



BLESSED is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

He is like a tree planted by water,

ROOTED

by the stream,

and does not fear when heat comes,

for its leaves remain green,

and is not anxious in the year of drought,

for it does not cease to bear **FRUIT**.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Village Church is a creative & compassionate Anglican community, worshipping God & serving our neighbors on the west side of Greenville.

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

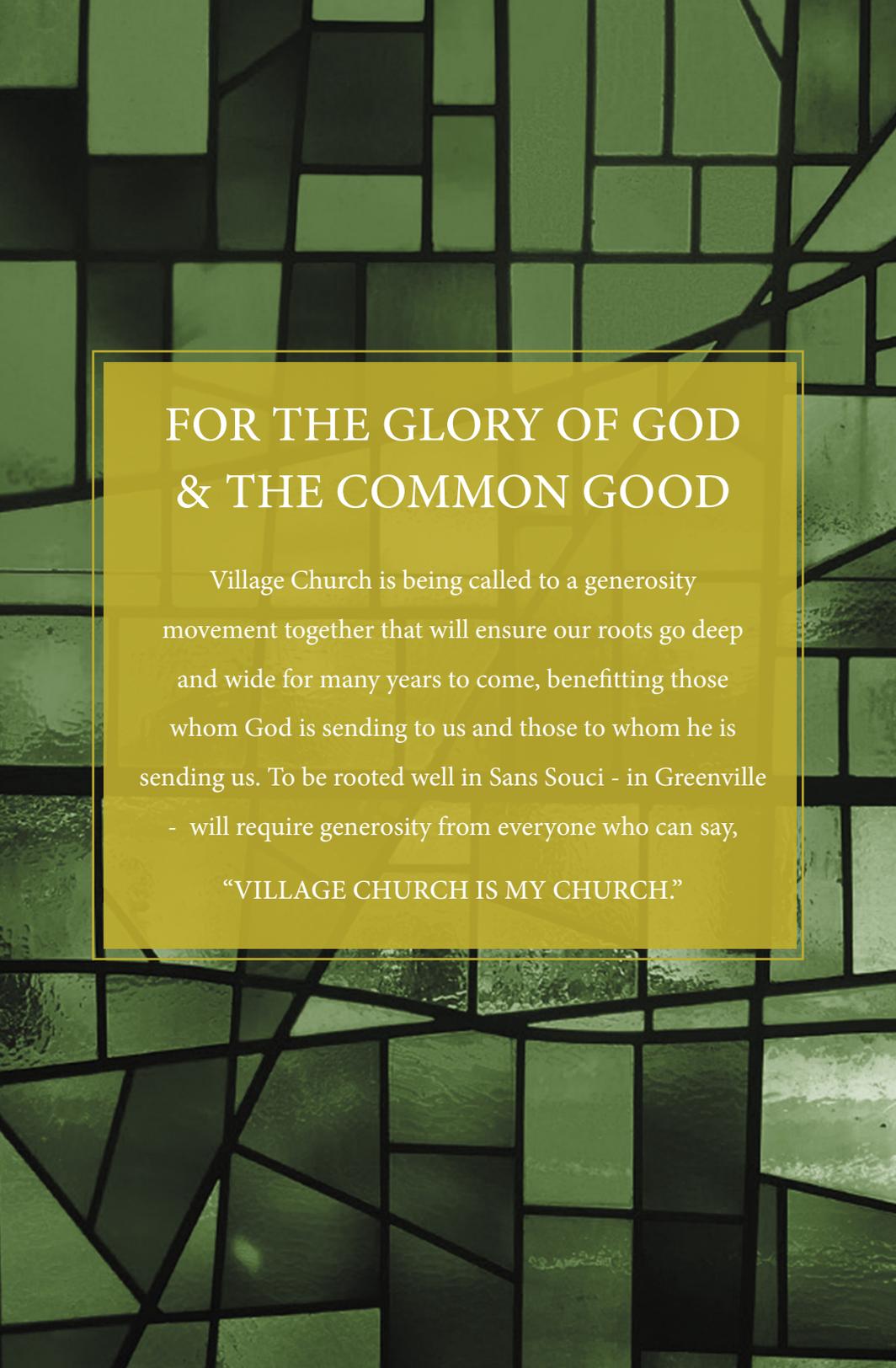
It's official: We're not a church plant anymore. We're seeking to be rooted. Our growth into this new season comes with lots of gratitude and a bit of relief, but also with new opportunities and responsibilities. Village Church is now a parish planted in the Sans Souci neighborhood of Greenville. Church planting was an arduous and prayerful journey. But the commitment required and blessing experienced in planting a church is no greater than what we can expect as we seek to be an established, Christ-centered, well-watered presence thriving in our new community.

