16 (weather permitting). They will be masked, physically distanced and ready to talk with you during curbside dinner pickup hours.

Stephen Ministry Brings Happiness to Those in Need
“Stephen Ministers are lay people trained to provide one-on-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life,” explains Dave Fellers. Dave is one of more than 70 involved in the Stephen Ministry program at The Village Church.

“My first care receiver, in his late 50’s, was diagnosed with a terminal illness at an early stage,” Dave explains. “We met almost weekly, read scriptures together, I listened to his thoughts on everything from sports to the importance of faith in God and we prayed together to help him through his illness.”

Dave’s care receiver passed away after several years of Stephen Ministry support. “His family shared the happiness and peacefulness that it brought to his final years.”

If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister contact Rev. Becky Chamberlain at 913-449-0713 or becky.chamberlain@villagepres.org.

Growing Through Grief Offered in January
Grief is a journey. Growing through Grief is a five-week series that supports those on this journey who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The first session in 2021 will be held at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 13 through Feb. 10, in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village on Mission. The series is offered at no cost and includes your own copy of the book, “Understanding Your Grief–Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart,” by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.
Village on Mission Preschool
Bids Farewell to Debbie Smith

Debbie Smith began working in the Village Child Care department in 1985, thanks to Rosemary Marshall, who invited her to join the team and bring along her two-year-old son. She has worn several different hats during her tenure including caregiver, Sunday school teacher and coordinator and EPD coordinator. The Creations by Kids preschool art and summer camp programs are Debbie’s brainchild and still exist today. In 2011, Debbie became the assistant preschool director at Village on Mission.

Though it was a tough decision, Debbie chose to say goodbye this fall. “Recent events have caused me to rethink opening our family’s bubble too widely. We are all healthy at this time. Out of extreme caution, I have decided to step away.” Debbie looks forward to family time and being “Nana” to their five grandchildren.

“Debbie has been our rock and the heart and soul of Village Preschool for many years,” said Sarah McKee, the director of Village on Mission Preschool. “Each day, Debbie illustrated her love of Village, her creativity and her kind heart. She will be greatly missed by many!”

Debbie wants to share these words with the Village Church community:

“The most rewarding part of working at Village on Mission Preschool were the connections that I made—working with wonderful women who supported and encouraged me to be the best that I could be and establishing trust with the children. It was always wonderful to hear about the children’s successes after they left Village Preschool.

I saw God’s presence every day in my work; the sense of wonder in the children’s eyes, the unconditional love and care of the teachers and the joy and delight of all when something clicked for a child who was struggling. Personally, God showed me that I could be and do more than I had imagined. I learned that we can make a difference in small ways.

Village Preschool felt like family. The children’s smiles and laughter were the best part and will be missed. I will always be grateful for my time at Village, the staff and the families that have enriched my life.”
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VILLAGE GIVING

2021 pledge cards have been sent to all Village Church households. Thank you to all who have returned their cards. This is helpful as we plan the 2021 church budget. If you have not yet made a 2021 pledge there's still time! You can pledge on line at www.villagepres.org/giving and then click “Continue to Commitment Form.” Complete the form and click to send.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Sperry at 913-671-2325 or bob.sperry@villagepres.org.

Your church very much appreciates your continuing support.
We couldn’t be Village without YOU!

VILLAGE GIVING

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

3 & 5 p.m. Family Worship with The Gathering Band
7, 9 and 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

All Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed at www.villagepres.org/online.

Christmas Eve Day - Come to the Star & Be the Christ Light

On Christmas Eve day, all are invited to come in person to Village on Mission and Village on Antioch. Come journey to the star that proclaimed Christ’s birth to the whole universe. Remember the wonder and glory of the Christmas story and your part in it. Then take home Christ’s light to share with the world. Thursday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Village on Mission and from noon-2 p.m. at Village on Antioch.

IN MEMORY

Chuck Gillam
Jeanne Miller
David Scott
Nadine Stansbery
Nancy Stewart