Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship, teaches each new member class. But she always has two topics for me to cover during these classes: one is a tour of our building (there’s lots of interesting parts to it – and stories, too), and the other is the spiritual gift of generosity.

What I tell those new members is this -- in a nutshell: we pastors, generally, have failed our congregations by not identifying and helping them cultivate one of the greatest spiritual riches our faith offers us.

That treasure is the gift of giving, of generosity. In its myriad forms, I would argue that it is the solid ground on which our discipleship is built.

Generosity is, well, being generous. GIVING! The Bible, throughout its great breadth, identifies giving as the transfer of something of value from one to another. God gives us life. We give others our time. We help one another, giving of ourselves (or our talents). We remember each other in prayer, giving honor to each other in that intercession. We express our faith and witness to God.

In all this, we share what God has given to us freely and without condition: our lives, our means, and our redemption in Jesus Christ.

The crucial piece of this that pastors so often avoid is the giving of our financial resources. Trust me; we do not like to talk about money, especially because you don’t want to hear us talk about this very private subject.

But without this specific category of giving, sharing, and caring, VPC simply can’t do what it needs to do – that is to continue to meet our commitments to you and to the thousands of others to whom we minister in Christ’s name.

So, don’t just ask your checkbook or your financial advisor what you should return to God through Valley Presbyterian Church – go to God in prayer!

Blessings,

Rev. Lawrence R. DeLong, Pastor

**Speaking of worship...**

At its October 22 meeting, Session voted to continue the 9:30 a.m. Traditional Sunday worship. However, at 8:00 a.m. each Sunday beginning December 6, there will be a simple service of worship in the Spiritual Life Center, led by the pastor preaching that day. The 8:00 a.m. service will include communion (by intinction) every week, without choir and refreshments following the service.

Session carefully considered the many implications of this choice, as well as your opinions (the email poll, our best method for reaching our winter residents, came back with nearly 80% favoring a single service).

Why make this decision so early? Changing worship times affects many volunteers who must be recruited in advance, bus schedules from La Posada, Silver Springs, and other care centers. It also helps our staff prepare for the various changes that will inevitably turn up.

Session and your pastors hope that by providing this 8 a.m. alternative in addition to our main 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship (plus, The Source on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and the 9 a.m. services at La Posada on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month) we will not only meet your needs, but allow us to continue to gather together in worship as one family.
**Tucson Fellowship Festival**  
**Saturday, November 21, 11:00 a.m.**  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
7650 N Paseo del Norte, Tucson

With breaking hearts and feelings of helplessness, the world is watching the unfolding international refugee crisis. The Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship offers God’s love and hope to refugees starting the resettlement process in Tucson. You can make a difference in their lives by attending the **Tucson Fellowship Festival** and supporting this ministry.

You are invited to attend the **Festival**, a multi-faith event to benefit the Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship of Tucson. On Saturday, November 21, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. a fun Bazaar features music and dance, activities for young and old, food, and a silent auction.

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a program to present “The Journey of a Refugee,” highlighting stories of refugee families.

Adult admission to this event (including bazaar and program) will be $25 and advance tickets are required.

Please see Larry DeLong for more information and to purchase your ticket (youth up to age 16 free when accompanied by a paying adult).

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**Exploring Membership Class**  
**Thursday Afternoons: November 5 & 12, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Evening: November 18, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

Do you want to learn more about Valley Presbyterian Church? Are you wondering how you can be more involved? Perhaps you are thinking about becoming a member. The Exploring Membership Class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership.

In this class, you will 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 has to offer. You will meet the pastors and leaders, and many others who give their time and talents to serve Christ through Valley Pres.

To register or ask questions, please contact Diane Christopher at the church (625-5023). (Note: Our next Exploring Membership class will begin February 4, 2016.)
Another Lesson from Nature

From time to time, I share stories with you about the bald eagle cams I watch online. My favorite cam is in Ft. Myers, Florida, starring the bald eagle couple Ozzie and Harriet. A camera is installed near their nest and for the last three years, we who observe the cam watch over this beautiful pair.

It has been a tough year for Ozzie and Harriet. Last winter, one of their eaglets died at 4 weeks, and in March, Ozzie was hit by a train. He was found on the ground near the railroad tracks and brought to a wildlife rehab facility with a broken wing. Ozzie spent the next three months in rehab.

When Ozzie did not return those first few days, Harriet called out for him over and over again. As the days stretched out, observers agreed they never heard such mournful sounds coming from her.

However, Harriet had to pull herself together. She had an eaglet to raise, and other eagles were beginning to notice the absence of the male. They began to encroach on her territory, and one male in particular (we dubbed him “Frequent Visitor” or FV) made it his mission to woo Harriet.

How we wished we could communicate with Harriet and let her know that Ozzie was alive, doing well, and would return. But we didn’t know how to speak Eagle.

We all go through tough times like Harriet. Life changes in scary ways, and we worry and fear and wonder about the future. God communicates with us to say all is well, but often we do not listen or understand the language of God.

Thus, we turn to the language we do understand, the language of the written word containing the living words of God (Psalm 121):

“The Lord watches over you...
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.”

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to God who desires to communicate with us…and watches over us.

Thankful,

Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

Valley Writing Group

Wed., November 4, 10 a.m.

The following verse was written for our October theme: Miracles.

Rosebuds Midst Thorns

By cmmolski

Golden threads, silver needles
My tattered heart mend.
Carefully, fingers dance
Choreography a tapestry
Holes nestle in this soul
Cloister tears
Hope fears vanish
Faith fashions grace
To see between raindrops
As visions come to be.

Just before sunshine
Dawn creeps out meets morn
Miracles created
Thorn birds sing
Rosebuds midst thorns born.

Perfection blooms
Mysteries mingle
Moments wonder weave
Blossom from heart’s love
Destined from forever.

Intricate tapestry of life
God’s masterpiece sublime
Golden threads woven
For His kingdom
Till time tumbles
No more.

Valley Writing Group meets again on Wednesday, November 4, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room. The subject for November is “MUSIC.”

Knitters Needed... to make Baby blankets, shawls, hats, or mittens to go to our church missions. You provide the labor... we provide the yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks, and patterns if needed. Please contact Ruth Ann at 520-393-0118 or rapelmear@yahoo.com
**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study**

Every Sunday at 8:45 in Classroom 5

You are included!