A HOME FOR WORSHIP AND MISSION

Did you know the sanctuary we worship in has been here for nearly a century? As you look around the building, you can tell it has weathered many a strong storm - sometimes not well. Over the years, the congregation within her walls endured many of their own storms - spiritual, cultural and economic. As the textile industry moved overseas and the mills left the neighborhood, the congregation lost a significant connection to her former identity, and with it, the community. As one former trustee of the Bethel congregation put it, they were "heartbroken and stuck for a long, long time." Now, they've passed the torch to us. With the blessing and prayers of Bethel, the Lord has made it possible for this historic little block between Sizemore and Buff to continue on as the home of a community of worship and care: a Gospel outpost for the next generation.

We will have our own beautiful sanctuary, generous educational and children's space, and a spacious parsonage-turned-ministry-center on what amounts to a small city block.

But we will also have new neighbors -
our own neighborhood.

The background of the image is a green stained glass window with a black leaded glass pattern. A semi-transparent yellow rectangular box is centered on the page, containing white text.

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD & THE COMMON GOOD

Village Church is being called to a generosity movement together that will ensure our roots go deep and wide for many years to come, benefitting those whom God is sending to us and those to whom he is sending us. To be rooted well in Sans Souci - in Greenville - will require generosity from everyone who can say,

“VILLAGE CHURCH IS MY CHURCH.”

WHAT BEING “ROOTED” WILL MEAN

A HOME FOR WORSHIP

Along with the ongoing facility expenses already in our budget, we will purchase and renovate the property through several phases, restoring neglected spaces, recovering them for worship, childcare, education, hospitality and fellowship.

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLESHIP & CARE

Along with our current personnel and administration costs, we will add additional resources and staff for worship, community engagement, education / discipleship, and administration.

A TANGIBLE LOVE FOR SANS SOUCI

We already give generously to local (and global) mission and we already serve Sans Souci and the west side through Village Wrench. But we want to do more for our immediate neighborhood.

We want to:

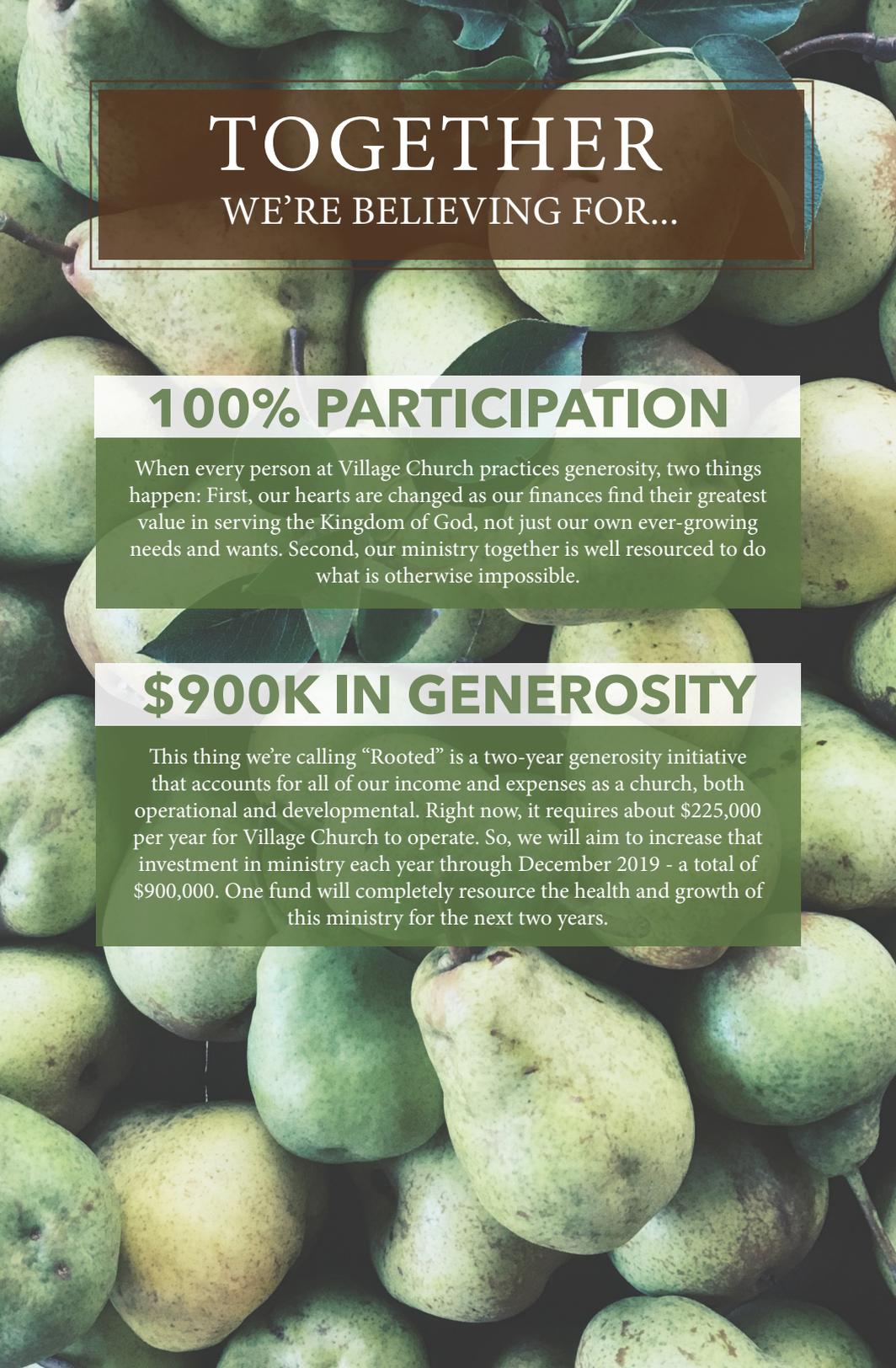
- a. Become a welcoming, trusted house of worship for residents of Sans Souci, whether or not they choose to worship with us.
- b. Answer Jesus's call to clothe, feed, shelter and encourage the poor and downcast, in participation with other benevolence ministries and through our own prayerful initiatives.
- c. Invest more in fruitful partnerships with local leaders, churches, schools and other strategic entities such as Soteria CDC, Mill Community Ministries, Project Host and more.



A glass bottle of olive oil with a cork stopper, surrounded by olives, with a text overlay. The bottle is the central focus, filled with golden olive oil. The cork is made of natural wood. In the foreground, several olives are scattered, some green and some dark purple. The background is dark and out of focus, with some green leaves visible. A semi-transparent yellow box with a thin black border is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing text.

Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the FRUIT that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a SACRIFICE acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:17-19



TOGETHER

WE'RE BELIEVING FOR...

100% PARTICIPATION

When every person at Village Church practices generosity, two things happen: First, our hearts are changed as our finances find their greatest value in serving the Kingdom of God, not just our own ever-growing needs and wants. Second, our ministry together is well resourced to do what is otherwise impossible.

\$900K IN GENEROSITY

This thing we're calling "Rooted" is a two-year generosity initiative that accounts for all of our income and expenses as a church, both operational and developmental. Right now, it requires about \$225,000 per year for Village Church to operate. So, we will aim to increase that investment in ministry each year through December 2019 - a total of \$900,000. One fund will completely resource the health and growth of this ministry for the next two years.

