

Valley Voice

The Grace of Repetitive Tasks

There are few things more time-absorbing than routine tasks – you know, things like dusting, washing clothes, the sort of work that never really seems to get done.

Actually, the word I wanted to use was “annoying,” and the thought grabbed me as I rolled the garbage can out to the road and contemplated loading the dishwasher once I got back inside.

But that’s just complaining, really. Think about it for a minute: what sustains us, other than repetitive tasks? Our heartbeat, our breathing – just to name a couple; all the things we have to do to stay alive. We do them thousands of times a day.

One of the great gifts of Christian monasticism is the cultivation of exactly the sort of tasks that get in the way of things more attractive to us, like watching TV. The thinking here is that emphasizing simple, routine, necessary tasks allows the mind to connect with and remain focused on God. The accomplishing of ordinary tasks is itself a spiritual discipline. In fact, in some orders of monastics (a term which covers both men and women) continual, literally never-ending prayer is cultivated, usually something very simple like the Jesus Prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner” - while scrubbing floors, baking bread, making wine, or digging ditches.

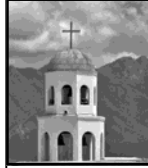
This practice of prayer in otherwise “empty” moments offers a great deal to people who are accustomed to continuous, multiple streams of information and stimuli: it offers a way to tune out ourselves and our world, and focus on God.

I don’t expect any of us to turn into spiritual monastics anytime soon; but I do invite you to reflect on the possibilities that all that “wasted” time may offer for your own connection with God. After all, God’s been waiting to hear from you; why not take advantage of the time he’s made available?



Larry

Rev. Lawrence R. DeLong, Pastor



30th Anniversary of Church Building Dedication

On Sunday, February 5, we will celebrate this milestone with Pastor Emeritus Joe Hawkins preaching at both services of worship. Following the 10:30 service the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of Valley Presbyterian Church will be held to receive the 2011 Annual Report to the Congregation and to approve the Pastors’ Terms of Call for 2012.

At approximately 11:45 AM there will be a Celebration Potluck to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of our building. Tickets have been distributed to give us an idea of how many will attend (for seating and beverage estimates). The Officers of the Church (the Ruling Elders and Deacons) will be bringing main dishes; rather than assigning specific menu items, we’re going to let the spirit move *you!* For you early service folks, you may want to return home and pick up your dishes, since storage space will be at a premium; second service people, just bring them along. Membership Outreach volunteers will be on hand to take your dishes as you enter the church.

(Please mark your name on the bottom of any dish or serving utensil that needs to be returned to you.)

Rev. Ellen Dawson – Hospital Visitation

Meet Ellen Dawson, our new Hospital Visitation Pastor. Ellen joined our staff in January. She’s already visited us in Sunday worship in her capacity at the U of A and preached at The Source last summer. She will be with us some Sunday soon so that you can get a chance to meet this special lady!



Rev. Ellen R. Dawson is the Presbyterian Campus Minister at the University of Arizona. Before coming to Tucson, Ellen served as the Interim Director of Program Ministries at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville, NC. She earned her Masters of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in May of 2009.

While in Pittsburgh Ellen worked as a Chaplaincy Intern at the UPMC Presbyterian/Montefiore Hospitals, earning her Clinical Pastoral Education credits.

Pastoral Care

EVER SHE SOUGHT THE BEST; EVER SHE FOUND IT...

A story I read in an article reflects such an attitude toward life. It was a Sunday afternoon in autumn in the deep South, and the author had taken a ride into the country with his children. Near sundown they happened upon an old and forgotten cemetery. The children played a game of finding the oldest gravestone, and he writes of himself: "The weathered stone beside me marked the resting place of a 'beloved wife' who died in 1865 'of a fever.' Beneath her name was a line of script, almost unreadable. I wondered which biblical phrase her grieving family might have chosen. But it was not a quotation: it was a statement. 'Ever she sought the best; ever she found it.'

Eight words. I began to wonder about her life. A century and a half ago this woman had been living through a hideous war. Perhaps it took her husband from her, perhaps her sons. Her country had been beaten, impoverished. She must have known humiliation, have tasted despair. Yet someone who knew her had written that she always looked for the best and always found it.

As we walked back to the car through the gray twilight, I could not get those words out of my mind. Ever she sought the best. 'What you look for in life,' they seemed to be saying, 'you will surely find.' But the direction in which you look is up to you. It is your choice."

And, so it is with those of us who follow the Master, Jesus. It is for us to 'keep our eyes on Jesus', and then it will most probably be said of us:

Ever she/he sought the best, and ever she/he found it!

Enjoy your journey with Jesus,



Rev. John Dunham, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Network of Caring at Work

By Jane Lovat for your NOC Leadership Team

One of the important functions of NOC is to make sure that all bereaved families who have a memorial service for their loved one at Valley Presbyterian Church can have a reception that affords family members the opportunity to greet guests and have some refreshments in a relaxed atmosphere.

Once the Area Leader from the neighborhood of the bereaved has been notified by the church office or by the family, a call will then be made to the Neighborhood Contacts and the ball starts rolling. Our success is due to the wonderful NOC volunteers who provide homemade cookies; work in the kitchen preparing the food and drink; set up tables and stay to clean up. Thank you... what you do is greatly appreciated!

The Network of Caring willingly and humbly accepts this opportunity to be of service to families of the bereaved. It is one of the things we do best!

Preparing for the Loss of a Loved One Thursday, February 23, 10 a.m. Desert Hills Lutheran Church

Green Valley resident Emilie Odde will present a seminar, *Navigating Through Stormy Seas: Preparing for the Loss of a Loved One*, on Thursday, February 23, 10:00 a.m.-Noon at Desert Hills Lutheran Church.

This seminar represents Emilie's personal journey of coping with the terminal illness of her husband and is interwoven with practical and useful information. Her presentation will cover medical, long term care, legal, organizational/financial, final arrangements, care giving/hospice and grief issues.

A panel of experts and resource materials will be available.

All Green Valley residents and friends are invited to this very informative seminar.

Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry has trained over 200 lay care givers since its inception at Valley Presbyterian Church in 1996. Today there are approximately 60 active Stephen Ministers at VPC, and in 2011 they spent more than 1750 hours with Care Receivers. We would love to introduce you to all of our Stephen Ministers! Over the coming months, we are going to highlight some of our Stephen Ministers. Many you probably already know because they are active in ministries throughout the church. Should you ever need a Stephen Minister, you will know the wonderful people waiting to serve you.

Sandy and John Vold trained together for Stephen Ministry in 2002. Both of their mothers had Stephen Minister care givers in each of their respective hometowns in Ohio and Wisconsin. In fact Sandy's sister has the same care giver her mother had 30 years ago! The commitment and care that they observed inspired them to want to share Jesus' love in the same way. John has had 6 care receivers over the 10 years and Sandy 8, including the 2 she serves now.

