



**VILLAGE
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)

GOOD NEWS

The Village Church Good News is published monthly (September-May) for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to The Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, or call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

Meet Our 2023 Meneilly Visiting Scholar, Dr. Haley Jacob

We're pleased to introduce Dr. Haley Jacob, the 2023 Meneilly Visiting Scholar. Dr. Jacob is associate professor of theology and chair of the theology department at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, a Presbyterian affiliated school. She teaches courses on biblical theology and Paul's epistles. In 2018, "Christianity Today" named her as one of its "10 New or Lesser Known Female Theologians Worth Knowing."

So who is Dr. Haley Jacob? She grew up in the small, rural town of Mazeppa, Minnesota, became a Christian at age 12 and discovered an "insatiable desire" to read the Bible. Nonetheless, she headed to Crown College, St. Bonifacius, Minnesota, with the intent to study medicine and become a pediatric oncologist. However, her love of Bible courses lured her away from medicine and back to theology.

Guided by her love of Biblical studies, after college Dr. Jacob headed to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, where she earned master's degrees in theology and in New Testament. She spent two summers working at Yellowstone National Park where she added hiking and photography to her list of passions. (Teaching is now also on that list.) While working at Yellowstone, she attended the closest church, Mount Republic Chapel of Peace in Cooke City, Montana—just outside the park entrance. When the church lost its pastor, she was invited to take the position.



This interdenominational church sits at the foot of Mt. Republic and first held services in a saloon when the saloon agreed to close for a few hours on Sunday mornings. Cooke City has about 100 permanent residents. Dr. Jacob says that off-season only 10 persons or so may have been in worship, yet during tourist season there's a need for two services. Dr. Jacob says it was "the strongest

community experience I've ever had, you know everybody very well, and everybody knows you. I loved it."

There Dr. Jacob discovered not only her love of community, but also a love of pastoring. She surmised it would make sense to pursue a seminary degree and was elated when she was accepted into her top choice, the University of St. Andrews (yes, in Scotland), where she earned her Doctorate of Divinity. She reworked her dissertation into book form, "Conformed to the Image of His Son: Reconsidering Paul's Theology of Glory in Romans" (2018), and her new focus is writing a commentary on Colossians.

At some point in her career, Dr. Jacob found an opportunity to teach English at a college in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan. When she looks back on her nomadic studies and travels, she marvels that for 15 years, she essentially lived out of two suitcases. However, once she accepted a professorship at Whitworth, she soon married, now has two children, ages 2 and 3, and enjoys both her teaching and administrative roles. And since 2015, she's been in one place, no longer living out of suitcases.

So what makes Dr. Jacob so passionate about Biblical studies? Although she has long loved

Bible stories, she says the Bible came alive when she discovered how the New Testament echoes the Old Testament, and she pondered how that should influence our understanding of scripture. She finds echoes of Genesis of 1-3 in Paul's letters, and laughingly recalls she once thought she could understand those echoes in 3-4 years, now realizing it will take a lifetime. Her primary focus is what Paul intended when he wrote we are to be "conformed to the Image of God," repeating the wording of Genesis 1.

She's come to believe God created humans to be God's representatives to Creation, to be God's hands and feet, as Jesus was. And when we don't do this, in essence, we're not behaving as true humans. Stated somewhat differently, we're called to be Holy for a purpose, and that purpose is to be God's representatives on earth. We are not to be conformed to the patterns of the world but to see what God is doing around us and then to jump in and help out. Her passion as a professor is to help young people discover and have confidence in the gifts God gave them, urging them to listen "only to the voices in your life that encourage you to be who God... has made you to be" and find their purpose.

Her ultimate conclusion? Dr. Jacob suggests we're made in the image of God and in becoming a Christian, we're essentially recreated in the image of God's son. "Our original function was to have dominion over the earth, but because of sin, the way humans have ruled led to chaos and destruction. But when we're conformed to the image of God's son, we're brought back to ruling our Creation by representing God in the way that Christ does; through sacrifice, service, love and peace."

Please join us in person or online for the next Meneilly Visiting Scholar Lecture, March 3-4, 2023, with Dr. Haley Jacob. Her program is titled, "The Hope of Glory?: What is it? When is it? And have we got it all wrong?"

Friday evening: "Created for Glory"

Saturday morning: "Redeemed for Glory" (Session 1) and "Suffering in Glory" (Session 2)

Lectures will be at the Village Presbyterian Church Mission Campus. There is no cost to attend, but we do ask that you register. Learn more at villagepres.org/visiting-scholar.