I remember the first time I experienced a woman minister celebrating worship. I was about 8 and thought – “This isn’t right. A minister is supposed to be a man with a white beard and preach with a Scottish accent.” I had not been exposed to the concept that my beliefs were shaped by my personal experience. I’m better, now, at accepting the concept that different “truths” from my own may actually be valid. Although it sometimes can be a challenge!

During November this class will continue reading and discussing the start of the church as told in the Book of Acts. Imagine all of the new and different concepts Peter and Paul were sharing; shaking up the time-honored view that only the Jews were the “chosen people.” Now, preached Peter, all believers are chosen. There were many arguments, differences of opinion and even imprisonment.

Come and join in the discussion. Review how Ben Weir’s story of captivity in Viet Nam parallels Paul’s imprisonment in Rome. Connect with others in viewing the Bible as the Living Word.

All are welcome and a work book is provided.

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**Men’s Weekday Bible Studies**

Two church-sponsored men’s groups meeting during the week would be glad to have you to join them!

The first one meets on Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m. They are discussing the Warren Wiersbe books on Genesis. A group of six to twelve men meet at the Old Chicago Deli in the Green Valley Mall for one hour. The group meets for fellowship, food, and study and an all-around lively discussion. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

The second group, with about seven to twelve men attending each week, meets Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. This group meets at the church for one hour in classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (777-8027) but focuses on group discussion. They are studying the Gospel of John using the NavPress study guide. Join the group any time to participate in the discussion or just to listen. In either case, your presence will be welcomed. Lessons are self-contained, so feel free to join the group when you are able.

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**2015 Advent Devotionals**

We are still looking for more devotion writers for our 2015 Advent/Christmas Devotional Book.

If you are interested in writing for this popular booklet, pick a theme from peace, joy, hope, love.

Then contact Pastor Diane at 625-5023 or by email to dianechristopher@valleypres.net with your chosen theme.

As you write your devotion, here are the guidelines:

1. Pick a theme of love, joy, peace, or hope.
2. Create a title
3. Choose a short scripture passage (one or two verses)
4. Write a 300 word or less devotion
5. End with a one or two sentence prayer

**Deadline is November 13.**

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**SoulCollage® Workshops**

Praying with SoulCollage® Cards

Wednesday Mornings
Nov. 18 & Dec. 16
9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Classroom 1

Last year we met several times to make Soul Collage® cards. These cards present images that speak to our souls. These workshops suggest ways to use our cards in prayer. All who are interested are invited. While our focus will not be on making cards, you can “borrow” cards, and also learn how to make your own.

If you have questions, please contact facilitator Julie Miller by phone at 232-3558 or email her at juliettmiller@cox.net.
Mission Breakfast
Sat., Nov. 14, 8 a.m.
featuring
HANDS OF A FRIEND
(GENESIS HOUSE)

Mission Breakfast returns on Saturday, November 14, at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall featuring Patty O’Berry, the founder/executive of Hands of Friend.

The local Genesis House is run by Hands of a Friend and is partially funded by proceeds from DaZee’s consignment shops. This all-volunteer program serves as a “safe haven” for female victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Genesis House has provided over 54,000 bed units since its opening in 2007. Victims range in age from newborns to 87 years old, and may stay in shelters for up to 24 months.

Many additional services are provided by Hands of a Friend. Patti O’Berry will present a new program called “Save the Children.” Children are often-silent victims of parental domestic violence and it affects them their entire life. Included with the presentation will be annual statistics from fiscal year 2014 and their accomplishments here.

Hands of a Friend is a faith-based agency in Green Valley which accepts no County, State, or Federal funding and is supported in part by mission monies from VPC. Please join us on November 14 at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast at the nominal cost of $5. Tickets will be available in Fellowship Hall following worship service on Sundays, November 1 and 8.

Be prepared to be amazed and inspired at what God is doing through Hands of a Friend.

Valley Presbyterian Church would like to recognize the following outstanding staff and volunteers who have been with us for five years or more!

Anne Morrison 2009  Linda Freeman 2010  Diane Christopher 2010

Hats off to the VPC 2015 Hunger Walk Team

VPC’s twenty-member team raised $2,076.60 for our local food banks and brought home the prize for team with the most “Team Spirit.” We appreciate all the support we received from the congregation. (Missing from VPC Hunger Walk Team photo below are Peggy and Herman Klap.)
Crossroads Rescue Mission

For 15 years VPC members, their friends, and church staff* have been going to Nogales Crossroads Mission to prepare lunch on the second and third Wednesday of each month. Their daily lunch program provides a nourishing meal from donated food for the poor and homeless, as well as for abused women and children, in the city of Nogales and the surrounding areas. Each time about 100 persons are fed. Some have walked a great distance, and many would not have eaten that day without this meal provided by Crossroads and their volunteers.

Since 1995, Crossroads Rescue Mission in Nogales has helped thousands of people. They have distributed Bibles and shared the Gospel with anyone who was willing to listen. The Mission has provided meals, shelter for men, women, and children, and clothing where needed. They also have an effective drug abuse recovery program.

Thank you to the 34 people from our congregation who made the trip to Crossroads this past spring and summer. Some went more than once because they feel this mission outreach-program is a blessing to them and the people they serve.

The number of people on our volunteer list has become shorter for various reasons. Some faithful volunteers have moved and some have physical limitations that prevent them from participating now. (This outreach program does require volunteers to stand on their feet for the greater part of three hours.)

As we look ahead to 2016, we want to continue this ministry, but we need your help.

Do you have a Wednesday morning to spare? VPC volunteers go to the mission in groups of three or four on the second and third Wednesdays of every month to fix lunch. Volunteers do not need to be church members. Our volunteer list has always included winter visitors and friends of volunteers.

Would you consider becoming a volunteer or asking friends and neighbors to join you on a trip to Crossroads? Would you consider forming a team of 4 close friends to go once or twice this year to the Crossroads Nogales Mission?

Contact Janice Potter if you have questions or want more information (520-505-9944). If you wish to volunteer or know someone who might be interested in volunteering, you may also e-mail janicepottr@gmail.com.