Both agree that being a Stephen Minister "has been the most rewarding thing I've ever done." Not that it is always easy. John states his most rewarding relationship was also probably the most difficult emotionally because it is hard to lose a good friend. Throughout his care receiver's illness, the gentleman encouraged John with his good attitude and faith. Truly we are often blessed more than we give.

Sandy's most memorable care receiver was a woman "that made me giggle all the time—a very funny lady." Her relationship with her daughter from another state was strained (on the daughter's side), but Sandy continues to minister to the daughter long after her mother's death because she calls every couple of months to "talk about Mom." God multiplies his healing touch even beyond the original care receiver!

Even with all the other church activities on their calendars, they have remained committed to their care receivers and if they had a chance to do it over again, Stephen Ministry would still be at the top of their list.



Stephen Ministers John and Sandy Vold who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in August!

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

February's continuing education programs for Stephen Ministry are focused on helping Stephen Ministers improve their skills in caregiving.

February 10: Barb Mengebier will discuss how to care by telephone at those times when either the care giver or care receiver is unable to visit or be visited.

February 24: The new trainee class will join active Stephen Ministers to learn more about sharing and giving support in the peer groups by viewing a video on in-depth reporting with confidentiality.



PROMOTED TO GLORY



December 21	Shirley Ahlstrom	
December 31	Dinghy Sharp	survived by H. Larry Sharp
January 6	Linnea Snook	
January 11	Bernice Percival	
January 17	Nelly Ermili	survived by Roger Ermili

Elder & Deacon Nominees

The Nominating Committee is beginning the process of preparing a slate of officers for election later this year. We are looking for men and women of faith and good character who are willing to serve our congregation and Jesus Christ with "intelligence, imagination, and love." The detailed qualifications for Elders and Deacons are found in the Book of Order, copies of which are available in the church office and Library.

Candidates for Elder or Deacon must be full (not affiliate) members of Valley Presbyterian Church and should be present in Green Valley most of the year. Officer terms are for three years. When nominated and elected this fall, those elected will attend a series of training sessions with the pastors before taking office in January, 2013.

If you know someone who would make a good candidate for Elder or Deacon, please contact either Jim Chervenka (625-1143), Chair of the Nominating Committee, or one of our pastors.

Thanks in advance for your prayerful consideration to serve Jesus if you are asked to be an officer at Valley Presbyterian Church.

Mark Your Calendars!

FAVORITE ANTHEMS CONCERTS



Monday, February 27 - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 28 - 2:00 PM

February is American Heart Month Heart Disease is Number 1 Cause of Death

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and is a major cause of disability. The most common heart disease in the United States is coronary heart disease, which often appears as a heart attack. In 2008, it was estimated that 770,000 Americans would have a new coronary attack, and about 430,000 would have a recurrent attack. About every 26 seconds, an American will have a coronary event, and about one every minute will die from one.

The chance of developing coronary heart disease can be reduced by taking steps to prevent and control factors that put people at greater risk. Additionally, knowing the signs and symptoms of heart attack are crucial to the most positive outcomes after having a heart attack. People who have survived a heart attack can also work to reduce their risk of another heart attack or a stroke in the future. For more information on heart disease and stroke, visit the Centers for Disease Control's Division for Heart and Stroke Prevention (www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/)

There are many different kinds of heart disease. Plaque buildup is often to blame. But there are other causes. Choices a person may make every day can lead to damage to artery walls. Do you smoke? Do you drink a lot of alcohol? Are you overweight? Do you spend the day sitting at a desk or in front of the television? Do you avoid exercise? Do you have diabetes or high blood pressure that is not under control? Are you under a lot of stress? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, making changes might help you prevent or delay heart disease. Things you cannot control, like your family history, might also increase your risk of heart disease.

Know Your Signs and Symptoms - Call 9-1-1 immediately at the onset of heart attack symptoms

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense; however, most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, crushing, or pain.
- Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.
- Shortness of breath. May occur with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs: These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you know might be having a heart attack, call 9-1-1 right away. Do not try to drive yourself; do not have someone else drive you to urgent care: call 9- 1- 1 because you need to take an ambulance to the hospital.

Resource: Dept. of Health & Human Services,

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention National Institute on Aging

Parish Nurse News

Join us here at Valley Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, February 4th 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** for *"Balance Your Life."* Learn about fall prevention, balancing finances, how to avoid scams and identity theft. Listen to health speakers and enjoy a demonstration of Tai Chi. Bring your medications with you for the U of A pharmacy students to review. Enjoy a free lunch. A Balanced Life is a Great Life! Call the church office to register (needed for lunch) 625-5023.

Our Winter Tai Chi classes - now at 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall are full. Patti Daugherty and her husband, Jerry, recently trained in China under the Daoist Grandmaster Jiang. Patti's instructions on Tai Chi are geared to seniors and provide a fluid mind-body experience with associated health benefits. Tai Chi has been recognized to improve balance, flexibility, and muscle strength. It is recognized by several organizations for an exercise program that is included in fall prevention. Fee: \$2.00 per class to instructor. Call Patti at 207-5749 for more information or to register to start when openings occur in these classes.

Blood pressure screening will be every fourth Sunday in the Sweet Family Room between services of worship.

Informational packets will be available for those who live alone, containing information regarding the church and community. Packets will be available at the Faith and Health Table once a month with the blood pressure screening clinic.

Alzheimer's Support and Education program continues on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, from 2 – 3:30 p.m. For more information or registration, contact Debra Anderson at the Alzheimer's Association at 520-322-6601.

The Healing Meals ministry is a soup and cracker meal that can be brought to those coming home from the hospital or other facilities, those ill, or those who may need a small meal.

Chair Exercise Class: Come and try them first! Chair exercise classes are held on Mondays and Fridays 10 -11 a.m. Fee to instructor is \$8 per month if attending once a week, and \$16 per month if attending twice a week. Contact Mia Cooper for further information or to register at 204- 5264.

Parkinson's support & exercise meets at VPC Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 – 10 a.m.

MEN'S PROSTATE WELLNESS GROUP TO FEATURE DR. MORAN

Friday, February 10 at 7:30 a.m. (Note this time change!)

This month the group will depart from its regular individual-sharing format to host last year's popular speaker, Dr. Michael Moran, MD, local urologist, surgeon and fellow of the Arizona Urological Institute. Dr. Moran will speak on new medicines for prostate cancer and take questions from the audience. He is an articulate, knowledgeable, and entertaining speaker.

The group meets at Desert Hills Lutheran Church, 2150 S Camino del Sol, in Fellowship Hall. Complimentary refreshments will be available. Come join us!

Contact: Dave Schmidt, 399-0154.