We Say Goodbye to Erin Crank

Erin Crank began working at Village Church as an administrative assistant on June 30, 2020. For the past two and a half years, Erin has supported Jim Tilden and Ann Kranker in the Business Office and Bob Sperry, director of giving and endowment. Erin received her bachelor's degree in secondary education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a paralegal certificate from Rockhurst University. She is returning to work for her former employer, Seigfreid Bingham, a law firm near Crown Center. They have created a new position in which she will provide administrative support to the estate planning, tax and corporate practice group.

"My season at Village has allowed me to utilize my administrative skills, form new relationships and have a variety of responsibilities I have not previously experienced," Erin said. "I particularly benefited from the outstanding care and counseling Village offers its members and staff."

Erin's last day at Village is Feb. 3. Thank you, Erin, for your time serving Village Church!

**Sermon Series:
I am... Bread. Light. Way. Life.**

Who is Jesus really? In the Gospel of John, there are seven times when Jesus tells us who he is; seven times Jesus says, "I am..." In this sermon series, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is exploring each of these seven "I am" statements. Together, we will discover what they say about Jesus Christ and what they say about us.

Feb. 5 - I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
Feb. 12 - I am the True Vine. (Communion Sunday)

Rev. Sally S. Wright Preaching Feb. 19

Rev. Sally Wright's sermon is titled "Stay & Pray: The Gift of Presence." Sally shares, "The best baby gift I received was a retired pediatric nurse offering to stay overnight and keep watch over my twin 3-month-old babies. What a gift to have someone remain present with my children for one whole, uninterrupted night of sleep for me. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked his disciples to stay awake with him and pray. The poor disciples cannot seem to stay awake, unlike the nurse who kept my kids all night. There is a close connection between presence and prayer. If Jesus can ask for disciples to be present and to pray, we can take his example and ask for it, too. Let's explore together."

Ash Wednesday Services Feb. 22

Join us for **Ash-n-Dash** drive-up ashes and prayer in the Antioch Campus parking lot. Enjoy hot coffee and donuts from 7-8 a.m. and again from noon-1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

We will also have **Ash Wednesday services** at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary at both campuses. Communion will be served. The Mission Campus service led by Rev. Melanie Hardison will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

Lenten Sermon Series: Get a Life

Feb. 26-April 9. This Lent, Rev. Tom Are will journey with the Apostle Peter. Peter was the first disciple to be called and among the last to fall away. He had moments of brilliance as well as utter failure. Peter shows us that life is a gift which is both

ordinary and a fathomless mystery. It can be as mundane as Monday, but it is also the space in which holiness shows up. The invitation of Jesus, to all he encountered, was to live a particular life. It is a life that God intends for us. Such a life is one that is centered in God and attentive to neighbor. Peter had the courage to follow this invitation, and he discovered that Jesus eventually gave his life that we all might get a life... a life that God intends for us.

Lenten Daily Video Devotionals Return

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, contemplation and self examination as we walk with Jesus toward the cross, but also toward resurrection and new life. Join us each day (Monday through Saturday from Feb. 27 through April 8) for a short video devotional offered by our pastors and church leaders. Sign up to receive them in your email inbox each morning at villagepres.org/subscribe or subscribe to our YouTube Channel @villagepresbyterianchurch, where they will be added daily.



Results of Co-Pastor Congregational Vote

The congregation showed overwhelming support for changing the terms of call for Rev. Tom Are, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka from senior pastor and senior associate pastor to co-pastors at the Jan. 22 congregational meeting.

The final step is approval by Heartland Presbytery.

**Highlights from 2nd Annual
“I Have a Dream (Home)”
Action & Celebration Event
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

For the second year, Village Presbyterian Church hosted and co-sponsored the “I Have a Dream (Home)” Action & Celebration Event Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event was held in the Mission Campus Sanctuary on Saturday, Jan. 14. As part of Prairie Village’s campaign to better know and welcome diverse neighbors, STAND UP for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, the city of Prairie Village Diversity Committee, the Johnson County NAACP and Village Church sponsored the event.

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka gave welcoming remarks. Presenters included Prairie Village Ward 6 City Council member Ian Graves, Mark Davis of Black Archives of Mid-America, Dr. George Williams of STAND UP for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, musical artist Lynda Randle, award-winning poet and activist Glenn North, the Störling Dance Theater, the James Ward Trio and youth singer Troy Sanders.

All were encouraged to take action by committing to a new year’s resolution that will impact an injustice in your community. Consider volunteering, learning about an injustice that you’re unfamiliar with and integrating habits in your daily life that will catalyze change.