*Photos below were taken Oct.14 when VPC staff made their annual visit to Crossroads to prepare lunch. They had fun and fellowship sharing this worthwhile task.

Minute for Mission

How proud we are of Casa Community Services, which is a mission that Valley Presbyterian Church has sponsored since its inception. This is a vital program in our community. When Casa heard that Del Coronado had suspended their food and transportation program for almost 100 elderly residents, Casa was there immediately to offer help. Bill McCreery and staff reached out to Del Coronado folks to provide a noon meal with free bus service. At this writing more than twenty people have responded, and they are also enjoying social time before their hot lunch and salad. Meals on Wheels has also assisted.

Casa Services also includes an adult day program, Los Niños preschool for children, and counseling when needed. VPC’s Mission Committee encourages you to join with other individual Valley members who continue to keep Casa supplied with their checkbooks and their prayers.

(If you would like to donate to this worthy organization directly, you may send a check payable to VPC and indicate “Casa Services” in the memo field.)

Casa Community Services lives the commandment Jesus gave to Peter, “feed my sheep.”
Stephen Ministry Book Review

On August 14, Ardith Nelson shared a book review with the Stephen Ministers that we felt was important to share with the whole church. The book is *When Crisis Strikes—What to Say, What to do, How to Help* by Allidah Poole Hicks and Bonnie Knutti.

Bonnie’s 16-year-old son lost his battle with cancer after fighting bone cancer and then leukemia. She felt a need to write a book to express her feelings about the love, compassion, and helpfulness of friends and acquaintances during her time of mourning and healing.

Allidah has also faced several crises in her family, and wanted to share the many small ways family and friends reached out to her that made all the difference on difficult days. The book begins by discussing the fears we have in knowing how to respond when someone is suffering and hurting. Will we say the right thing or make things worse? We hesitate to help because we know we cannot “fix” the problem. And sometimes we are afraid to face a situation that we may have to confront ourselves. So we do nothing.

But the truth is that reaching out in love can make a world of difference. The grieving person feels support and care even if we say little but are willing to listen. Making their burden a little lighter can come in the form of a note or call, a meal on a hectic day, willingness to run an errand when life is too full, etc. Shedding a tear is human and demonstrates compassion. And, trouble is not contagious.

This book is a reference guide for any crisis we encounter in our lives and the lives of our friends and family, in our ministry, and in our community. The book is divided into five parts and each part has several chapters. There is a quick reference guide at the beginning of each part and then each chapter. The Table of Contents will lead you to the Part and Chapter you need for a particular situation.

Part 1 gives suggestions for support when a crisis strikes. Part 2 addresses caring with true kindness (not offending) by suggesting what to say and what not to say. Part 3 discusses writing the right note and giving the perfect gift. Part 4 talks about planning a fundraiser or organizing a blood drive. And Part 5 has sample forms for keeping track of people who want to help, food preparation and delivery, and who to call during times of crisis.

There are many scenarios given and examples of ways to respond shared. There are many checklists to consider, such as what to include for an overnight stay, calling next of kin, caring for children and/or animals. It specifically says OVER AND OVER to ALWAYS consult with the family before jumping in and DOING anything. Make suggestions, but all decisions must be theirs.

This practical book is a welcome addition to our church library, and can be referenced for numerous crisis situations. It is not a book to sit and read, but to pursue in order to understand the breadth of topics addressed, and then refer to when a specific situation presents itself. It is also available as a paperback or Kindle book from Amazon.

Valley Readers

Monday, November 23, 1:30 p.m.

Our book selection for November is *THE CELLIST OF SARAJEVO* by Steven Galloway. This story was inspired by Vedran Smailovic, the cellist who, in 1992, played in a bombarded Sarajevo square for 22 days in memory of 22 people who were killed by a mortar attack while waiting in line to buy bread. This is a novel about four people trying to maintain a semblance of their humanity in the besieged city.

Kenan trudges across the city to collect water from the brewery for his family; Dragan is on his way to buy bread and meets an old friend who reminds him of life before the war; Arrow is a sniper fighting against the occupation and is charged with keeping the cellist alive; the cellist who in his simple act of performing, courageously brings a touch of life back to the citizens. A fifth character is the city of Sarajevo filled with rubble and destruction.

Our discussion leader will be Helen Phillips. We will meet in Classroom 5 at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 23. This novel is in the church library. If you have questions, please call Anne Morrison at 399-0762.
**Unstress the Stress**  
Thursday, November 19, 10 a.m.

Did you attend the Unstress the Stress class? If not, imagine Pastor Paul dressed in all black with a pink boa and pink and black wig, which happened to be all messed up. His first question was, “Do I look stressed?”

Well, most of us are not made up to look like we went through a wind tunnel and ended up with pink hair and feathers, however, we can look normal (or not) and we can internalize stress.

What can cause our stress? Examples are: moving, loss of loved ones, winter holidays, family gatherings, vacations, finances, divorce, illness, losing a job, caregiving.

Are your stresses positive or negative?

What do you look like? What are your symptoms?

Different people may feel stress in different ways. Some people experience mainly digestive symptoms, while others have headaches, sleeplessness, depressed mood, anger, and irritability. People under chronic stress (stress lasting a long time) are prone to more frequent and severe viral infections, such as the flu or colds, and vaccines, such as the flu shot, are less effective for them. Over time, constant stress or continued strain on your body from routine stress may lead to serious health problems, such as heart disease, high blood pressure, depression, anxiety disorder, gastrointestinal problems, and other illnesses.

A leading stress researcher at Ohio State University states: “Stress clearly promotes higher levels of inflammation, which is thought to contribute to many diseases of aging. Inflammation has been linked to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, arthritis, frailty, and functional decline.”

How do you reduce stress? As we found out at the first Unstress the Stress class, one way is humor. As a child we may laugh up to 400 – 500 times a day. Why do we as adults only laugh about 15 times a day?

When have you laughed last? How many times a day do you laugh? Watch Carol Burnett or Abbott and Costello, or say a joke or listen to a joke. Do you wonder why the funnies are still in the paper? Join us on November 19th at 10 a.m. for our next class of Unstress the Stress!