Peace and Justice

The Peace & Justice Resource Committee is starting to fly. It has been part of Valley Presbyterian's history and was reconstituted by the Session at the end of 2010.

The Shalom of God presented by Lance Barker and Eloise Fredrickson, several Children's programs primarily jump-started and energized by Gail Barker, and the publicizing of the SERRV products helping entrepreneurs in "Third World" countries are to its credit.

The purpose and goals of the Peace and Justice committee are constantly in dialogue even though its mission statement is in place.

PLEASE CONSIDER THESE TWO OPPORTUNITIES:

- Join the Peace and Justice committee that meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.
- Go to the Peacemakers Convocation at Stony Point, New York, this coming April. Scholarships for travel and also for the convocation are available upon request.

Please see one of the present committee members for more details: Eloise Fredrickson, chair/liaison to Session; Gail Barker, secretary; Lance Barker; Mary Shurigar; Mary Francis Horton, liaison to Session; Lee Ann Calhoun; Cara Bissell.

Remember to wear a welcoming smile and greet ALL the folks you meet at VPC!



The Man at the Sandpiper Hotel

I was annoyed. This was the second time in 2 days that the key card for my hotel room didn't work. I was at a Discipleship Conference for pastors in St. Petersburg, Florida, and I was tired. I uttered a big sigh as I turned around and walked back to the elevators.

As I headed back to the lobby, I had a few minutes to think about this. How was I going to react when I reached the lobby desk? I had several choices. I could act annoyed and demand to know why this kept happening. Or, I could laugh it off with the desk person.

When I arrived at the desk, I choose the middle ground – annoyed but not demanding. "My card doesn't work *again*," I said in my best annoyed voice. "This is the second time." The man took my card, checked it and said, "It is demagnetized."

"Why does this happen?" I whined. "I keep it away from my cell phone. In fact, I carry it in my pants pocket." He broke into a big smile and said, "I guess that is because you are so magnetic!"

I couldn't help it; I burst out laughing.

As I look back on my hotel stay, I had every comfort, and all my needs were met. I was inconvenienced for 5 minutes, and I chose to be annoyed. So, who was the light in this situation? Not me.

Every day we have choices on how we will react in a situation. You are a light, Jesus said. How will you represent me? I want to remember this man in the hotel lobby. Each time I find myself annoyed, inconvenienced, or whatever the issue is that day, I pray I can be like the man at the Sandpiper Hotel.

A light in the making,



Rev. Diane Christopher, Associate Pastor for Education & Outreach

USED BOOK EXCHANGE

Saturday, February 11, 10 a.m.- Noon, Fellowship Hall

BRING YOUR BOOKS AND TRADE FOR OTHERS

Please bring your books to the Church Library during the week of February 5 so that the books can be sorted prior to the event.

FICTION and NON-FICTION
(hardbacks and paperbacks)

RECORDED BOOKS

DVDs and VIDEOS

Sponsored by the VPC Library Committee

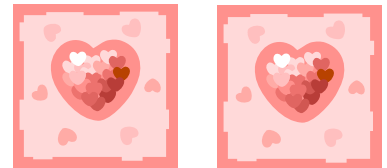
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Gathering: February 21, 11:30 a.m.

One of our most popular programs for the Gathering has been our Patio Sale Style Show. This year it takes place on February 21. Once again, Dian Welsh and Leona Aardema are coordinating this event. Women from our congregation are serving as models and will be showing off garments borrowed from the Patio Sale.

New this year is a boutique of items that you can buy – this gives you a head start on shopping the Patio Sale. You can also purchase any of the garments being modeled (unless the models grab them first!). Please join us on February 21 at 11:30 for lunch and the style show.

Reservations may be made in Fellowship Hall on February 12 or 19; the cost is still \$9.00.



Our Presby-gift for February is "Dollars for Hearts" which will benefit South African Orphans. It will be our privilege to have as our February Gathering guest Debbie Willoughby, the daughter of Marge and Phil Lotz. Debbie will give us an overview of what is happening in South Africa and what is most needed for the orphans. Our Valentine's theme will be "buy a heart for a child."

Donations can be made all month at the Women's Ministries table where you will see a heart display.



Take a closer look at these and other educational opportunities by visiting our VPC website and clicking on the EDUCATION button to the left of the Home Page.

Discover Grace: Learning the basics of the Christian Faith.

- + Nursery Care—every Sunday for children under 6, both services
- + For children aged 6+ at 10:30 service only — Activity bags for February 5 and classes on other Sundays

Grow in Grace: Developing deep faith relationship with God through Christ.

- + Adult Bible Study—*Feasting on the Word*, Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.
- + Men's Studies—Tuesday and Wednesday mornings
- + Valley Readers—Monday, February 27, at 1:30 p.m.
- + Women's Bible Study Circles, various dates and times
- + James: Mercy Triumphs — Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.
- + Are You Curious About . . .? — Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m.; repeated on Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.
- + Book Exchange — Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m.
- + Shrove Tuesday Carnival — Tuesday, February 21 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Live Gracefully: Living out one's faith as a follower of Jesus Christ.

- + Valley Writing Group—Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10:00 a.m. (subject: Sorrow)
- + Small Group Gatherings, various dates and times
- + Weavings — Friday, February 17 at 9:00 a.m.

The Curious Case of Being Curious

Are you curious about where Forrest Gump put the feather that floated down at the beginning of the movie bearing his name? It was in a book called *Curious George*. There seem to be so many things that arouse our curiosity. But what could be more intriguing than a class titled "Are you curious about God?"

Beginning in February, VPC Christian Education Committee will be offering an intriguing five-week series on ***Curiosity***. We will begin Monday, February 6, at 9:00 a.m. with the topic *Are You Curious About God?* and will repeat this class on Tuesday, February 7, at 3:00 p.m. so that we can offer this to people who might find scheduling conflicts with Monday morning. Bob Dahm will lead this session.

All of us have thought about the nature, attributes and even the name of God. Some have asked the question, "What are God's plans?" We encourage you to email questions or comments you would like addressed in advance to: rdahm@cox.net.

On the following Monday mornings and Tuesday afternoons we will offer :

- | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Feb. 13 & 14: | <i>Are You Curious About Jesus?</i> | Led by Caryl Thomas |
| Feb. 20 & 21: | <i>Are You Curious About the Holy Spirit?</i> | Led by Linda Freeman |
| Feb. 27 & 28: | <i>Are You Curious About Heaven and Hell?</i> | Led By Pastor Diane |
| Mar. 5 & 6: | <i>Are You Curious About Forgiveness?</i> | Led By Lance Barker |

Additional information will be in future Sunday Bulletins and at the Christian Education Kiosk.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

The Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study uses "Feasting on the Word" teaching materials from Westminster John Knox Press. This material was chosen because it follows the common lectionary and will more closely match the sermon topics each week. Bible passages to be studied will be varied but in February will focus on Mark, II Kings, and Genesis.

