

# Valley Presbyterian Church

(USA)

*Oasis of Grace*



## ***Annual Report*** ***to the Congregation*** **2023 v-3**

Electronic copies are available on our website:  
[www.valleypresbyterian.net](http://www.valleypresbyterian.net)

# OUR MISSION

To make Christ known through reconciliation while communicating respect and love to all people.

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

- Worship that glorifies God.
- Growing our faith in love, hope and the peace of Christ.
  - Caring for the children of God.
- Reaching out to the community and the world.
  - Seeking an attitude of servant-hood.

**Congregational Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 28, 2024**  
**10:30 a.m.**

# Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Valley

## Presbyterian Church,

Green Valley, AZ, January 28, 2024

Congregational Meeting Called to Order by Pastor Craig Lindsey as Moderator

### **Agenda Items:**

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Opening Prayer

Declaration of a Quorum

Suspension of the Congregational Meeting to Conduct Corporate Meeting

Call The Corporate Meeting to Order

Election of Corporate Officers: President, Treasurer, Clerk of Session

Closing of Corporate Meeting and Resumption of Congregational Meeting

Review of Session, Deacons, Committee Reports

Presentation of Terms of Call for Pastor

Other Business

Motion to adjoin

Close of Prayer

## Staff

Pastor Craig Lindsey ..... Pastor/Head of Staff..... pastorcraig@@valleypres.net  
Jamie Reed..... Director of Music ..... jamie@valleypres.net  
Jan Brachel ..... Organist/ Accompanist ..... organist@valleypres.net  
Chris Erickson ..... Parish Nurse ..... parishnurse@valleypres.net  
Suzanne Mandeville ..... Bookkeeper..... suzanne@valleypres.net  
Cindy Brown..... Administrative Specialist..... cbrown@valleypres.net  
Linda Hester..... Administrative Specialist ..... lhester@valleypres.net  
Joe Snow..... Lead Custodian..... jsnow@valleypres.net  
Steve Hart..... Custodian ..... steve@valleypres.net  
Chuck Dunlap..... Audio Tech..... vpc-office@valleypres.net  
Alice Sanchez ..... Nursery Attendant..... vpc-office@valleypres.net  
Chuck Dunlap..... Sound Technician..... vpc-office@valleypres.net

## Craig Lindsey

### Pastor, Head of Staff

We are continually responding to the latest crises, the most current events. At least, Annual Reports and Mission Studies provide depth and faith

reflections to temporal events, by having 12 months, or the transition between pastors' years of service, to better understand who we are as the Church.

Six years ago in the midst of conflict, our Session risked adopting a Mission Statement "Making Christ known through reconciliation, communicating respect and love to all people." Reconciliation, Respect and Love, related to putting divisiveness' pain behind us. I was Called, then COVID 19 happened. This year, former members began to return; as long-time leaders were resurrected; former staff were welcomed to worship with us; as those who once said harsh words, sought to come home; as leaders who ministered amid struggles, let go the past... "Christ IS being made known in reconciliation, respect and love." We have been walking through pain differently, guided by faith. We are thankful for those who have given their lives to lead and support this church throughout the years, there are now many places for us all to volunteer.

During the summer of 2023 we created a new Planning Commission, with concern for understanding what took place 1978-2023 (anticipating a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2028); as well as, guiding transition following Pastor Diane's leadership. Ordinarily a Mission Study is not permitted to begin so long as pastors are onsite, however our Church received special dispensation from the Presbytery Commission on Ministry, to start this study now, because we are beginning with "how to continue with one pastor?". What is more, because this Mission Study is something akin to in-depth professional counseling, it would be pointless for the church to undergo this again in a few years. Therefore, if we provide a thorough and objective study at this time, which when completed is supported and accepted by our Session, by our Congregation, and by the Commission on Ministry, with a little objective updating at that time, this Study will replace having an Interim Pastor in 3 years.