(Information from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health)

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**Faith & Health**

*By Chris Erickson, Parish Nurse*

**New Health Related Activities:** Don’t stress about missing the first class of Unstress The Stress! We will meet next on November 19 at 10 a.m. and continue once a month for three months. Instructors are Pastor Paul and Parish Nurse Chris Erickson.

**Blood pressure screenings:** You may have your blood pressure taken during the week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 to 11 a.m. with the Parish Nurse.

**Alzheimer’s Support & Education** at VPC: the Alzheimer’s support continues on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Sweet Family Room. For more information/register, contact the Alzheimer’s Association at 520-322-6601.

**Movement & Exercise:** prevent falls and stay balanced

Chair exercise classes are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10-11 a.m. Fee: For more information, contact instructor Mia Cooper at 204-5264.

Tai Chi for arthritis and fall prevention classes are on Mondays at 2:30 p.m. Fee: For more information, contact instructor Roger Ederle at 399-0166.

Parkinson’s exercise classes meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 a.m.

**Healing Soup Meal:** Please contact the church office or Chris Erickson, Parish Nurse, if you know of someone who may need this meal.

**New Health Related Activities:**

Watch for more information on Joy in the Desert and Wellness Wednesdays starting this winter.

If you have any comments or suggestions on health activities you would like at Valley Presbyterian, please contact the Parish Nurse at parishnurse@valleypres.net.

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**November Medical Minute**

Pumpkin is one of the food items recommended by dieticians for controlling cholesterol, weight reduction, and low calories.
**VPC Art Gallery**

During the month of November our Art Gallery will display the photography of soon-to-be-member Ted Smith.

**Ted Smith, Photographer**

I started to take an interest in photography when my older brother gave me an old camera of his, and I proceeded that day to take a picture of my 3-year-old son with my brother’s 4-year-old daughter at a grand piano. I didn’t realize until a couple weeks later after comments from a professional photographer that I had started my long journey on trying to “capture the essence of the moment.” Years later, while attending monthly quiet weekend retreats at a monastery to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to my heart and soul, I expanded my goal to not only “capture the essence of the moment” but also to allow the image to sharpen my “ears” to hear the Lord speaking to my soul and to put those words with the image.

I have spent much of my adult Christian life trying to portray the “life” of the various churches my wife and I have attended. I hope to sharpen my skills in this next stage of my life-long journey to express visually what I often can’t express verbally relating to my journey in faith.

**Calling VPC Artists:** If you are able to share your art with us during the fall and winter season, please call Georgia at the church office (625-5023) to let us know.

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**Friendship Kettle Dinner**

**Sunday, November 15, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

**Dinner:** Women's Ministries is preparing another delicious meal featuring tenderloin. Meal service will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m.

**Program:** At 6:00 p.m. singer Manny Herrera will entertain us in the sanctuary with songs chosen from the 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s as well as Latin and Mariachi songs.

**Tickets:** ($11) will be on sale in Fellowship Hall prior to and following the services on Sundays, November 1 and 8 with all proceeds going to Women's Ministries.

**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.

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**How Jesus Became God**

**Course Starts Friday, Nov. 6, 1:30 p.m.**

Beginning Friday, November 6, the Inquisitors will begin a 12-week study of How Jesus Became God. The early Christian claim that Jesus of Nazareth was God completely changed the course of Western civilization. In fact, without the Christian declaration of Jesus as God, Western history as we know it would have never happened.

If Jesus had not been declared God, his followers would have remained a sect within Judaism, and the massive conversion of Gentiles, the Roman adoption of Christianity, and the subsequent unfolding of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and modernity would never have taken place. For that reason, the question of how Jesus became God is one of the most significant historical questions of Western civilization.

Join us in this enthralling inquiry of How Jesus Became God, with Prof. Bart Ehrman, of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, lays bare the diverse elements that combined to produce both an astonishing true-life story and one of history’s most significant happenings. Join a renowned biblical scholar in grappling with this pivot point of Western civilization that has indelibly shaped our lives, our culture, our thought, and the world we know.

Class meets in Classroom 1 at 1:30 p.m. Fridays from Nov. 6 through Feb. 12. Please enter the church by the office door off the small back parking lot.

Leader: Grant Stitt, 396-3549.

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**True Concord Voices & Orchestra**

**Concert at VPC**

**November 21, 7:00 p.m.**

True Concord Voices & Orchestra (formerly Tucson Chamber Artists) presents *A Baroque Feast for the Eyes and Ears* on Saturday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. here in our Sanctuary. Works include Vivaldi’s *Magnificat*, Bach’s first harpsichord concerto, and Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* with Artifact Dance Project.

Tickets will be $30 and can be purchased at the door. Information: www.TrueConcord.org.
The Fourth Tuesday Movie Ministry at VPC continues with our year’s theme of Christian Movies on Tuesday, November 24, 1:30 p.m., Spiritual Life Center, showing: Joyeux Noel

The story in this movie is from December 1914 when an unofficial Christmas truce on the Western Front allows soldiers from opposing sides of the First World War to gain insight into each other’s way of life.

Come ... bring a friend...and enjoy free popcorn and cold drinks!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Yuliya Shubina was just nine years old when she received her shoebox at an orphanage in Central Asia. She said, “When I lifted the lid on my purple plastic shoebox, the first thing I saw was a stuffed dog. I was filled with exuberant joy! Even though I had toys growing up, the dog was an item you couldn’t find in my country. It was really soft and had puppy eyes. It was my new best friend, my newfound treasure.”

Fourteen years later, Yuliya still has that dog and treasures it more than ever. That gift, along with a note from the American girl who packed her shoebox, showed Yuliya how much God loves her. As Yuliya learned more about the Gospel, she gave her heart to Jesus. “The shoebox was a seed,” Yuliya said. “That’s how the Lord works. He patiently knocks on the door of our heart and waits until we open the door. Sometimes you see the fruit right away, and other times it takes years for the seed to grow.”

We have the opportunity to plant that seed by picking up a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child – a shoebox that will touch the heart of a child somewhere in the world, bringing joy and the love of Jesus.

I hope you will pick up one or more shoeboxes on November 1st or 8th in Fellowship Hall following our church service. You can return them on November 8th or 15th – please note that November 15th is the final day to return your shoeboxes. For further information, contact Pam Campbell at 625-2911.