We welcome everyone whether first-time visitor or long-time member. Classes begin approximately 10 to 15 minutes after the close of the worship service and last for about 45 minutes. We are now meeting in Classroom 1. The leaders for February will be Diane Christopher, Bob Dahm, and Helen Phillips.

Join us to discuss further the sermon and its implications for our lives.

Membership

by Linda Jorn

Who doesn't love to eat? Well, I surely do and February 5th will be one of the highlights of the month for me. The VPC Annual Meeting will be great event - not just a boring meeting, but a POTLUCK! You can be certain that this food hound will be there, and I hope all of you will be, too. Where else can you have great food with a bunch of really great people? I plan to find a table full of folks I don't know very well and see if I can make some new friends.

Come out to the food festival we call our Annual Meeting and enjoy some very special fellowship along with some tasty potluck food. You'll be glad you did!

Friendship Kettle Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 19, 5 PM



Tom Patrick Trio

Dinner: A delicious meal of Pot Roast will be served promptly at 5:00 p.m..

Program: At 6:00 p.m. join us in the sanctuary to enjoy the Tom Patrick Trio playing a variety of swing, jazz and classic songs from the 50's. The band has been a popular musical group in Tucson since 1993.

Tickets: (\$11) will be on sale in the Narthex on February 5 and in Fellowship Hall on February 12 prior to and following the worship services.

Volunteers: The Kettle Dinner group is in need of volunteers to help with serving so if you are interested and can help, please sign up when you purchase your tickets.

Come to our 2nd Annual Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Carnival

An intergenerational event for ALL Tuesday, February 21

Pancake Supper: begins at 5:00 and runs to 6:15 p.m. -- \$5 each

Bourbon Street Activities: starting at 4:30 ending at 6:15 include:

- Mask Making
- Hat Making
- Stringing Beads
- Alleluia Banners
- Butterflies
- Noise Makeers
- Face Painting
- Stilts (for kids)
- Limbo
- Hula Hoops
- Slurpies



Parade— begins at 6:30 p.m.

lead by a Jazz Band beginning in Fellowship Hall, exiting outdoors and parading around the church and in worship

Worship—begins at 7:00 – begins in frivolity and ends in reverence, putting the ALLELUIA to bed until Easter

What is Shrove Tuesday anyway?

The day before the beginning of Lent (or Ash Wednesday) is known as Shrove Tuesday. To shrive someone, in old-fashioned English, is to hear his acknowledgement of his sins, to assure him of God's forgiveness, and to give him appropriate spiritual advice.

Shrove Tuesday is also called Fat Tuesday (or *Mardi*=Tuesday and *gras*=fat), because on that day a thrifty housewife used up the fats that she kept around for cooking, and that she will not be using during Lent. Since pancakes are a standard way of using up fat, the day is sometimes called Pancake Tuesday.

When Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God, he often describes an upside down world (the poor will be rich, the powerful will be brought low, etc.). Shrove Tuesday (or Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday or Carnival) are all about turning things on their head. This is an opportunity to be frivolous and light-hearted as an expression of the joy that we envision as part of God's kingdom...basically we are imagining, enacting, and celebrating a vision of the Kingdom of God.

Are you a stilt walker? ...a unicyclist? ...a magician? ...a clown? ...a jester? ...a juggler? ...a drum major/ette? ...a baton twirler? Come and share your talent during our Shrove Tuesday—Mardi Gras—Carnival event. Wear a costume. Wear a mask. Don a hat. Or make these things at church.

Tuesday, February 21, is the date. See you there!

The Church Mouse Report

As reported in last month's VV, we've discovered a church mouse at VPC, and she's a doozy. She's spent a great deal of time in one of our forgotten storage rooms, one that was filled with good, sound Presbyterian literature (like old Books of Order and Calvin's Commentaries). After making a fine nest for herself out of some of them, she took an interest in what all the words on her building material actually said, and she's really become quite a scholar! We've named her Idelette, after John Calvin's wife.

Idelette has agreed to write a column for the Voice, responding to your questions about all things Valley and Presbyterian. Here's her first question:

Dear Church Mouse (she didn't have a name yet last month!): **Why do we *ordain* all these people that lead the church, the elders, and the deacons, who always seem so busy? We already elected them. Signed, Confused.**



Idelette: Well, dear Confused, that's an excellent question! And it gets right to the heart of Presbyterian theology. Presbyterian comes from the Greek word, *presbyteros*, which literally means greybeard, or elder. John Calvin, as he read the history of the early Christian Church, became convinced that the first Christians elected their leaders, and that there were specific qualities found in them that at least in older societies associated with more, shall we say, *mature* people, the ones with the grey beards.

They were set aside by the community to make decisions for and about the community as leaders, and to care for the spiritual welfare of the people as teachers. This line of theology sees the Holy Spirit speaking more clearly in groups, so viewed the democratic process of election as being the sign of God's blessing on those elected, and that's also extended to the ministries of caring and service which are represented by deacons.

Nowadays, we call elders (both "teaching" – pastors – and "ruling" – what we used to call elders) and deacons to "ordered ministries", roles we believe are taught in Scripture and practiced by the early Church. They're elected by us, sure enough, but they have also been chosen by God for these roles – which, though they only serve three-year terms, are life-long titles.

Please address your questions to idelette@valleypres.net, drop them by the office, or leave them in the offering plate. She's promised not to use them for nesting material!



Outreach
Question

Do you act like God loves you?
Share your joy with others!

Outreach
Question

Men's Weekday Bible Studies

There are two church-sponsored men's groups which meet during the week that would be glad for you to join them.

The first group meets on Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m. This group meets for study, fellowship, and food at the Arizona Family Restaurant for one hour. They have just begun a study of the book *Fearless* by Max Lucado so as to have a study which focuses on the application of Scripture in their lives. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

The second group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. (except the second week of the month). This group meets at the church in Classroom 5 for one hour. The group is self-led but Larry Phillips (777-8027) is the facilitator. They are doing a study of Romans using as a guide the Romans Study by NavPress' Life Change Series.

The Weavings Group

"Hope opens something in the human heart. Like shutters slowly parting to admit a winter dawn, hope permits strands of light to make their way to us, even when we still stand in cold darkness; but hope also reveals a landscape beyond us into which we can live and move and have our being."