In the 1970s our Sanctuary was built for aesthetics not acoustics, with a spectacular vista of God's creation. For 45 years, we chased problems: purchasing different mixing boards, as preachers took the pulpit far to the right and far to the left. We installed speakers on the bottom of chairs, speakers with horns in rafters. This year we made progress(!) removing the modesty rail and carpet from the Chancel, installing tile; we installed a new technology system, allowing the choir to hear liturgists and preacher's every word, as well as to hear themselves singing, without sound bouncing off the windows or back into the microphones.

The Ice machine in the Kitchen was deafening. We explored different machines, plumbing the condenser through walls, or to the roof, outdoors in the sun. A member of the committee brought in an outlet plug which allowed shutting off power, to automatically reset every hour, and finally, there is peace.

This year, we replaced the old Organ, significant parts of which no longer worked, with the latest "Infinity Organ" from the Rodgers company. We then replaced the organists, hiring Jan Brachel to join our family.

After 60 months of leasing June 2018 – May 2023, in June 2023 we were able to fully satisfy the \$100,000 purchase agreement on our Solar carport. This means that Valley Presbyterian Church is DEBT FREE and that over 90% of our electrical usage is paid for Free of Charge by this Solar Array!

Several among us worry that the responsibilities of our pastor are too large for any one person. I have heard this, I thoroughly agree and believe: No One of us can be the Church, alone; we need everyone! The current Mission Study will help us discern what we need and want for the immediate future. I look forward to guiding you to whatever (God and) the study recommends. In this coming year, I hope to discern places of redundancy, as well as different ways than we have ever considered before. Good friends have whispered "Craig, you are not 26 anymore"; I am not, but since that age I have grown in wisdom to recognize what I would not have understood or tried at 26 or at 45. Our Church in 2024 is a far different entity than when begun in 1978, distinct from 1983/1984 when PC(USA) reunion occurred, and I was first ordained, different from who we were in 2019 when we accepted the call to love each other. At the same time, I profess that listening to one voice every week for a full hour can become boring, so we welcome and encourage you to volunteer to serve as liturgists in worship.

Looking to our future:

- 1) I am encouraging our Green Valley Faith Communities to cooperate together, and encouraging ways for our missions to partner together, rather than compete.
- 2) Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Executive Brad Munroe will be at our church for a 9am-1pm workshop on his new book The Rhythms of the God-Life.
- 3) Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Hebrew Scholar Professor Joel Hoffman will be with us from Beth Shalom Synagogue for "A Christian Study of Jewish Scriptures."
- 4) In Lent, we intend to have an Ecumenical Sharing Offering with 5 of the churches in Green Valley who have individually supported St. Andrews Children's Clinic, all working together to assist the Children's Clinic. If this goes well, with possibilities of a Golf Tournament for the Clinic in 2025!

- 5) Maundy Thursday (03/28) we envision celebrating as a Passover Seder Dinner in Fellowship Hall.
- 6) Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> we will host the meeting of our Presbytery and we need lots of volunteers.
- 7) Having had a fabulous Adult VBS in 2023, we look to a new VBS in July 2024.
- 8) In October our Faith Formation Committee is planning to invite Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka to lead a conference for our Church and community on: Faith Formation for Adults (Dr. Nishioka has been the PC(USA) General Assembly's professional in Faith Formation and is now Senior Pastor at Prairie Village Presbyterian Church in Kansas).
- 9) Judy Aguayo and I have both been elected to serve as Commissioners to the Presbyterian General Assembly meeting this summer in Salt Lake City, anticipating work on ministry of the Church throughout our Nation and God's World, and possibly meeting representatives from your other churches.
- 10) We know that the flat roofs of our building were new 20 years ago and now need replacement.

The future is bright and there are wonderful opportunities ahead for us together as Valley Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Craig

## Pastor Diane Christopher

### Pastor of Discipleship

This is my final annual report. I could go back and tell you all the things I did this past year. But most of these things are in other reports.