(Right) Troy Sanders sang for the second year at the event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(Bottom) Event presenters and planners gathered on the Village Church Chancel to sing “We Shall Overcome” and work toward Beloved Community.



Shannon Benton, Laura Fiatte, Christopher Peacock and Alexandra Wilson of Störling Dance Theater performed “Underground.”



A Look Back at Village Church History and Civil Rights

In 1965 founding pastor Dr. Bob Meneilly's sermon in support of fair housing caused controversy in the congregation and community. He and his family were threatened. Many church officers and staff members signed a Fair Housing Pledge and gave permission for their names and addresses to be published in the local newspaper.

In a 2012 oral history, Dr. Bob reflected on the impact of his civil rights preaching. "It was very hard for some people. We lost [in] one year probably 300 members," he recalled.

In 1965 and 1966, Dr. Bob delivered several sermons urging his all-white congregation to welcome Black residents into their suburban neighborhoods and their church home. These messages prompted several complimentary letters but also a flood of hate mail. Some of those letters and excerpts from Dr. Bob's sermons are on display at the Johnson County Museum in an exhibit about suburban change and race relations in the 1960s.

Here is an excerpt from Dr. Bob's sermon about fair housing, delivered Feb. 14, 1965:

"To segregate a person on the basis of his color is evil because it penalizes a person for being what God made him and for conditions over which he has no control. If one is segregated because of ignorance, he can learn... if because of poverty, he may improve his economic status... if because of uncleanliness, he can bathe... but if because of race, he is paralyzed.

To discriminate against a person because of color is to say to God: 'You made a mistake, God, when you made people of different races.'

We must ensure democracy of housing in this community whatever our inbred emotions say about it. We must act on our Christian convictions—not our pagan prejudices."

In the late 1960s, at Meneilly's urging, Village Church created the Black Motivational Training Center. It helped the poor and marginalized find employment and worked to help trainees cultivate a positive self-image. It remained in existence for more than a decade.



(Top and right) Black Motivational Training Center at Village Church, late 1960s

(Left) Founding pastor Dr. Bob Meneilly

Listen online

You can still [listen to voice recordings of Dr. Bob Meneilly's sermons by clicking here.](#)

NEW OFFICERS

Welcome New Elders and Deacons

The Village Church 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 19 women and 10 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. In addition to performing the elder duties, trustees are the corporate officers functioning under the Session and are responsible for fiscal matters, buildings and grounds and other matters referred by the Session. Our 2025 class of elders and deacons was ordained and installed on Jan. 8.

ELDER/TRUSTEES (CLASS OF 2025)



Tony Feiock



Jim Bolton



Tedrick Housh



Katie Hull



Esperanza Lemon

ELDERS (CLASS OF 2025)



Julie Foster



Diane Johnson



Natalie LaMar



Christine Lewis



George Satterlee



*Joy Beth
Scammahorn-Orr*

We also welcomed the following people to serve as deacons in the class of 2025: Eric Johnson, Susan Johnson, Charles Schultz, Carol Solenberger, Julie Sykes and Sven Sykes.

The Pastoral Care & Counseling department now houses the Board of Deacons. With this change, the role of deacon has come closer alongside the PC(USA) Book of Order. This expanded role sits close to scripture and includes functions of care, hospitality, compassion, service and witness of Jesus Christ. The deacons have started living into this new role by contributing to Village's Telecare Ministry, Flower Ministry and Card Writing Ministry. Deacons also serve as greeters at entrances to the church on Sunday morning. The deacons will continue to expand their role over the next year by exploring home communion and reaching out to households regularly. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please reach out to Rev. Melanie Hardison or Rev. Sally Wright.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

villagepres.org/upcoming-events

FEB. 7-MARCH 28

8 a.m. Tuesdays, Village U: Men's Breakfast and Bible with Tom Are in Friendship Hall at Mission Campus.

FEB. 7

Noon Faith & Grief Support Gathering "Sitting Vigil" with Nicole Staab, Friendship Hall at Mission Campus. Staab shares her story about becoming an end-of-life doula, someone who provides care for families from terminal diagnosis through bereavement. A box lunch is available. Register at faithandgrief.org/gatherings.

FEB. 8

5:30 p.m. Village U: Kids Are the Best, But... with Rev. Hallie Hottle, Friendship Hall & Young Adult Room

FEB. 8 & 15

6:30 p.m. Village U: Beauty in the Beast—Artist as Outcast with Dr. Ron Witzke, Room 127

6:30 p.m. Study of Ephesians: Saved by Grace Through Faith with Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Rooms 132/133

FEB. 9

12:15 p.m. 2nd Thursday Recital with mezzo-soprano Patricia Thompson in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Dr. Thompson is an associate professor of music and voice at Kansas State University.