WHAT WILL BECOMING ROOTED REQUIRE OF US ALL?

PRAYER

Every man, woman and child is being asked to pray for the Lord to lead our hearts in generosity to this vision. The first goal of a purposeful call to generosity is transformed hearts, simply because we know Jesus taught regularly that money is a resource, not our source - a wonderful servant, but a terrible master.

DISCUSSION

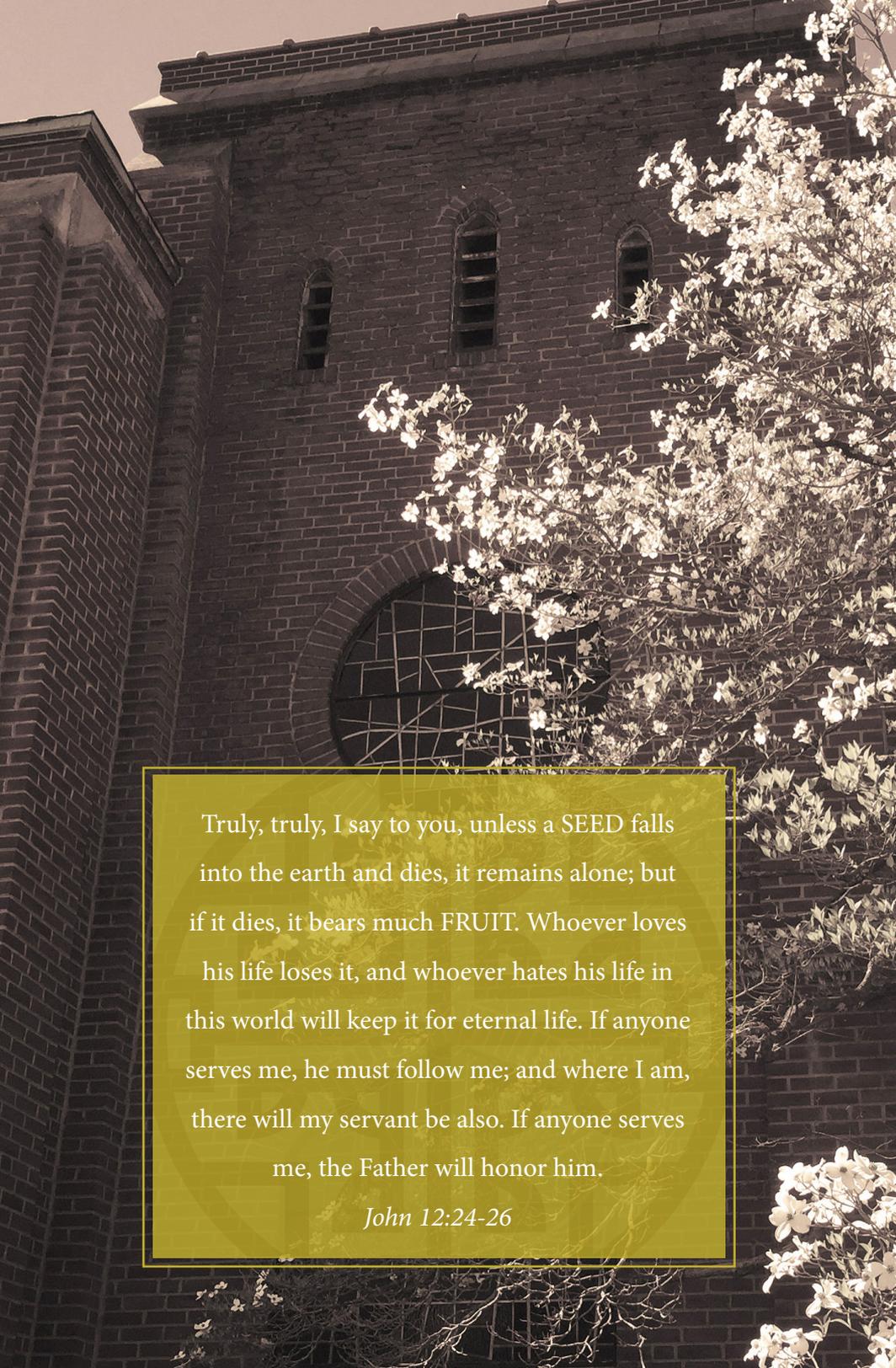
Talk with your family and friends about ways you could adjust your lifestyle and budget to grow in generosity as you invest in our becoming rooted in Sans Souci.