As I thought about what I wanted to write, I remembered the devotion I give to every New Member class on why the church is such a special place to be. The church is so beloved by God that it has been given names. Here are five of them:

#### **The church is the People of God** (I Peter 2:9)

We have not only a horizontal relationship with God; we have a vertical relationship with a group of people. We are part of a community. The church is not a building; it is the people.

#### **The church is the Family of God** (Galatians 6:10)

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Christianity is not a solitary religion. We need each other.

#### **The church is the Body of Christ** (I Corinthians 12:27)

As the body of Christ, we represent Jesus on earth.

#### **The church is a Holy Temple** (Ephesians 2: 21-22)

God lives in the midst of his people. That is what makes us holy. Jesus said where 2 or more of you are gathered, I am there. That is why the church is wonderful – it's the presence of God.

## **The church is the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25)**

Christ is the husband of the church (note how the church is called “her” in this passage). Christ loved the church so much that He gave his life for her.

Some people will say: Is it possible to be a Christian and not go to church?

We don’t go to church, we are the church.

We are the people of God.

We are the family of God.

We are the body of Christ.

We are a holy temple.

We are the Bride of Christ.

That is why the church is such an exciting place to be.

It has been a privilege to be a part of this church these past 14 years. Whenever I write an email greeting to a first-time visitor, I say, “This church is such an amazing place.”

You are amazing because of your love for God. I think of the Apostle’s prayer for his Ephesian church. He writes to them in a prayer: “And I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may...grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” I saw your heart for God in my office, in classes, in worship, in meetings, in serving.

You are amazing because of your desire to know God and grow in your faith. I pray along with Paul that “Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.” Whenever I sent out the call for devotions for our email blast or Advent devotional, so many of you responded as you wrote about your faith, often for the first time.

You are amazing because of your love for one another. I sat with the prayer group as they prayed for the hospitalized and the homebound. When I visited the sick or homebound, I heard about others who did the same thing. I watched as you brought communion to those who cannot make it to church. As one of our members lay dying, a dozen of us met in another home, praying for the family as this member was called to her eternal home. One person responded, “This is why I attend this church. Because we love one another.”

You are amazing because of how you serve – whether it is picking up communion cups after worship, or delivering flowers to someone who is grieving, or putting together a reception for a memorial, or driving an owl cart (and list goes on and on), you take your skills and passions, and use them to serve with joy.

You are amazing because of your compassion for the needy and the troubles in the world. We have a Mission Committee that constantly thinks of ways to give to those outside our doors. We have Noisy Offering Sundays, Food Bank Sundays or YOTO Sundays, Christmas Boxes, Christmas gifts for orphans in Mexico. You give when a disaster happens in our world.

How can I thank you for being you? You have taught me how to love and give and serve. I pray, along with Paul, that “you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God,” and continue to be the arms of Jesus.