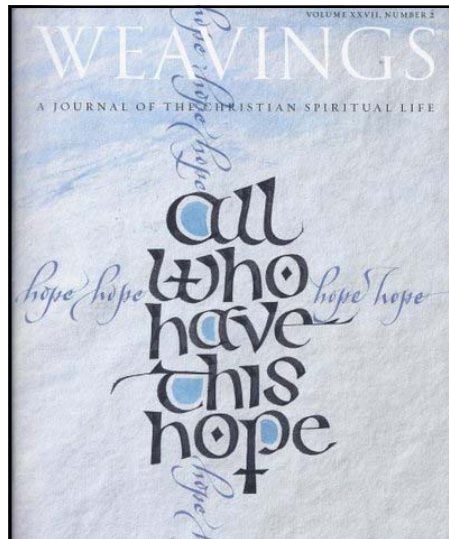
(Pamela Hawkins, Associate Pastor at Belmont United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee)

Our Weavings Group will meet on Friday, February 17, 9-11 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room.

Our first meeting of the New Year will use the WEAVINGS JOURNAL: **ALL WHO HAVE THIS HOPE**. If you do not have your own subscription, there are five copies of the journal in a rack in the Church Library for your use and then return to the library for others to use.

Please join us for wonder-filled spiritual discussions. If you have questions, please contact Gerry Appleton at 648-3691 or email her at dappleton@cox.net.

We hope to see you there.



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN WRITING GROUP

Valley Writing Group has met for several years. To us writing is spiritual practice and we welcome new members at any of our meetings. Each month we select a common topic. For February, the topic is **sorrow**.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1, 10:00-11:30 a.m. We would love to have you join us.

PCM . . . Presbyterian Campus Ministry

PCM is actively starting off the spring semester with new energy. In addition to the weekly "Dinner and Worship" services, we are now hosting a lunch every Wednesday noon at the main campus of Pima Community College and an evening bible study at the Chi Omega sorority house.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry is undergoing constant change at the direction of the Holy Spirit. New committee members, new ministries, new contacts with Grand Canyon Presbytery and exciting new short-term mission trips are in the offing during the coming semester. We ask for your continued support through prayer and financial donations.

Valley Presbyterian Church continues to support PCM in a vigorous way. We have ten couples signed up to provide meals at the Tuesday night "Dinner and Worship" service in the next several months. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, please contact Bruce Rader

Presbyterian Campus Ministry, located in the heart of the University of Arizona campus, is a mission outpost within the college setting of southern Arizona.

The Arizona Presbyterian Campus Ministry stands firm as a welcoming, relevant, and biblically-grounded community for students and young adults in Tucson.

If you would like to become a part of this ministry or donate to the financial support of PCM, please contact Bruce Rader, the VPC representative (393-3795).

Mission Moment

by Pam Irvin

A tour was organized by Mission Outreach to visit the Amado Community Food Bank, located 5 minutes South of Green Valley on the Frontage Road of I-19 near Arivaca Road.

We had a good turnout, with 19 people from Valley Presbyterian Church attending to see and hear about the operations at the food bank. It is a branch of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

Community Food Bank has been serving the communities of Amado, Arivaca, Elephant Head, Green Valley, Nogales, Rio Rico, Tubac and Tumacacori since 1988. The people in these areas are provided a monthly USDA food box by the food bank. In addition, there is a secondary assist given during the month that is dependent on food and monetary donations from the community.

The Green Valley-Sahuarita Community Food Bank and the Amado Community Food Bank are both branches of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, but they are operated separately.

The Southern Arizona Food Bank is responsible for five counties in Southern Arizona including Pima and Santa Cruz counties. This means that if a donation is made to the Green Valley-Sahuarita Food Bank, it must only go there and if a donation is made to the Amado Food Bank, it must be used there.

Beginning in March the monthly food collections taken at Valley Presbyterian Church will be split between these two food banks so that we may give support to both of them. This will include both monetary and food donations. They both need our support!

During the coming year Mission Outreach will be organizing more of these field trips so that you can become more familiar with other non-profit agencies that are supported by Valley Presbyterian Church.

New Member Class

Wed., Feb. 29, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Sat., March 3, 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Explore the wonderful reasons to join a church and what it means to be Presbyterian. You will discover all the different service opportunities this church as to offer. To register or ask questions, please call Pastor Diane at the church office (625-5023).

Welcome, New Members

Judy Aguayo (from Oroville Washington)
PO Box 76, Tumacacori 85640
398-3106—NOC A16-AMADO

Don & Ann Bont (from Grand Rapids, Michigan)
3512 S Placita del Bolero, GV 85622
231-652-6275—NOC A14-CVII

Cheryl Cooper (from Comox, British Columbia)
750 W Union Bell Drive, GV 85614
398-4608—NOC A18-LC

Barbara Dittmer (from Bondville, Vermont)
956 W Via de la Fonda, GV 85614
625-5446—NOC A11-TS

Elaine Dunbar (from Goleta, California)
PO Box 800, Amado 85645
398-2862—NOC A16-AMADO

George & Ellie Higginson (from Holland, Michigan)
999 W Placita Apartada, GV 85614
269-7716—NOC A6-PR

Lois Horton (from Sun City West, Arizona)
611 W Via Alamos, GV 85614
867-8836—NOC A4-DC

Bruce & Carmen Nylund (from Mukilteo, Washington)
2645 S Calle Sidonia, GV 85622
269-7732—NOC A10-DHIIA

Gayle Scott (from Tempe, Arizona)
5161 S Paseo Gemelos, GV 85622
648-6033—NOC A15-CRA

Glenn & Dianne Steinacker (from Kitchener, Ontario)
1442 W Camino Lucientes, GV 85622
398-6236—NOC A10-DHIIC

Willie Tackett (from Tucson, Arizona)
1033 S Horizonte Place, GV 85614
625-2329—NOC A7-CVB

Wally Watson (from Golden, Colorado)
450 S Camino Triunfante, GV 85614
303-902-5972—NOC A6-PHI

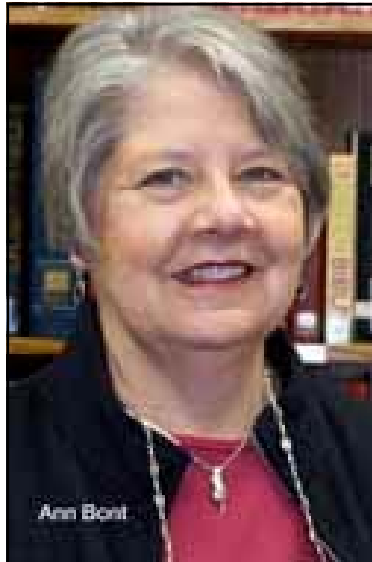
The members pictured on the following two pages attended the VPC New Member Class on January 11 and were accepted by the Session at a meeting held on January 14, 2012.