FEB. 10

7:30 p.m. Trio Barn Burners Concert, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join violinist Destiny Ann Mermagen, pianist Hyunsoon Whang and cellist Michael Mermagen for a concert featuring Paul Schoenfield's Café Music and more. Guest performance by Village Players Youth. Admission is free.

FEB. 12

Souper Bowl Sunday. Bring cans of hearty soup to church for the Village Food Pantry. Or if you prefer, make a cash donation at villagepres.org/food-pantry.

2 p.m. Beyond Words: Jan Kraybill's 24th annual Super Bowl Sunday organ concert, Community of Christ Auditorium, 1001 W Walnut St., Independence, Missouri. The concert is free. Jan Kraybill is organist at the Village Church Antioch Campus.

FEB. 13 74th Anniversary of Village Church

Registration opens for Celebration of Faithful Women at villagepres.org/pw.

FEB. 17

7:30 p.m. Tenor Jonathan Pilkington presents A Song Recital, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Jonathan Pilkington frequently performs as a recitalist and as an oratorio soloist. Admission is free.

FEB. 18-22 Middle School Ski Trip

FEB. 19 Rev. Sally Wright preaching

FEB. 20 Presidents' Day

FEB. 21

5:30-7:30 p.m. Village U: Parents' Night Out, child care department. Drop off in nursery.

FEB. 22

Ash Wednesday. Ash-n-Dash in the Antioch Campus parking lot from 7-8 a.m. and noon-1 p.m. Ash Wednesday services are at 7 p.m. at both campuses.

FEB. 26

First Sunday of Lent. Rev. Tom Are, Jr. begins his Lenten Sermon Series "Get a Life."

FEB. 28

9:30-11:30 a.m. Village U: Children's Clothing Swap, child care department, Room 132

Kids Day Out Enrollment Schedule 2023-2024 School Year

Feb. 13 Enrollment opens for current KDO families

Feb. 15 Enrollment opens for former KDO families, current Village members & current Preschool families

Feb. 20 Enrollment opens for the community

Enrollment applications can be found at villagepres.org/kdo. Contact Sandra Stephens, child care director, with questions at sandra.stephens@villagepres.org or 913-671-2322.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Dinner/Brunch

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, Jr. will lead the meeting at the Mission Campus and will provide a review of 2022 and plans for 2023. The Session will present the budget for 2023. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will lead the meeting at the Antioch Campus.

Mission Campus – The Annual Meeting follows dinner on Tuesday, March 14, in Friendship Hall. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. *Seating is limited. If you plan to attend, please advise Marsha Hansen no later than Wednesday, March 1, at 913-671-2341 or marsha.hansen@villagepres.org.*

Antioch Campus – The Annual Meeting at the Antioch Campus begins with a potluck brunch in Fellowship Hall following the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 26. No RSVP is required.

GOOD NEWS

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VILLAGE GIVING

Minimum distributions have maximum effects. If you are 70.5 years old or older, you can exclude from your gross income any qualified charitable distribution from your IRA (Required Minimum Distribution – RMD), up to \$100,000 each year. It's a win-win for you and Village Church!

- Avoid taxes on distributions up to \$100,000 from your IRA.
- Satisfy your annual required minimum distribution.
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you don't itemize.
- Make a gift that doesn't impact your cash flow.
- Provide support for Village's mission and ministry.

Please consult your tax or financial advisor about whether an IRA Required Minimum Distribution is right for you. RMDs can be used to fulfill your annual pledge. Questions about your gift? Contact Bob Sperry at bob.sperry@villagepres.org or 913-671-2325.

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

The following names should have appeared in the January issue of the *Good News*. We regret that the list was not complete and hereby lift up these precious loved ones in whose memory Christmas poinsettias were donated.

IN MEMORY OF

Judy G. McEachen
Douglas Petty

DONATED BY

Richard McEachen
Deana Petty

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MISSION CAMPUS

6641 Mission Rd.

Traditional - 9 & 11 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

The Gathering - 5 p.m.

In Friendship Hall

ANTIOCH CAMPUS

14895 Antioch Rd.

9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Call in to hear the previous Sunday's 9 a.m. Sanctuary worship service on our phone line **913-203-1301**.

IN MEMORY

Joan Benson
Sarah "Susie" Dixon
John Haraughty
Betty Hocker
Mason Ormsby
Gloria Reed
Don Simmons
George Smith
Kent Thompson