All my love, Diane

# Session

**Moderator** Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey

**Clerk of Session** Maureen Ramsay

**Treasurer** Steve Ginader

## **Class of 2023**

Judy Aguayo

Jim Rusk

Dale Honermann

Rudy Sweisfurth

## **Class of 2025**

Frank Coggins

Joan Dakin

Steve Ginader

Maureen Ramsay

## **Class of 2024**

Judy Christensen

Jean Hein

Jim Luhring

Ed Storey

## **Class of 2026**

Ron Darrah

Ellen Entwistle

Sheila Frahm

Jim Rusk

Ken Taft

# Board of Deacons

**Moderator 2023** Ron Darrah

**Moderator 2024** Bud Landry

## **Class of 2023**

Barbara Bentley

John Bentley

Ron Darrah

Sherry Darrah

Trudy O'Leary

## **Class of 2025**

Cheryl Conner

Jana Honermann

Clayton Messelt

Mary Lillie

Vacancy

## **Class of 2024**

Sandy Green

Bud Landry

Sylvia Landry

Cheryl Stepp

Nancy Storey

## **Class of 2026**

Chriss Bell

Sherry Darrah

Karen Holthofer

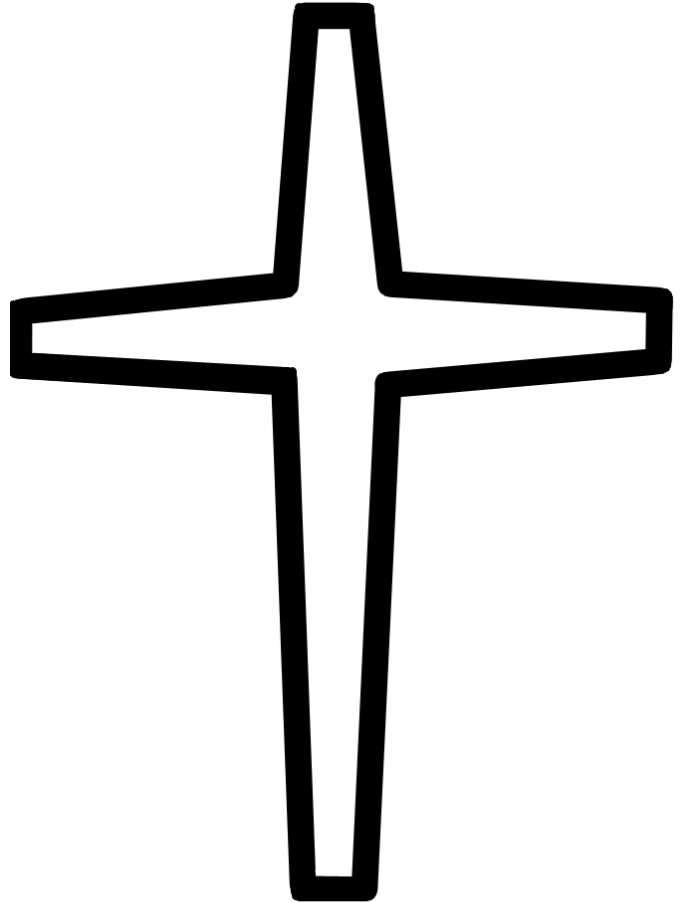
Trudy O'Leary

John Agner



# In Memoriam 2023

1/15/2023	Neva	Stegman
1/16/2023	Bette	Stevenson
1/26/2023	Mary Lee	Haas
2/7/2023	Arleen	Boyuls
3/3/2023	Mark	Horton
3/5/2023	Dave	Tompkins
3/18/2023	Margaret	Moore
3/29/2023	Doris	Steffy
3/30/2023	Norm	TenBrink
3/30/2023	David	Rude
4/29/2023	Carol	Tahse-Roeming
5/13/2023	Mary Lou	Browne
5/26/2023	Virginia (Gini)	Downs
6/2/2023	Phyllis	Moore
6/16/2023	Joyce (Kay)	Davison
7/3/2023	Enid	Waldron
7/29/2023	Esther	Grimsley
7/29/2023	Doretta	Van Nimwegen
8/17/2023	James (Jim)	Mills
8/18/2023	Fredric	Roeming
9/10/2023	Barbara Jeane	West
9/17/2023	Dave	Appleton
9/23/2023	Beth	Phillips
9/26/2023	Annamae	Buchholtz
10/6/2023	Marilyn	Walters
10/10/2023	W.T. (Bill)	Lemman
10/13/2023	Gini	Baird
10/20/2023	Katherina	Harder
10/25/2023	Dorothy	Foucher
11/1/2023	Bill	Sauder
11/23/2023	Carol	Stephens
11/27/2023	Phyllis	Camp
12/1/2023	Pat	Nau
12/10/2023	D. Jeannie	Moore
12/11/2023	Don	Yunker
12/24/2023	Jack	Cissel
12/28/2023	Mel	Mounts
11/30/2023 ?	De Etta	Haynes



## Membership Changes

Gross Membership, December 31, 2022 - 423

Gross Membership, December 31, 2023 - 414

# **Building and Grounds 2023**

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## **Dale Honermann – Chair**

**Committee members:** Dale Honermann, Mike Brouwer, Dick Barney, Rick Nau, Skip Berry, Don Brooks, Les Walter, Jim Luring, and Ron Darrah. Staff: Pastor Craig Lindsey, Steve Hart, and Linda Hester.