Photos by Georgia Puttock

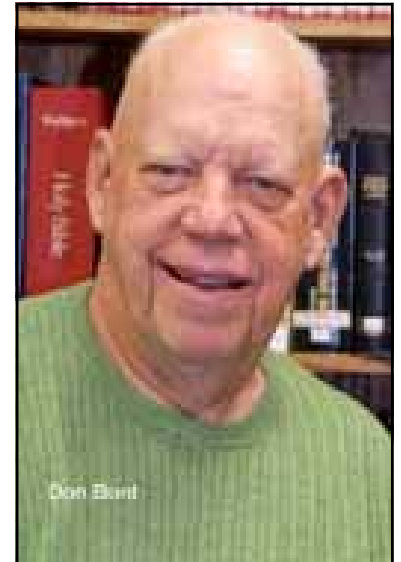
WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS



Judy Aguayo



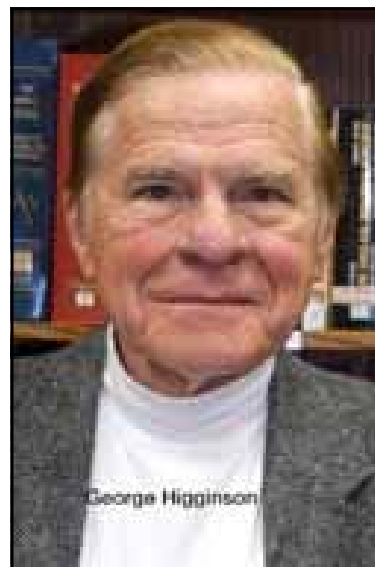
Ann Bont



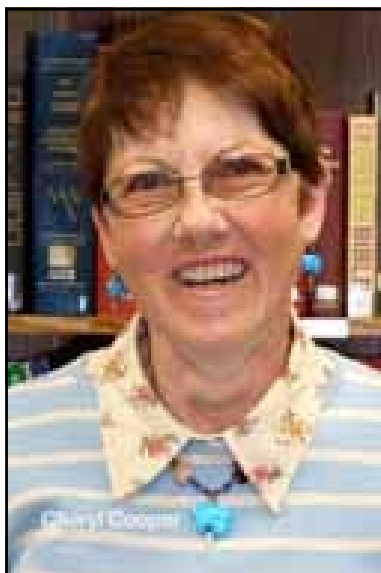
Don Bant



Elsie Higginson



George Higginson



Cheryl Cooper



Barbara Dittmer



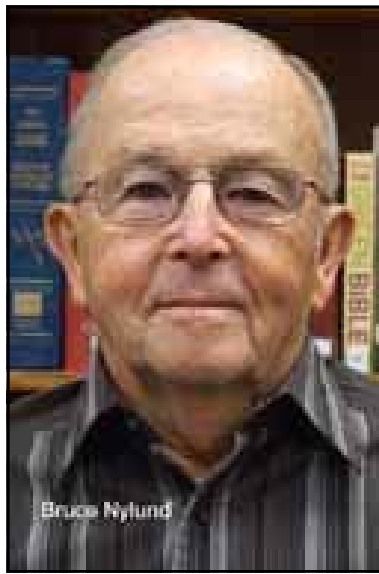
Elaine Dittmer



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS



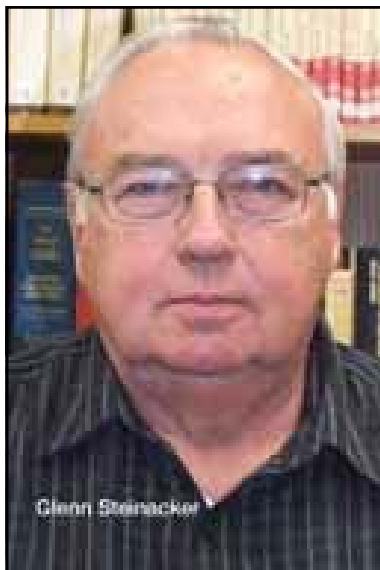
Lois Horton



Bruce Nylund



Carmen Nyberg



Glenn Steinacker



Glenn Steinacker



Gayle Scott



Wilma Lacker



Wally Watson



News of Note

by Kay Albrecht



Each month, one of my duties is to create an article for the Valley Voice. Some months the topics are more challenging than others, but February's article is always a given!! February is the month of the Favorite Anthems Concerts which will be performed this year on Monday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, February 28, at 2:00 p.m.

I find myself thinking back on the many anthems our choir has shared with the congregation since last year's concerts. Even though I am not known for my math skills, the way I figure it, our choir has sung more than 70 anthems since last March. In addition to the anthems for each of the 52 Sundays, the choir sang for Maundy Thursday, Easter, Christmas, and for several special services and memorials.

From this group of anthems, I like to choose some that will reflect each season of the church calendar. Then I try to do anthems that have not been recorded before, or at least not recently recorded. Also, I want to have an interesting mix, using many different composers and styles. For our 2012 concerts, only two of the 13 anthems have been on a previous CD. The choir sang all the others for the first time this year. Most of these anthems have been requested by you, the congregation.

Fred Fox on the organ and Sharane English on the piano will be featured on solo pieces. In addition, Fred Fox and Linda Freeman will sing a duet accompanied by Sharane. Our good friend, Gary Ray will once again record the concerts and then master a CD that will be for sale, hopefully before Easter.

Tickets for each concert will be available at a table in Fellowship Hall starting February 5 between services and every day in the church office. There is no charge for the tickets, but PLEASE take only those that you know will be used, and return to the office any that you find will not be needed. See you at the concert!

Outreach

by Linda Jorn

My mother always said people should do at least one good deed each day. She might be watching from up there, so I always try to do two good deeds just to be on the safe side. If they were giving away free hundred dollar bills at the bank, you would want me to tell you about it, wouldn't you?

Well, right here at Valley Presbyterian Church our pastors are giving away something more valuable than anything they have at the bank. They're giving us the opportunity to know God even better than we already do. Doesn't it seem like we could do that "good deed" thing and share this opportunity with a friend? God's love is so great, there's plenty for everybody. If each of us brought a friend to church, we would be giving them the opportunity to know God's love, too. That would please our friends and all of our mothers could be proud of us for our good deeds.

Recipient of VPC Scholarship Graduates

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Kim Hoback, a 2007 recipient of a VPC Scholarship, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Arizona this past December. Kim plans to continue her studies toward a Masters degree at Arizona State. We recently received the following note of thanks from Kim:

"I wanted to take this time to thank you for my (graduation) gift of \$25. I hope you will be pleased to know that this gift is going toward my graduate school application to ASU where I hope to start my Masters degree next fall. Your (scholarship) support over my undergraduate career has helped make my dreams possible.

With everlasting thanks, Kim Hoback"

The Scholarship Committee wishes to thank all members of Valley Presbyterian Church for their continued support of our scholarship program.

MUSIC MINISTRY SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

LINDA FREEMAN – Sanctuary Choir Secretary

I'm a Presbyterian today because of church music.

