



**Sue Van Oss**  
Director of Christian Formation



## Faith Story Spotlight November 2016

Milestone Modules

Child and Youth  
Adult

Milestone Moments  
for the Home

Gifting Stones

Taking Faith Home

*At Milestones Ministry we are privileged to hear many faith stories from congregations and individuals who are engaged in using Milestones Ministry resources. Each month, we highlight one ministry.*

*Please let us know if you have a story to share.*

**Meet Sue Van Oss**  
**Director of Christian Formation**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Duluth, MN**

### Glossary of Resources

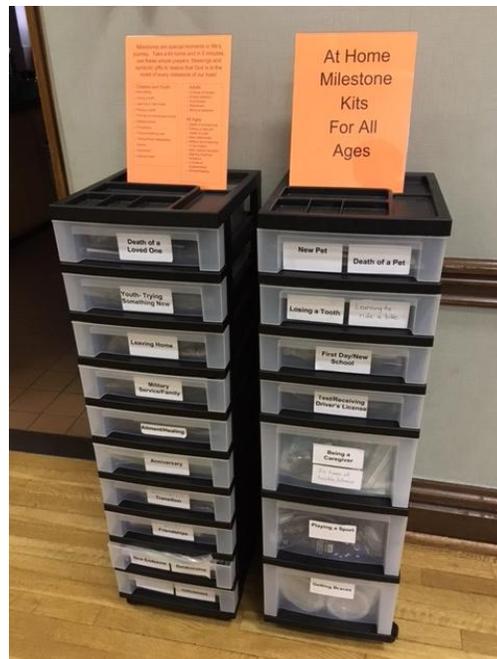
The resources at Milestones Ministry continue to grow.

Here is a brief description of each:

#### **Taking Faith Home:**

This is an annual resource that provides a different bulletin insert each week during the church year. This enables individuals and families to bring the Christian faith into the home and daily life by experiencing the Word of God through the Four Key Faith Practices that are also used in Milestones Ministry modules and moments. Using Taking Faith Home with Milestones will help strengthen a congregation's lifelong faith formation ministry. [Click here.](#)

**Milestone Modules:** Each module includes a Four Key Faith Practices



outline for three different settings: Cross+Generational, Home, and a Follow-Up. Also included are tips for leaders, an appendix with additional suggestions, and a Worship Blessing, and an appendix that includes ideas for outreach.

- **Child and Youth:** There are 18 that can be purchased individually or together in a manual. [Click here to see the titles.](#)
- **Adult :** There are 12 that can be purchased individually or together in a manual. [Click here to see the titles.](#)

**Milestone Moments for the Home:** There are 9 at this time and we add new ones regularly. These guides are a two-page design that can be used in a small group setting or the home. [Click here to see the titles.](#)

**Giftng Stones:** If you choose to use a stone as a visual reminder of the Milestone, a stone for gifting has been designed by our potter and artist, Dawn Deines-Christensen for each Milestone module. Other gifting suggestions are also given in each module appendix. [Click here for more information about the Gifting Stones.](#)

Consistency is a strength and our success lies in **The Four Key Faith Practices** listed below that are at the heart of everything we do:



**Sample Milestone Kits**

**Milestones Ministry Resources Used:**

Milestones Ministry Manuals and Website

**Are these resources used in the congregation, the home, both? Please explain.**

Both. We have been shifting our formation efforts in recent years to intergenerational ministry focused on faith practices in the home. Milestones Ministry fits perfectly into that model. I was inspired watching a [video of Kristen Baltrum](#) from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Longmont, CO sharing her Milestone Kits she has made and I contacted her for advice. The result is a set of 25 Milestone Kits that we have created and made available for all ages. We wanted to have kits for children, teens and adults that touched on special moments in their lives and brought God into those moments. First, we asked those age groups what those special moments are and then we narrowed it down to 25 Milestone Moments. Next we thought of a special gift we could offer to recognize that moment. Then we compiled prayers, blessings, scripture passages and conversation starters based on those Milestones. We created our own and used several resources for the prayers and blessings; acknowledging the sources on the half sheet of cardstock that was then inserted into a zip loc bag with the gift. Finally, we stored them in clear, marked drawers on rolling carts, so they could be moved into various areas of the church and called them "Milestone Kits."

**How did you get started with using Milestones Ministry Modules and Moments and what suggestions do you have for those who would like to get started ?:**

It's important when starting something like this to continually promote it so it is kept in the back of people's minds. Each week in the bulletin we highlight one of the Milestone Kits that is available; i.e. "Lost a tooth this week? Stop in the parish hall for our Milestone Kit to mark the occasion!" I also pay close attention to conversations I have or are shared with me and suggest a Milestone Kit if it pertains to the situation someone is going through. For example, if I hear that a person is now caring for their elderly parent, I might bring the Being a Caregiver Milestone Kit when I go to visit them. Or if I hear that a teen has just made a sports team, I'll show them the sport bracelets/necklaces we have as part of gifting (which are much more popular than I had ever thought!).

It's also very important to demonstrate how to celebrate the Milestone at church first, so people are then comfortable doing it in their homes. We unveiled the rolling carts (see picture above) of Milestone Kits at our first Wednesday night education hour in the fall.

With the wide variety of Kits, everyone was able to go over and find at least one Milestone that they would be celebrating soon, or had just reached and could now celebrate. Another suggestion: While still at church, have families gather together, open their Kits, and go through the five minute process of reading the prayer, the scripture, sharing the question or reflection, opening up the gift and then closing with a blessing. That way they feel like they can also do it at home.

Milestones are a simple, easy way for households of faith to realize that God is with them, in their homes, in their daily lives and in those Milestone Moments that they encounter along life's journey. The Manual and Milestone Moments that are available from [milestonesministry.org](http://milestonesministry.org) are a great place to start if you are just beginning this ministry!

## ***"Grow the church by growing people in faith."***

Visit our website: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org) and like us on [Facebook](#) page and join us for conversations on our [Facebook group page](#).

**Milestones Ministry,LLC Website - [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)**

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*The Milestones Ministry Mission is to provide congregations and households with resources and coaching services to nurture the Christian faith and reach out to others with the love of God in Christ.*

STAY CONNECTED