**Committee Responsibilities:** This committee is responsible for the effective management, maintenance, and use of the property, facilities, and equipment of Valley Presbyterian Church. Of primary importance is to ensure the facilities and equipment are safe, in good repair, and the grounds are clean and in good appearance. Membership is open to any member of the congregation.

**Recognition:** A special thank you to the custodial staff for the work they have done this year to keep the church building and grounds in excellent condition.

### **Projects and accomplishments for 2023:**

**Chancel Tile** - During the Organ Commission's search for a new organ, the Commission had been advised that the carpet needed to be removed from the chancel to improve sound quality. After receiving the same advice from multiple sources, it was determined the best way to move forward was to hire a sound engineer who was experienced in sound management to provide the best possible sound for our sanctuary (completed in Oct 2022).

Rocky's Tile did an excellent job of laying the new tile in a diagonal pattern. The sanctuary is much brighter and the quality of sound greatly improved.

**Organ** - The new organ was installed in March. The Rodgers company determined that the 2000 speakers installation was too flawed of a design. New speakers are in rafters and rear chambers.

**Chancel Step** - The edge of the step for the new chancel tile proved difficult to see and led to people mis-stepping. To prevent injuries and correct the problem, a new tile was selected for the top of the step and laid down by Rocky's Tile. The results look good and the visibility problem is corrected.

**Pickup** - A used Chevy Silverado pickup with low mileage and in excellent condition was purchased for church use; specifically for running church related errands, conducting Missions work and to assist Patio Sales.

**Choir Sound System** - A K-Array Anakonda sound system was installed for the choir, at cost of \$6000. It was recommended to us by the sound engineer who balanced and adjusted the sanctuary sound system as a good solution for the choir saying it would allow the choir to hear sermons, the organ, and each other. Choir feedback on this system has no static. To replace the old soundboard, a new Yamaha DM3-D 22 channel Digital Mixer (soundboard) with Dante, the latest software, was purchased for \$2000. The most recent expected delivery date is early 2024.

**Internet Switch & Cabling** - A 2nd internet switchboard and cabling was added to provide greater wifi and internet access for the north half of the building to support the growing demand caused by an increase in the number of classes and the need for internet access in the Fellowship Hall, Spiritual Life Center, and Sweet Family Room.

**Parking Lots** - Sunland Paving did a great job of resurfacing the pavement and re-stripping it at no cost after it was determined the initial resurfacing was defective. It was nice to know the company stood behind their work .

**Ice Machine** - A new switch was plugged in for the ice maker. Pushing the button turns the ice maker off for the remainder of the hour at which time it restarts.

**Floor Cleaner** - A walk behind floor scrubber arrived. It scrubs the floors cleaner in 1/3 the time and will result in an increase in the longevity of the floors.

**Columbarium** - 7 flower vases were installed in the columbarium.

**SW side Step Restoration** - Research is being conducted for restoration of the southwest (Cam Mercado st) entry steps. Original building plans show a circular drive at this entry instead of steps. G2 Architects drew up a set of blueprints and drawings based on the original plans for a circular drive. Acquiring the services of a surveyor is the next step as it will help define the scope of the project.

**Alarm System** - Central Alarm came out and reviewed our alarm system. Much of the equipment in our system is outdated and needs to be replaced. We are looking at whether a new alarm system might be both more effective and more cost efficient.

**Roof** - A roof inspection in the first week of December revealed severe hail damage that needs to be addressed. The Office Addition, Spiritual Life/Sweet Family Addition, and the Fellowship Hall roofs need to be replaced. The Sanctuary roof was determined to be sound. Lynch Roofing (they repaired our tile roof) has identified the roof as 'Hot Mop Paint over fiberglass' and provided an estimate of \$35,266. This will be addressed at the next B&G meeting.

