

The quarterly  
newsletter for:

VALLEY  
Women

FOLLOWING CHRIST TOGETHER

Our IDENTITY and our HOPE. . .

Beloved, if  
God so loved  
us, we also  
ought to love  
one another.

1 JOHN 4:11

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### In-Town Retreat

Saturday, Sept 24th  
9am - 1:45pm  
The Canteen at  
Stovehouse

### Tour of HPRC & Lunch @ Newk's

Thursday, Oct 13th @  
11am (HPRC)/12:15pm  
(Newk's on University)

### Craft Night!

Thursday, Oct 20th @  
6:30pm


### Christmas Dinner & Program


Monday, Dec 12th @ 6pm  
Valley Sanctuary


## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

 **Alison Stanford**  
Due November 2022

 **Rose Missildine**  
Due November 2022


 **Emily Bisset**  
Due November 2022

 **April Wade**  
Due December 2022

 **Ivy Patrick**  
Due January 2023

 **Ashley Henderson**  
Due March 2023

 **Alison Stanford**  
Moved to Birmingham

 **Larissa Danek**  
Moving to Boston

**We love to stay  
connected! Find us  
on social media or  
visit our website!**



Valley Presbyterian Women  
(Private Group)



@valleypreswomen

[https://www.valleymadison.com/  
ministries/womens-ministry](https://www.valleymadison.com/ministries/womens-ministry)

# BeLoved

Issue: 9, FALL 2022

## Courage For New Beginnings

By: Karen Dick

Many of us prefer our daily lives to remain the same. Change is often difficult and unwarranted. Life might be flowing peacefully when a sudden occurrence turns that peaceful life upside down. When that happens, we seek the courage to face our new beginning.

Often, the changes we make are a choice, but even then, there are required adjustments. A new baby is a joy, but the new parents must learn to live a life of sleep deprivation. When a parent's last grown child leaves home, the emotions may run from high to low, from rejoicing to depression, all on the same day.

There are also changes we don't choose, such as an illness or accident. My elderly neighbor's husband recently passed away after many years of marriage. Though his death was not a shock to her, Mary said tearfully, "Even my dog senses his absence. Life will never be the same."

I have experienced many changes in my own life. Being a native Northwesterner and moving across the country is one example. Another more recent event is my husband's retirement and our decision to purchase a travel trailer. For a girl who never camped in her life, it has been somewhat of a shock! Especially experiencing unwelcome visitors in our campsites such as cicadas, toads, and an occasional skunk.

All of these situations require strength and stamina. Jesus warned us that life in this world would not be easy. But with that warning, he gave us a promise. He promised himself. He lovingly helps us through difficulties and offers us peace in the process. **"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."** John 16:33 (NIV).

Strengthening our relationship with God is the key to preparation for unanticipated events. Daily moments with Jesus draw us closer to him, secures our love for him, and affirm his love for us. So when an event occurs, he supplies the courage to move forward, and even offers joy as we face the new beginning with him.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

### September

4th - Sara Murphy  
7th - Kelcy Ivy  
9th - Stephanie Shaw  
10th - Christine Darulla  
12th - Becky Ernest  
12th - Katie Moore  
19th - Megan Gowan  
21st - Erin Jones  
25th - Kia Ray  
25th - Judy Bush  
26th - Ashley Kilpatrick  
28th - Laura Newsom  
30th - Jenny Fleming

### October

1st - Meghan Gibbs  
6th - Karen Peters  
9th - Michelle Bokmeyer  
10th - Sue Creekmore  
12th - Katie Lewallen  
13th - Melissa Osterloo  
15th - Ginger Ryan  
16th - Lauren Zekoff  
19th - Rhonda Anderson  
23rd - Jennifer Smith  
25th - Karen Gibson

### November

3rd - Amber Lentz  
7th - Lee Shaw  
8th - Meagan Black  
9th - Katy Ahmed  
9th - Rachel Bocking  
10th - Sandra Klein  
13th - Brittney Franz  
14th - Beth Siano  
16th - Brooke Jock  
18th - Ann Douglass Kinard  
20th - Marian Deweese  
22nd - Kim Foss  
25th - Rebekah Williams  
29th - Wendy Lenentine  
30th - Jessica Lawrence  
30th - Margie Ligon  
30th - Mia Seewald  
30th - Stacey Wilson

Welcome to another issue of the *BeLoved* newsletter! We are grateful that you are a part of Valley Women.

*Kathy's  
CORNER*

Fall is a big season of change for many of us. Our children go back to school, we begin a new year of ministry together, and schedules start to overflow with activities. We know it can be overwhelming!