WEAVINGS
Friday, November 20, 9:00 a.m.

The subject of the November-January issue of WEAVINGS is “The Self as Precious.” If you don’t receive your own quarterly copy, issues may usually be borrowed from the church library.

If you would like to discuss the current issue of WEAVINGS with group leader Patty Smith on Friday, November 20, please call her at 399-3084.
MOVING!

Why do we move so often when none of us like it? I moved into my new home recently, and I said for the umpteenth time, “I’ll never move again!” HA! My sister reminded me I have moved fourteen times since 1977. That doesn’t include the six times my family moved when I was between the ages of two and eleven. Surely, that ought to be enough. I’ve heard from several people here that, on average, people in Green Valley move two to three times.

I texted my son when I was moving (he had moved two weeks earlier). His response was, “Moving stinks! The peace of Christ be with you.” What do I say to that text? “Thanks, son.” Then, someone I was visiting with in Fellowship Hall after worship said, “Moving is hell.” It is! So why do we move so much in this mobile society of ours? Perhaps we love the freedom to choose new destinations.

Most of us have moved because a job took us to another city. Or we moved because we retired and wanted to live in a different geographical zone with nicer climate. Some of us have moved in order to care for a loved one. My grandparents moved to Tucson in 1939 because of my grandmother’s health. Were any of your moves any easier because of the specific reason you moved? Probably not.

I have been thinking about all of my moves and the difficulties each move entailed. As a child I had to make new friends, learn my way around the neighborhood, remember a new address and phone number, go to a new school, and meet a new doctor and dentist. My parents always said to us kids, “This is easier on you than it is on us.” Adults also have to find new doctors, dentists, get a new driver’s license and license plates, make new friends, and on and on goes the list.

I suppose how you view your moving depends on who is moving with you. I’ve moved with my family of origin (Mom, Dad and siblings); my nuclear family (wife and child); and alone two times since I moved from Illinois. I don’t remember any one of them being easier than another. They have all been difficult. However, during this last move I thought about how God has been with me every time I moved. I have felt God’s presence with me during every move.

The Ark of the Covenant went with the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness, moving from Egypt to the Promised Land. God’s presence never left the Israelites. God’s presence has not left you or me, no matter how many times we have moved. No matter where we went you and I were never alone. Thanks be to God!

The grace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Paul Phillips, Pastor of Care

VPC Facility Update

We have recently been blessed by those that have gone before us here at Valley Presbyterian Church. Due to (1) a recent bequest that was partially designated by Session for building improvements and (2) the earnings from the Foundation for this last year, we are all enjoying a new floor in the Fellowship/Charter Hall area, remodeled bathrooms in the handicap hallway and, in addition, over the next several weeks we will see our beautiful building get a fresh coat of paint and also some needed work on the parking lots.

Some of these projects were way overdue! With budgeting and the fall generosity campaign coming up, it is important to note that we have not had to use operational funds for any of the above projects!

We thank those that have set aside gifts in previous years to keep VPC up to date and in good shape for generations to come.

Join our next Stephen Ministry Training Class!

Qualifications: a caring person who is willing to learn, grow, and serve; able to maintain confidentiality; willing to commit to training, ministry, and supervision.

When: Fridays, January 8 through March 25, 2016, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Pray about where God is calling you to care!

Contact: Patti Bright, (305-3275), for an application and to schedule an interview – or visit the Stephen Ministry table in Fellowship Hall November 1 or 8. Sign-up deadline is December 1.
Many of you already know that I recently taught a computer class at the church. Two of the classes focused on tablets and smartphones (one for Apple products and one for non-Apple products), and during those classes we discussed the apps everyone enjoys using. I’d like to pass along information about some of the apps we discussed since they are useful to so many people.

**Fitness Apps** – Map My Run, My Fitness Pal, Runtastic, My Tracks, etc. These apps offer things like food journals (complete with a very comprehensive calorie database), calorie and nutrient tracker, water tracker, exercise tracking, and even medication tracker/reminder. They can record your walk/run/ride and tell you your pace, distance, elevation, and even show your route on a map. Some include motivators and alarms to remind you to get moving.

**Travel Apps** – Gas Buddy, Maps, Yelp, Waze, Tripadvisor, iExit, Roadtrippers, Expedia, Flightaware, etc. These apps will do things like give you directions, tell you what prices are at all gas stations nearby, tell you what amenities are offered at upcoming exits, warn you about traffic congestion, provide reviews of restaurants, track flights (with real-time mapping), show street views of a property, and much more. There are also tons of hotel apps for finding a hotel along your route. Some are especially good if you’re traveling, but others are useful just about every day.

**Weather Apps** – Sunrise Sunset, Deluxe Moon, My radar, Google Sky Map, AccuWeather, etc. Find out when the sun rises or sets, or what phase the moon is in. See an actual map of the stars in the sky in the direction your phone is aimed, including the names of stars. Watch the storm cells move round you and, of course, get weather forecasts, hour by hour or for several days at a time.

**Family Apps** – Life 360, Cozi, Find My Friends, etc. These apps allow you to see where people are at any given time. The people have to join and/or agree to be seen, but once they have done that you can look up their location. This is great if you have a child (or grandchild) who isn’t home when you expected them, or if you want to make sure they are where they said they’d be. It’s even nice if you want to stop in for a family visit but aren’t sure if they are at home or work. This type of app has given me piece of mind on many occasions.

**Utilities** – Calculator, Unit Converter, battery savers, Find My Phone, flashlight, and many more. These can help extend the battery life of your phone, find your phone when lost, lock or even wipe your phone if lost, and give you quick access to useful tools like the calculator. I can’t tell you how often I’ve used the flashlight on my phone to avoid snakes on a dark driveway, or exit the church after turning the lights out in the evening.

**Games** – Solitaire, Minesweeper, Mahjongg, and about a million others. These can be nice for keeping the mind sharp!

Experiment, try some out, and if you don’t like them you can always remove them. I managed fine without apps for a lot of years, but now that I have some of them they sure make life easier.