# Deacons 2023

## Bud Landry– Vice Moderator

The various caring ministries of Valley Presbyterian Church come under the auspices of the Board of Deacons as charged by the Session. Pastor Diane provided pastoral oversight as the deacons serve to fulfill the mission of each Caring Ministry, to support those ministries to the best of their abilities, and to support each Deacon in their oversight responsibilities.

The Board of Deacons consisted of the following hard-working individuals during Calendar Year 2023:

Class of 2023 - John Bentley, Ron Darrah, Sherry Darrah, Trudy O’Leary, and Barbara Bentley;

Class of 2024 - Sandy Green, Bud Landry, Sylvia Landry, Cheryl Stepp, Nancy Storey;

Class of 2025 – Clayton Messelt, Jana Honermann, Debbie Van Hyfte (resigned), Cheryl Conner, and Lesley Bruce (resigned).

The Board wants to thank John Bentley, Ron Darrah, and Barbara Bentley who have completed their terms and are moving on to deacon retirement. Their faithfulness and dedication to their fellow deacons and this congregation along with their love for all of you is a beacon of light and hope to me and affirmation that Christ’s true goodness exists. But you know that once a deacon, always a deacon and you may be called upon to help serve communion or extended communion occasionally. Especial thanks to Trudy O’ Learly and Sherry Darrah for signing on to another team.

### Areas of Caring Ministry

#### Communication of Care (Birthday Calls, Care Cards, and Flower Committee)

The flowers donated by church members for Sunday Worship are divided up into bouquets and delivered to homebound individuals, to those recently home from the hospital, or to those who are celebrating a special occasion. Over 160 bouquets were delivered to individuals throughout the year. Hundreds of birthday calls were made as well as many care cards were distributed to those who were ill.

#### Communion (Serving)

Communion was served on the first Sunday of every month during 2023. Communion was also served on Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve.

We participated in Worldwide Communion Sunday in October using a variety of breads from cultures around the world. It has been the intent to use active Deacons and Elders for serving whenever possible. Ed Storey has been a tremendous help in securing Elders for the monthly Communion services. Trudy O’Leary wants to thank all Deacons and Elders who have accepted the privilege of serving the Lord’s Supper. The estimated number of Individuals served traditional elements per service are as follows:

January----232	July-----214
February—398	August-----200
March-----371	September---198
April-----368	October-----215
April 6 Maundy Thursday—91	November----255
April-----466	December----266
May----- --218	

## **Communion (Preparation and Clean-up)**

Preparation of the Elements for Communion was handled by the Prep Team which includes several Deacons and congregation volunteers as well as the Pastors. Clean-up of the Elements following Communion service included the congregation volunteers and assigned Deacon. Heartfelt thanks to those willing hearts and hands.

## **Communion (Extended Communion)**

Extended communion was brought faithfully to those members of our church family who were unable to attend worship in the Sanctuary. Ordained Deacon and Elder volunteers took Communion to them either in their home or care facility in Green Valley. Many thanks to each of them for their faithful service. They extended Communion and visited with our church family members, keeping them connected to our Body of Christ at VPC.

## **Facilities Visitation**

Facilities visitation was absorbed by the NOC at the beginning of the year.

## **Greeters, Owl Express, and Ushers**

Every worship service requires three greeters, three ushers, two head ushers, and one owl express driver to welcome and make sure that each person who attends is comfortable before, during, and after the service. This requires a very large group of more than 50 people who rotate these duties throughout the year. In the past year, we have added five new couples and seven individuals as greeters and ushers.