Kathy Guest  
Director of Women's  
Ministry

In this issue, you will read stories of Valley Women finding the courage to face uncertainty and change in the love and hope of their Savior, Jesus Christ. **It is he who gives us the strength and resiliency needed to live out the truth of the gospel - that we are justified only by his saving grace and we are his BeLoved daughters.**

It is truly a joy to see all the ways God is at work in our Valley Women. May we all grow to know him more in this coming ministry year - together!





## IVY PATRICK

I grew up in Huntsville (Jones Valley area). I attended Berry College in Rome, GA followed by UAB for my Surgical Physician Assistant degree. I attended Valley with Matt when I was in town while we were dating during PA school. William Plott gave the homily at our wedding! We got married during my last year of PA school and lived in Birmingham together briefly before moving to St. Louis for Matt to start at Covenant Seminary. We then moved to Spartanburg, SC for Matt to work with RUF at Wofford College for the last 5 years. We are excited to return to Valley for Matt to serve the church and train as a future church planter! Our daughter, Annie, will be 2 in November!

**1) Tell us about a time when you or your family experienced a significant change or challenging circumstance.**

We are in the midst of experiencing significant change/challenge now as we just moved at the end of July!

**2) What was your initial response?**

I really hate moving! We had a very sweet 5 year season in Spartanburg and I was hesitant to leave unless God's call became very clear.

**3) How has the gospel shifted your perspective since then?**

Our prayers for clear direction were answered in surprising ways and it became obvious that this call was being orchestrated by God in undeniable ways. It has been a humbling reminder of God's provision and lovingkindness as I learn to submit to that calling and Matt's leadership of our family.

**4) Was there a scripture verse, song, or special practice that became especially meaningful to you during this time?**

Psalm 126 has always spoken to me in times that I am needing to trust God during change or uncertainty as I reflect on how God has provided in the past and present. The words from "Whate'er My God Ordains is Right" and "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" have also come to mind often.

**6) What are some other positive takeaways from this experience that you don't want to forget?**

I don't want to forget the ways we've seen God's provision- from buying my Grandparents home, to finding a preschool spot for Annie, to wonderful movers, and the gift of a new baby girl...we've had many prayers answered!

## DWELL MEMORY VERSES - FALL 2022

**September** - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

**October** - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."  
John 10:10

**November** - "Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind."  
Psalm 107:8

Stories of Redemption

Together...  
WITH MARGIE GREENMAN

**Bible Studies and Side By Side Groups start in September. Sign up today!**

**Great food and fun at The Joy of French Cooking Event! Thanks to all who came!**



It was Sunday, February 23rd, 1964, just a few months after President Kennedy had been shot. I was in my freshman year at Connecticut College for Women. I was attending a college and career group at a church in downtown New London when a group of guys I didn't recognize showed up. I was painfully shy, but for some reason I decided to go up and shake hands with each of them. I was instantly drawn to Bob, who had become a Christian in his last year at the Naval Academy. He, impressed by my initiative, asked if he could drive me home and then invited me to a hymn sing later that night at a Plymouth Brethren church. So, later that evening, Bob and I had our first date. At the time, I was still not a believer. I had grown up in church, always being open to the Lord and reading the Bible, but I had not accepted Jesus as my Savior.

Bob drove a couple of friends and me to the hymn sing that night. It was a very cold winter evening. In fact, when I got out of the car, I slipped on the ice and slid completely underneath Bob's car! Thankfully, I was wearing a long, wool coat, so I was unharmed, and we continued into the church. I only knew one song during the entire hymn sing. Afterwards, Bob was driving us all home. When we got to the top of the Gold Star Memorial Bridge across the Thames River, the rear axle broke. Bob managed to coast all the way down and around the base of the bridge, finally stopping at a gas station. He was going to call a taxi, but I wanted to spend more time with him. I suggested that we walk up the steep, snowy hill to my dorm together.

Very early in our relationship Bob told me about his commitment to Christ. I said to myself, "I know this guy is serious about this, and if I don't accept Jesus, then he will drop me." There was something in Bob that I had never seen before, so I accepted the Lord, motivated by not wanting to lose this wonderful man who had walked into my life.

Despite my shallow reasons for making the decision to follow Christ, God gave me a sincere hunger for the Word and a small group of Christian friends. However, it wasn't until after we married a few years later and Bob went out to sea for months at a time that I came to the Lord in dependency. That's when I realized how I really needed God. I began memorizing scripture and deepened my relationships with Christian friends. Later, when I was depressed and dealing with the tension of wanting to be a good Navy wife and mother to our children, the Lord taught me about the root of bitterness. He showed me the necessity for forgiveness. He changed something in me that I could not have done on my own.

Life is hard. Marriage can be difficult. This is the verse that has carried me through some times that were hard to bear: Psalm 119:68 "You are good and do good." I know God is good and what he does and allows for me is good. I can trust him no matter what.