When we visited a Presbyterian church in Seattle, Washington, I was six and I told my mother that I wanted to return to that "red brick church on the hill" because of the neat songs we sang in Sunday School. Do you remember "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam?"



I first sang in the Cherub Choir and I remember wearing a great big black bow. Then I advanced to Caroler, then Chapel (where we sang in parts), and when I was in High School I got to sing in the grown-up group - the Sanctuary Choir.

Outside of church, I got a degree in Mathematics and worked in the field of employee benefits.

I retired after working in the Los Angeles area for 14 years and about 8 years ago I moved to Quail Creek and settled into this wonderful church family.

I am so very, very happy that God led me here!

Photos by Ken Bosma

KYLENE JOPLIN – Choir Librarian

I came to Green Valley in 1969 from the Chicago area. My Dad was Green Valley's first doctor. Prior to that I attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and worked as a Legal Secretary in Chicago.

Shortly after coming to Arizona, I bought the La Esquinita Coffee Shop (now known as Dona's Diner) and sold it in 1981 when I joined First Interstate Bank (now Wells Fargo) where I worked in operations and Employee Benefit Trust for 15 years.

I joined Valley Presbyterian Church in 2000 and became involved in the Stephen Ministry program, Pastoral Care, Network of Caring, Friendship Kettle, the Sanctuary Choir and the Bell Choir. I was asked to assume the duties of Choir Librarian and robe coordinator in



2001, which I affectionately refer to as my "warm fuzzy."

In my spare time I enjoy golf and fitness training with my husband, Jimmie, and league bowling and volunteering as a "Pet Pal" with the cats at The Animal League of Green Valley.

SHARLYN MATTHEWS – Director of the Valley Ringers

My background in music: Private piano study from age 4 with added orchestral instruction through university years on violin.

Education: Bachelor of Music from Oklahoma City University and Masters of Music from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Positions held include: Music Theory Instructor at Eastman School



of Music; Violinist and Choral Accompanist - Oklahoma Symphony; Organist in various churches in NY, OK, NM, Green Valley. String Orchestra Director - Albuquerque Schools.

Current music activities: Director of Handbell Ensembles at Valley Presbyterian and St. Francis Episcopal Churches. Member and performer in Green Valley Chamber Music Society and Tucson Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota - International Music Org.

Personal: Two daughters - one violinist, one flutist.

Leisure choices: reading, bird watching, and square dancing.

February Birthdays

1
Sherry Anderson
Florence Gilbert
Nancy Gray
Chuck Lindquist
Ron Row
Jean Snyder

2
Anne Ernsting
Dick Ernsting
Lois Rains
Joyce C. Thompson

3
Phil Conklin
Gene Hovee
David Rude

4
Hank Huber
Jo Hudson
Barb Olson
Cal Verduin



5
Ed Preston

6
Cathy Egender
Mary Ellen Lindquist
Judson Richardson
Charlotte Richardson

7
James Clarke
Marlene Farver
Carol Hendrick
Ruth Pearson

8
Betty Everett
Marge Lotz

Heather Macleod
Donna Page

9
April Bondy

10
Lew Denny
Gil LeClair
Jerry Lindgren
Bud Pember

11
Don Beal
James Brackey
Vern Feil
Darlene Herrick
Mary Ann McElhose
Gayle Scott

12
Jane Brownlee
Alice Cook
Diana Montgomery
Marie Pearson
Joyce Wasson

13
Dawn Corrigan
Raymond Ryder

14
John Pavlick

15
Eloise Fredrickson
Doran Hobbs
George Sumner

16
Valerie DeLong
Nancy Moses
Bobbie Richards
Bob Smith
Keith Steffy
Jerry Wilhems

17
Carl Amstrup
William Brackey

18
Judy Alkire
Marge Barnum
Joe Copeland
Erma Hinds
Mildred Norris
Tee Shultz

19
Molly Andrews

20
Marilyn Bell
Peg Fite
Enid Waldron



21
Cornelius Biemond
Leonard Murphy
Rich Pratt
Doris Wetzel

22
Connie Bacon
Jean Benson
Ramona Leland

23
Ingrid Benson
Carol Blumer
Ruth Halada

24
Lila Plattner
Anabel Reese

25
Connie Ackerman
Bill Isbell
Maybelle McClure
Kathie Rusk



26
Dottie Beaumont
Betty Clapp
Marian Fjare
Jane Gorman
Glenn Lundell

27
June Broviak
Janet Dorer

28
Rachel Cox
Robert Lindley

Food Banks in Need

The Community Food Bank is able to purchase **\$9.50** worth of food for every \$1 you donate. If you prefer to donate with other VPC members, please make your check payable to VPC (memo field: Food Bank), and the amount will be shown on your annual church giving statement.

Donating food items gives receivers more choices so you are encouraged to check the "Needs List" that is always posted on our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

In addition to staples (like peanut butter) and personal care items that are always needed, our community is asked to donate items such as: Breakfast items, frozen food-entrees, fruit/vegetables, crackers, sliced bread, cookies, snacks, jello, pudding, cake or muffin mixes.

VPC monthly donation day for the Green Valley Community Food Bank is the first Sunday of every month, but you may drop off food items directly at the Green Valley Food Bank at 250 East Continental Road, #101, Green Valley (M-F, 7 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) You can drop off at warehouse/ring bell.

You can also drop off food items the Amado Food Bank at 28720 S Nogales Hwy, Arivaca Junction (M-F, 7 a.m.—Noon).

Next monthly collection at VPC: Feb.5

Military Ministry

The 257th Engineering Team, consisting of 13 Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers, departed October 2011 to Camp Atterbury, IN, for about a month of training prior to departing for their real mission in the Horn of Africa. This is the unit's second deployment in the last six years in support of overseas contingency operations. The 257th Engineering Team's mission is to conduct well-drilling operations in support of U.S. humanitarian missions and the war on terrorism in the Horn of Africa at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti. These operations include drilling, maintaining, and future planning for local residential, agricultural and military water wells.

The unit's December 2011 Newsletter that was sent to our Military Ministry committee pictures activities of the troops with the following text:

"(We) Settled into some sort of routine shortly after Thanksgiving. Several of us have moved out of tents and into CLUs (Containerized Living Units) and then back into a tent. The well drilling team is now all together in one tent. Small teams conducted well recon trips to potential well sites in Djibouti and Ethiopia this month. We have also been trying to take advantage of the 'down time' to participate in MWR trips that are offered."

The unit's contact information is:

Mailing address:

[SFC Shane Banks](#) or [CPT Joseph Bzdok](#)

PSC 831 Box 0057

FPO AE 09363-0057



Unit Commander: Captain Joseph Bzdok. Email: joseph.bzdok@usafricom.mil

Unit's First Sergeant: SFC Shane Banks. Email: shane.banks@us.army.mil

Like the last unit we supported we need to send all correspondence to the main point of contact – for this unit it's SFC Banks or CPT Bzdok. The Military Ministry committee has been in communication with both people and they are excited about receiving letters and packages from our church members over the coming months.