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**Did you know?**

We have 10 kids regularly attending our Youth and Children’s Ministries: Four Communicants, four in our Sunday School, and two who regularly attend our nursery on Sunday morning. Take a moment to offer a special prayer in support of these young people and their families. Who says there are only old people in Green Valley?
The Women’s Ministries November Gathering luncheon will be held Tuesday, November 10, at 11:30 a.m. (Please note that our gathering is earlier in the month due to Thanksgiving holiday.)

Gathering Luncheon tickets ($10) will be available at the Women’s Ministries table after church service on Sundays, November 1 and 8. Our program will feature highlights of the Church-wide Gathering held this past June 18-21 in Minneapolis, MN, as experienced by VPC participants Martha Ashton, Pastor Diane Christopher, Kay Davison, Jo Gibson, Carolyn Hill, and Gail Wight. Each will choose a workshop or event that touched them personally to share with us.

One of the keynote speakers was Judy Record Fletcher, author of our current Bible study, “Come to the Waters.” She spoke about the worldwide water issues and applauded the involvement of Presbyterian Women. The Church-wide Gathering drew more than 1,700 attendees, not only from the USA but also numerous countries from the Caribbean, Europe, South America, and Africa. It was truly an International Gathering of Christian women! In addition to the $6,000 raised through the silent auction at the Minneapolis Gathering, Presbyterian Women gave a total of nearly $75,000 to four other projects...the Cents-Ability Hunger Program, the Gift Card Offering, the Justice and Peace March, and the Gathering general offering.

In lieu of a Presby Gift in November, we will collect donations for the Thank Offering. Presbyterian Women have been making grants to creative ministries through the annual Thank Offering since 1888 when Eliza Clocely of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society as a thank offering to her Lord. Last year $710,000 was granted to 32 projects. Our WM here at VPC donated over $620 to that sum! The Thank Offering goal for 2015 is $900,000, and our challenge is to exceed our contribution last year.

Women’s Ministries chefs will be cooking for the VPC Friendship Kettle Dinner on Sunday, November 15, and proceeds of that event will benefit our group. The menu will be “A Graceland Special” including: Love Me Tenderloin, All Shook Up Rice Pilaf, Teddy Bear Salad, Jailhouse Rock Green Beans, and Stuck on You Apple Cake. Tickets ($11) for Kettle Dinner can be purchased from the Kettle Dinner Committee in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, November 1 and 8.

In other WM news, Martha Ashton was selected to represent the Synod of the Southwest on the 2016 USA PW Mission Experience to the San Francisco Bay Area next September. The theme "Out of the Darkness Into the Light" will focus on issues of human trafficking and immigration in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. She will be sharing her experiences next year as she develops a program to illustrate the plight of people caught in compromising situations.

**Sanctuary Flowers**

If you would like to reserve flowers (one or both arrangements) in your name for any future Service of Worship, please call the church office (625-5023) or sign up at our Information Table on Sunday mornings. Starting in January 2016, the cost is $34 for each arrangement.

If you have a specific date in mind, please give us ample notice as flowers are always reserved on a first-come first-served basis.
News of Note

By Kay Albrecht

Several months ago, Wayne Brumm, a baritone in our Sanctuary Choir, shared with me an article from the newsletter of his former church in Michigan. The article presented an amazing variety of benefits that people experience through music. The following are some excerpts:

“Studies have found that group singing enhances feelings of trust and bonding, while further studies have found that singing decreases feelings of depression and loneliness. Other studies have linked singing with reduced stress and pain, lower heart rate, and decreased blood pressure. Singing also enhances immunity and well-being. Other direct benefits of singing in a choir or playing an instrument can include improved lung capacity, higher energy, better posture, and enhanced feelings of relaxation, mood and confidence.

According to a recent article in Time Magazine, when you sing, or play an instrument, musical vibrations move through you, altering your physical and emotional landscape. Group singing can be the most exhilarating and transformative of all. It takes something incredibly intimate, a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people and it comes back as something even more thrilling - harmony! Even if you’re not a very gifted musician, you still reap the full benefits of participation in a musical ensemble, (or a singing congregation)!

The Bible is filled with examples of singing or playing a musical instrument as an expression of worship to God. Music is a gift from God – some say it is the language of God. Dedicating music to God is a way to return that gift to Him through worship and in praise.

Music: it does the body good!”

Our music ministry exists for the glory of God. Because of His great love for us, how can we keep from singing?

See you in church!

Bible Class Returns:

Digging for Treasure

Wednesdays, starting November 4, 10:00 a.m.

How many times have you tried to read through a portion of the Bible, but been confused? How often have you taken the time to read the introductions – not just to the books, but the translator’s introduction to the whole Bible? And have you ever tried reading two different translations side-by-side?

In this class, we jump into our Bibles as if they were gold mines waiting to offer up their riches. Starting November 4, on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., Pastor Larry is going to help us see Scripture in ways we may have never even considered!

While we’ll be digging deep, there will be plenty for anyone – even those who’ve never cracked the cover of their confirmation gift Bible – to share. We use the New International Version as our common translation (that we all use), and then each participant selects another to read alongside it, sharing the differences – and what the original writers, and God, have to say to us today.

Come join the fun, and prepare to be blessed by the Word!
3rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY PATIO SALE
November 6 & 7

The third annual Patio Sale of Holiday items will be held in Fellowship Hall on

Friday, November 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. & Saturday, November 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Items related to Thanksgiving and Christmas - things that could serve as gifts or decorations for your home or yard – will be on sale at this event. Our sale promises to be quite special as we have accumulated many more items than we had last year. Also for sale at this event will be beautiful pieces of French Papier Tôle art created by the late artist Charlotte Strauman.

Another addition to this year’s sale will be homemade cookies, bars, and quick breads that can be eaten at the church for a little lunch or taken home and saved for your celebrations with family and friends.

➡️ Holiday Sale Volunteers Needed!
Any endeavor of this size depends on volunteers to help. We need people to set up for the sale on Wednesday and Thursday (November 4 and 5) before the sale, people to staff the tables during the sale, and cashiers to take in the money during the sale.

To volunteer, please leave your name on the sign-up sheet in the office or call Eloise Fredrickson (648-7317) or Sam Eidson (393-7694). All of our work and the proceeds of our Patio Sales go to support the missions of our church.

➡️ Volunteer BAKERS Needed!
Patio Sale needs bakers to make your delicious Christmas cookies, bars, candy and holiday breads, such as cranberry bread, to sell during the Holiday Patio Sale.