A TANGIBLE LOVE

In this final quarter of 2017, we're asking everyone in our church family to make an initial 12-month giving commitment that transforms our hearts as it transforms our church and advances the power of God's love for our church community and Sans Souci. A commitment card will be provided and we will bring them in offering together on **Sunday, November 19**.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is customary for Anglican churches to plan and budget based on the annual financial commitments of members and others who are part of the parish. This is a wise practice handed down to us that we are seeking to put in place as we move forward.



Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a SEED falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much FRUIT. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:24-26



BEARING FRUIT FOR THE KINGDOM IS COSTLY

It always has been. This calling to be generous is something we share with centuries of believers, and we're a church who takes our historic legacy seriously. It might require giving up some luxuries we're used to. It might require trusting before you understand the "why" completely. It might change your financial portfolio. It might even feel a bit scary given your present financial circumstances.

Whatever it *might* require, it will definitely require more trust and more faith. But we believe and teach that a growing trust with our resources is vital to following Jesus. It's vital to increasing in faith as we learn to offer more of our lives to him - as individuals and as part of a community he has gathered.

BEARING FRUIT FOR THE KINGDOM IS RADICAL.

"Radical" finds its root in, well, roots. (Think radish). Radical is about the fundamental nature of something. What it is all the way down. Without a doubt, money finds its way into our core. Jesus didn't mince words about money as a power that can control us. It can lead us to believe it is the root system upon which our whole lives depend. This is why Jesus was so regularly concerned about our relationship to it and why he leads us in the path of generosity as the path to thriving. When we tap into his generosity, who he is all the way down, it changes us.

THE DEPTHS OF OUR GENEROSITY

INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is one who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving and his vast generosity. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God, this vision and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

(2 Cor. 8:7-15)

God has been unfathomably generous to us all. That's a quality of character he extends through us to his Church and to his world. Scripture helps us identify 5 "depths" of generosity. Will you pray and ask the Lord to show you what depth he is leading you to as we make our commitments in the coming months?

CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver decides to give something and give it consistently to exercise the discipline of giving regularly. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the same consistency that shapes us in the Anglican tradition. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well, of course; it just requires more discipline. (*2 Cor. 9:6-8*)