For more information please call Reed Olson at 269-7829.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, February 18, at 8:00 a.m.

The Gideons, Terry Arnholt, Lt. Col. USAF (ret)

Gideons is an international evangelical Christian organization dedicated to distributing copies of the Bible in over 94 languages to 194 countries of the world. Terry has been a member of the Gideons for more than 20 years, and is now actively involved in Green Valley where he is also a member of Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Terry, who has a Ph.D. in education, was also director of the Business Division of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. Tickets (\$5) for the breakfast will be available in the Narthex on February 5 and in Fellowship Hall on February 12.

Note: Since 2/18 is Hazardous Waste Collection day at VPC, for safety reasons please be sure to use the Camino del Sol main parking lot entrance nearest the church fountain and plan to park in that area in spaces left vacant for your use. Enter the church at the fountain door. Thank you.



Valley Presbyterian Church

is a member of Presbytery de Cristo in
The Synod of the Southwest,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Staff

- Rev. Lawrence R. DeLong, Pastor
- Rev. John Dunham, Associate Pastor
for Pastoral Care
- Rev. Diane Christopher, Assoc. Pastor
for Education and Outreach
- Rev. Ellen Dawson, Hospital Visitation
Pastor
- Rev. Joe Hawkins, Pastor Emeritus

Mission Statement

*To know Christ and
make Him known
through word and deed.*

Join Us In Worship!
Traditional Worship Service
November 1—April 30
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
 Childcare Provided

The Source Worship Service
Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. in SLC
 Holy Communion Celebrated
 1st Saturday & 1st Sunday of the month

The Valley Voice newsletter is published the first day of each month for the members and friends of Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 S Camino del Sol, Green Valley AZ 85622.

Articles may be submitted for consideration to Georgia Puttock in the church office in writing before the 15th of the month via email, GPuttock@valleypres.net, US mail, or in person. It is helpful to have articles as email. Submitted articles may be edited for style and length.

PATIO SALE 2012 - Full Steam Ahead!

Our church-wide patio sale is swinging into high gear. All year we have been receiving, sorting, pricing and storing items for the big event coming next month. Everyone is welcome to help make this one of the best experiences ever.

When: The sale will be **March 15, 16 and 17.**

Why: The net proceeds from this sale provide a major portion of Valley's **Mission giving** for the year.

How YOU can help

* **Donate** good quality furniture, furnishings, autos, jewelry, appliances, small electric items and clothing to the church. If needed, you can call the church office (625-5023) and ask for our truck to pick up your items on a Friday morning.

* **Volunteer** to be a worker by contacting Jerry Ochs (399-1002, jochs8@cox.net) or Phil Lotz (399-2680, featherhorn540@hotmail.com) No experience is necessary and all skill levels are welcomed.



The next sorting and pricing will take place on Thursday and Friday, February 16 and 17.

Everyone interested in helping before, during, or after the sale should attend the **All-Volunteer meeting** on February 27 from 9:30 to about 11:00.

Let's keep the momentum going and make this one of the best Patio Sales EVER!

February Sermons—Traditional

- Feb. 5 Rev. Joe Hawkins, *Building Anniversary Celebration*
- Feb.12 Rev. Larry DeLong, "*Consequences of Grace*"
- Feb.19 Rev. John Dunham
- Feb. 26 Rev. Larry DeLong, "*Commencing to Begin*"

The Source—Contemporary

- Feb 4 Taize Worship: a simple worship of song, prayer, scripture, silence.
- Feb 11 Diane Christopher
"He Touched Me" (Mark 1:40-45)
- Feb 18 Diane Christopher
"Unveiling our Eyes" (Mark 9:2-9)
- Feb 25 Jan DeWitt
"The Power of Our Questions: How can we know God's will for us each day?"

Valley Presbyterian Church
2800 S Camino del Sol
Green Valley AZ 85622
(520) 625-5023

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Website: www.valleypresbyterian.net

It's Happening!
"The Source"
Saturdays - 4 p.m.
Please Join Us!

Deacon's Food Bank Score Card 1/1/12

Cash & Checks	\$145.00	Year To Date	\$145.00
Groceries	77 pounds	Year To Date	77 pounds

Next Deacon's Food Bank Collection: Feb. 5, 7:30 – 10:30 a.m.

SINGLES

Feb. 12: Joyce Harrison will present a program on her trip to Galapagos Islands. Lunch will be catered. Deadline for reservations will be Feb. 9 to Pat Frey (399-2911).

Feb. 26: We will carpool to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and have lunch on site. Meet at VPC in Fellowship Hall and leave at 11:30 a.m. Cost \$14.50; \$5 to driver. Benches are placed about every 50 feet and snakes are still hibernating at this time. Nice restaurants and gift shop.

All singles are welcome to join our group. For information: Call Pat Frey at 399-2911.

Driver Safety Class

Would you like to refresh your driving skills or renew an insurance discount?

The AARP Driver Safety Class is offered on Tuesday, March 6, starting at 12:30 p.m. Classes are now 4 hours long and training will be completed in one session. Class fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Seating is limited to 25 participants.

If you have any question about the class, call instructor Dale Kimes at 648-1647.

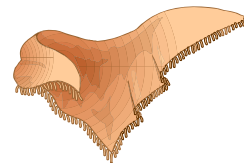
To register, please call the church office (625-5023).

Blood Platelet Collection at VPC: February 9

Blood platelets are a clotting agent used to treat adults and children suffering from serious medical issues. If you are eligible or have given platelets before and would like to donate again, call 917-2836 to schedule an appointment. (To determine if you are able to donate platelets, prescreen walk-ins will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Birth Announcement

Jason Lurkins (who grew up in this church) and his wife, Jessica, have a new baby girl. Raegan Danielle was born on November 27, in Flagstaff. Raegan's big sister is 3-year-old Ryleigh. Raegan and Ryleigh are granddaughters of members Mike and Cindy Lurkins. Congratulations!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are given to people in our congregation who are shut-ins as a reminder that we care about them. If you would like to knit or crochet a prayer shawl for this caring ministry... part of pastoral care, contact Leona Aardema 625-8586 (leona.aardema@gmail.com).

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22

Noon and 6:00 p.m.

Spiritual Life Center

Concert at VPC: On Friday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m., Tucson Chamber Artists, southern Arizona's premier professional chamber choir and orchestra, presents Johannes Brahms's beloved *Ein Deutches Requiem*. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door (students admitted free). For tickets: In Green Valley David Leege (399-9874) or www.TucsonChamberArtists.org.