Please consider supporting the sale by baking or making something delicious we can sell. We would like the items brought to the church kitchen on Thursday, November 5th. We will package them attractively for the sale, so no need to do that at home.

Any questions please call: Lois Macfarlane (625-7049) or Anne Morrison (399-0762).

Thank you for your participation and support for our Holiday Patio Sale!
### November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8:45a Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a Worship Service-La Joya</td>
<td>9:15a Childcare-Nursery</td>
<td>9:30a Service of Worship</td>
<td>9:45a JNA Pageant rehearsal</td>
<td>10:45a Confirmation class</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Literary Committee</td>
<td>9:00a Mission Quilts</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
<td>10:00a Read the Bible for Life</td>
<td>2:30p Tai Chi Fall Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8:00a Men's Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a VM Coordinating Team</td>
<td>9:00a Prayer Ministry</td>
<td>10:00a Circle Bible Study Leaders</td>
<td>10:00a Digging for Treasure class</td>
<td>10:00a Valley Writing group</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Men's Bible Study group</td>
<td>9:00a Digging for Treasure class</td>
<td>10:00a Valley Writing group</td>
<td>3:30p Communion—Silver Spgs</td>
<td>3:45p Sanctuary Choir practice</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>8:30a Pastoral Care</td>
<td>9:00a Faith &amp; Health committee</td>
<td>10:00a Alzheimer's Support</td>
<td>10:00a New Member class</td>
<td>2:30p Hand Bells practice</td>
<td>3:45p Sanctuary Choir practice</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>8:00a Pre-Holiday Sale</td>
<td>8:00a Gef Minstry</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:30a Mitzvah Day planning</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
<td>1:30p Hw Jesus Became God</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8:00a Pre-Holiday Sale</td>
<td>8:00a Mission Fellowship Breakfast</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8:45a Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a Worship Service-La Joya</td>
<td>9:15a Childcare-Nursery</td>
<td>9:30a Service of Worship</td>
<td>9:45a JNA Pageant rehearsal</td>
<td>10:45a Confirmation class</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Library Committee</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
<td>10:00a Read the Bible for Life</td>
<td>2:30p Tai Chi Fall Prevention</td>
<td>3:30p Adult Orff class</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>8:00a Men's Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a Mitzvah Day planning</td>
<td>9:15a Julia Circle</td>
<td>9:30a Prayer Ministry</td>
<td>1:30p VM Gathering</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11 VETERAN'S DAY</td>
<td>8:15a Crossroads Mission lunch</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Men's Bible Study group</td>
<td>9:00a Lois Circle</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>8:00a Faith Formation planning</td>
<td>10:00p GV Genealogical Society</td>
<td>10:00p New Member class</td>
<td>2:30p Hand Bells practice</td>
<td>3:45p Sanctuary Choir practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a SM Continuing Ed</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
<td>10:00a SM Peer Review</td>
<td>11:00a Stephen Leaders</td>
<td>1:30p Hw Jesus Became God</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8:00a Mission Fellowship</td>
<td>8:00a Mission Fellowship Breakfast</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>8:45a Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a Worship Service-La Joya</td>
<td>9:15a Childcare-Nursery</td>
<td>9:30a Service of Worship</td>
<td>9:45a JNA Pageant rehearsal</td>
<td>10:45a Confirmation class</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Library Committee</td>
<td>9:00a Mission Quilts</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
<td>10:00a Read the Bible for Life</td>
<td>2:30p Tai Chi Fall Prevention</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>8:00a Men's Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a Creative Hands sewing</td>
<td>9:30a Prayer Ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>8:15a Crossroads Mission lunch</td>
<td>9:00a Valley Vision</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Men's Bible Study group</td>
<td>9:00a SoulCollage Prayer class</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>8:00a Patio Sale &amp; Sermon</td>
<td>10:00a Stress-Untress class</td>
<td>10:00a Alzheimer's support</td>
<td>2:30p Hand Bells practice</td>
<td>3:45p Sanctuary Choir practice</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Weavings group</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
<td>10:00a Parkinson's support board</td>
<td>1:30p Hw Jesus Became God</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>7:00p True Concord Voices &amp; Orchestra concert</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>8:45a Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>9:15a Childcare-Nursery</td>
<td>9:30a Service of Worship</td>
<td>9:45a JNA Pageant rehearsal</td>
<td>10:45a Confirmation class</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
<td>10:00a Read the Bible for Life</td>
<td>1:30p Valley Readers</td>
<td>2:30p Tai Chi Fall Prevention</td>
<td>3:30p Adult Orff class</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>8:00a Men's Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30a Movie Ministry</td>
<td>1:30p Personal Committee</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>9:00a Prayer Ministry</td>
<td>1:30p Movie Ministry</td>
<td>4:00p Personal Committee</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>26 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>27 OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<td>29 1st Sun/Advent</td>
<td>8:45a Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a Worship Service-La Joya</td>
<td>9:15a Childcare-Nursery</td>
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<td>9:45a JNA Pageant rehearsal</td>
<td>10:45a Confirmation class</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</td>
<td>10:00a Chair exercise class</td>
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<td>2:30p Tai Chi Fall Prevention</td>
<td>3:30p Adult Orff class</td>
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Reminder: You may always find an up-to-date calendar on the VPC website: www.valleypresbyterian.net
November Birthdays

1 Dwight Harper  
Sally Hayes  
Sandy Lichtenberger  
Reed Olson  
2 Dan Myers  
3 Anna Page  
Royce Lambert  
4 JoAnne Newkirk  
Fran Williams  
Duane Bartelt  
Bob Glazener  
6 Evelyn Mosher  
Anita Row  
Gerri Duthaler  
7 Mary Ruth Jaggard  
8 Betty Chadwick  
Milt Meigs  
Brenda Hait  
Frank Coggins  
9 Arpy Williams  
Evelyn McGlenathan  
Bob Krantz  
11 Cara Bissell  
12 Jerry Ochs  
Joan Dakin  
Wally Watson  
13 Nancy Blanton  
Lorraine Heimstaedt  
Dianne Bigham  
Donaldina Joung  
Lily Johnson  
15 Everett Bott  
Eva Rice  
Nancy Ziegler  
16 Bill Bond  
Travis Sayre  
Jean Alexander  
17 Pat McFarland  
19 Peggy Schlof

21 Fern Anderson  
Mitzi Pickard  
Judy Criswell  
22 Clifford Scott  
Mark Erickson  
23 Marlene Isbell  
24 Helen Bertrand  
Dave Rowe  
25 Carol Jones  
Gladys Miller  
28 Dorothy Blake  
Darlene Feil  
Carol Lutz  
Diane Christopher  
Joan Du De Voire  
29 Connie Conklin  
30 Linda Romstad

Special NOVEMBER MILESTONE!  
Special birthday greetings to Anna Page as she celebrates her 90th birthday on the 3rd of this month!