INTENTIONAL GIVER

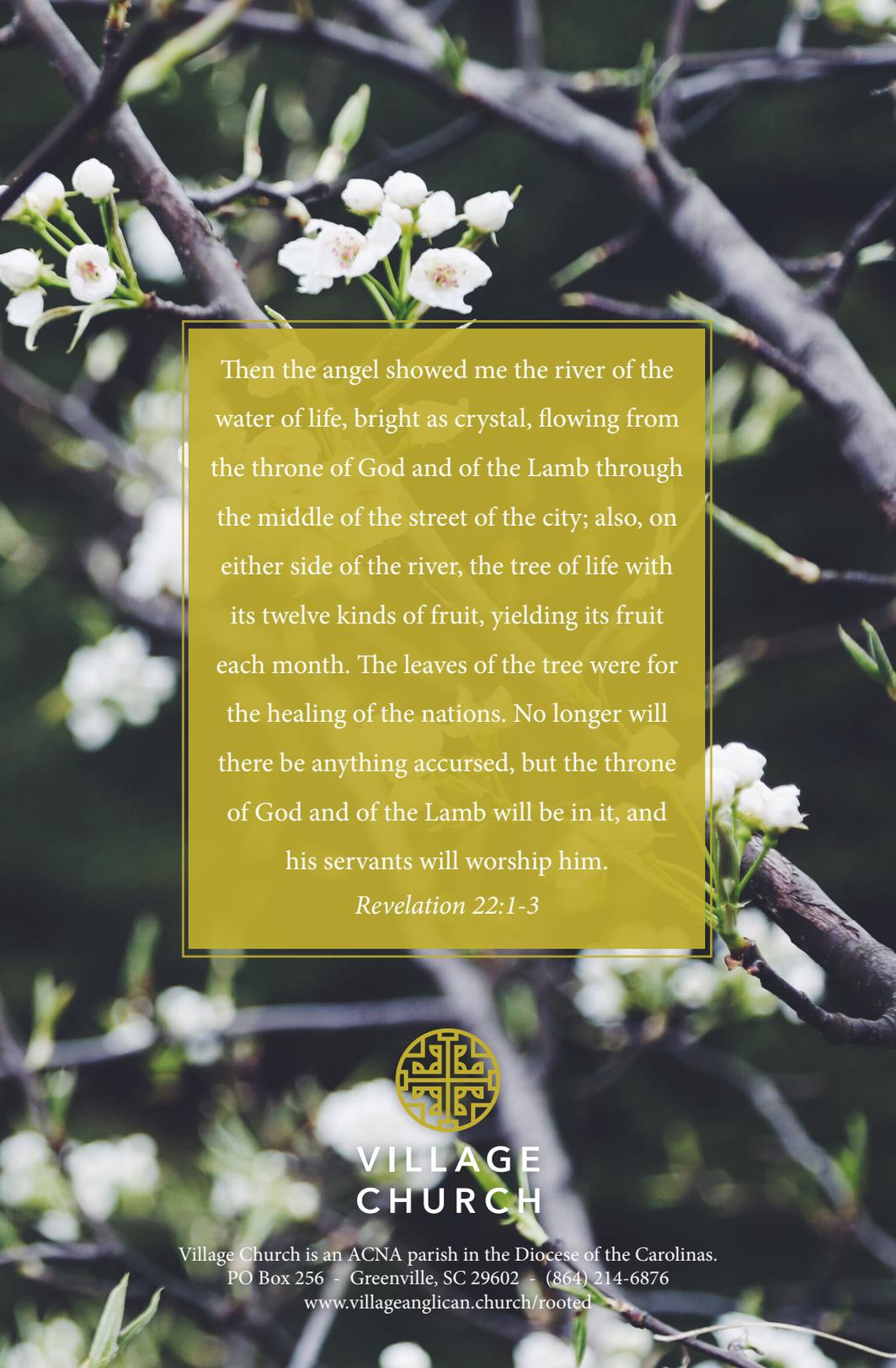
An Intentional Giver begins to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money. For example, this depth of giving asks the question, "Why am I giving more to AT&T than I am giving to God? Should I be giving to God more than I give for my car payment each month?" This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that redirects how they prioritize and spend their money. This may be the point of intentionality when someone begins to tithe, redirecting intentionally a certain amount or percentage they want to give to God. (*Luke 14:28-35*)

SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver, moved by the cross of Jesus and the example of the early Church, is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources. Nothing is off limits. A Surrendered Giver is challenged and changed through giving, which governs their spending and saving rather than their spending and saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver isn't concerned with what they ARE giving but more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why. They seek to honor God with 100% of what he has given them, whether direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of every existing resource they've been given - a home, vehicle and their time. (*Colossians 1:15-18, 22-23*)

LIFETIME GIVER

A Lifetime Giver is thinking about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much they choose to save, all in relation to their generosity capacity, having a lifetime goal as their first order of investment. Whereas a Surrendered Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes a commitment that governs purchases and investments in terms of this desire to resource the Kingdom of God above all else. (*1 Timothy 6:6-19*)



Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

Revelation 22:1-3



VILLAGE
CHURCH

Village Church is an ACNA parish in the Diocese of the Carolinas.
PO Box 256 - Greenville, SC 29602 - (864) 214-6876
www.villageanglican.church/rooted