The Class of ’65: a Student, a Divided Town, and the Long Road to Forgiveness  
By Jim Auchmutey

The Class of ‘65 was reviewed in a recent issue of Christian Century magazine. This is a true story about Greg Wittkamper who moved with his parents to Koinonia, a communal farm eight miles from Plains, Georgia. Greg revisited his experiences in the segregated south when he received an invitation to his 40th high school reunion of the class of 1965. Perhaps it is ironic that Koinonia became the birthplace of Habitat for Humanity. This book should be required reading for all of us.

This book, donated and reviewed by Mary Shurigar, can be found at 975.8 Au2 in the church library.

Community Food Banks

For food donations, highest in demand are canned meats, baby food and juices, peanut butter, and baking staples—flour, baking soda, baking powder, seasonings, vegetable oil, salad dressings, and other condiments. Special items such as frozen turkeys and Safeway or Wal-Mart gift cards are very welcome in November and December. Also appreciated are personal items, fresh produce, and dog food.

Sunday, November 1, is Food Bank monthly donation day here at VPC, but if you wish to make an additional donation of milk or frozen items, you may drop off food items directly at the food bank in Green Valley on weekdays (7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.).

Next monthly collection at VPC: Nov. 1
Become an “Adopted Grandparent” - Sponsor an Orphan for Christmas!
Deadline is Sunday, December 6

This is your opportunity to become an “Adopted Grandparent” and sponsor an orphaned child for Christmas. VPC helps 31 orphaned children who need your support and love plus three adult couples who live at the orphanage. See Reed Olson in Fellowship Hall any Sunday through December 6 and select the child you want to sponsor by donating up to $40 per child. This provides the directors enough time to purchase gifts for the children while the Christmas sales are going on. The directors will get them ready to hand out at our December 19 visit. Reed Olson will also have Christmas cards for each child which you can sign as their “Adopted Grandparent.” Help make an impact on these children – become an “Adopted Grandparent” and sponsor an orphan for Christmas.

Exciting SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE:

Last April, we stepped forward to assist in raising $40,000 for a new solar power system for the orphanage. The current projection is that by the middle of December, VPC will have raised $20,000. But wait... there’s more.

On behalf of VPC, Reed Olson has just accepted a challenge from a generous donor: the donor will match dollar for dollar all future donations up to $10,000 made through December 15. This means if we can raise another $10,000 by December 15, our contributions will double and we will reach the $40,000 goal by the end of 2015. So please help us to reach the full $40,000 goal by our next trip to the orphanage on December 19. Reed Olson will be at Fellowship Hall each Sunday from November 1 through December 13 to talk about this great challenge and how you can help.

Why get involved in supporting the orphanage?

Matthew 25:35-36,40:
(35) “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, (36) I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.
(40) The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”
**Long-term, Strategic Support of Valley Presbyterian Church**

Valley not only has strong spiritual foundations, it has a strong Foundation (and an Endowment, too!)

We have two invested funds, instituted by members who wished to provide future security for our church.

The oldest is the Valley Presbyterian Church Foundation. This is a carefully restricted asset of around $1.2 million dollars. The principal monies of this fund are not to be used, but the interest income is available for non-operational expenses (capital items or projects) at the discretion of Session. It is this interest income that has been used for many capital maintenance and improvement projects, the floor in Fellowship and Charter Hall among them.

The other fund is the Pike Endowment. This fund was created two years ago for the sole purpose of providing an interest-bearing investment to ensure that Valley Presbyterian Church can always have a pastor whose primary work is pastoral care. Pastoral Care is a critical component of VPC’s work. A more multi-generational church would provide either a youth or young adult pastor or an ordained Christian Education Director as many of you have seen in your former churches.

This Endowment was designed primarily to be a legacy – that is, an opportunity for our people to set aside a portion of their estates for the Endowment, thereby creating a funding base large enough, hopefully within the next ten years, to completely support that pastoral care work. At present, its value is just over $100,000, with a goal of at least $1.5 million.

One of the assets for which we are grateful to our faithful predecessors is that we carry no debt on our physical campus – it is free and clear. The Foundation is here to provide for the church building’s care. The Endowment will be here to provide for the care for our people.

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**Holiday Patio Sale Truck Crew Needs Help**

Items for the Holiday Patio Sale need to be moved from storage to the church on Tuesday, November 3. The trucking crew needs additional help for this. If you can assist, please contact George Curtis at 625-2394. Thank you.
Sundays
1 Service of Worship
9:30 a.m.
Childcare provided

Food Bank Donations - September 2015
Our “Cash” report includes all cash donations to Food Banks that are made through VPC, not just amounts collected on the first Sunday of each month.

September food donations were 34 pounds (1st Sunday of the month). September cash donations totaled $1,133. Year to date Totals: 851 pounds of groceries and $12,848.50 in cash.

Next Deacon’s Food Bank Collection:
November 1, 8:30—10:30 a.m.

A Harvest Potluck, October 9th—A good time was had by all

November Sunday Worship Services—9:30 a.m.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Service Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Larry DeLong</td>
<td>All Saints’ Day “The Beauty of Bathing” (John 13:12-16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Diane Christopher</td>
<td>“Just One Drop” (John 7:37-39)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Larry DeLong</td>
<td>“Rainbows” (Genesis 9:20-22)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Paul Phillips</td>
<td>“Giving Thanks” (Thessalonians 5:16-24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Larry DeLong</td>
<td>First Sunday in Advent “Present Tense” (Ephesians 5:1-2a)</td>
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</tbody>
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