There are eight Owl Express drivers who rotate generally once a month. Two new volunteers have been added to replace retirees. These were:

*Dave Stepp, Joe Bruce, Jeff Babcock, John Agner, Craig McFall, Mike Brouwer and Mike Yoder.*

Bud and Sylvia Landry are very grateful for these faithful and willing usher volunteers and working with them is a pleasure. They include:

*Cheryl and Dave Step, Ed Schmidt, Lois and Tom, Steve Larson, Sue Horton, John and Jan Agner, Lois and Tom Dierkin, Betty and Mike Yoder, Mary Horn, Carol Willie, Phil and Karen Pitts, Charles and Vera Anderson, Don and Karen Brooks, Martha Van Vactor, Mike and Kay Brouwer, Bill and Judy McKinley, Elie Hargleroad, Elsie Ophorst, Karen Woodrow, Lillian Richardson, Maureen Brealey, Gary Heintz, Katie Carter, Helen and Larry Phillips, Rob and Pat Pearson, Jan Farrington, Julie Ginader, Kim Moss, Patti Bright, Rick and Kandi Gentis, Vic Valade, Kara and Jim Fitzpatrick, Patti and Jay Messerschmidt, and Craig and Kris McFall.*

## **Grief Ministries (Journey through Grief Program and Ministry of Presence)**

Carolyn Hill facilitates the Journey through Grief Program. She brought in Deb Jones as a co-facilitator this year. The program was offered two times in 2023 and provided about 10 individuals who were grieving a safe place where they could discuss and try to understand their grief, receive support on the grief journey, and receive suggestions for a healthy way to grieve.

In 2023 Stephen Ministry had provided 18 individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one with books from the Journeying through Grief series. This is called the Ministry of Presence and when desired, the individuals experiencing the grief receive visits from an individual who will provide compassionate care during this time of loss.

## **Head Ushers**

The Head Ushers have a great deal of responsibility during the Sunday Service, from assuring congregational security, to establishing an accurate attendance count, and overseeing and leading the general offertory. Two Head Ushers for each service monitor the congregation for possible medical intervention as well as general pre- and post-service to the chancel (lighting and extinguishing the candle, providing water for the pastors, and removal of the flower arrangement). There was one annual in-person meeting (January 19, 2023) to help insure uniform knowledge of Head Usher responsibilities.

Many thanks to:

*Rudy Sweisfurth, Bob Campbell, John Bentley, Phil Pitts, Roger Fisher, Rick Nau, Bill Woodrow, Randy VanHyfte, Betty Yoder, Bruce Campbell, Sylvia Landry and Bud Landry.*

## **Network of Caring (NOC)**

The mission of the Network of Caring (NOC) is to support the core value of relationship and fellowship within Valley Presbyterian Church. This is accomplished through a program of congregational contact where trained contactors stay in touch with the people within our church on a regular basis via phone calls, texts, or home visits. The catchment area for VPC has been geographically divided into 11 areas, each with a leader, and about 30 contactors. The area leader is available to help with any special needs. Contactors keep their area leaders up to date with the results of their calls. NOC also helps with memorial reception. The area leaders meet quarterly.

The NOC areas were:

ABREGO NORTH: (24 households) Area Leader: Verla Bakker  
ABREGO SOUTH: (38 households) Area Leader: Verla Bakker  
CAMINO DEL SOL NORTH: (43 households) Area Leader: Cheryl Stepp  
CAMINO DEL SOL CENTRAL: (29 households) Area Leader: OPEN  
CAMINO DEL SOL SOUTH: (55 households) Area Leader: Jan Farrington  
LA CANADA NORTH: (44 households) Area Leader: Jean Hein  
LA CANADA SOUTH: (45 households) Area Leader: Lois Macfarlane  
LA POSADA: (35 households) Area Leader: Martha Jump  
QUAIL CREEK: (42 households) Area Leader: Jan Panhuis  
SAHUARITA/TUCSON: (27 households) Area Leader: Sylvia Landry  
SOUTH OF GREEN VALLEY: (4 households) Area Leader: Donaldina Jounng

## **Prayer Shawl/Prayer Bear Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl/Prayer Bear Ministry is a symbol of unconditional love that has been made with prayers and blessings for the recipient. Starting January 2023 through December 19, 2023, 36 Prayer Shawls and 52 Prayer Bears have been given to others so they will feel less alone and feel the arms of Jesus wrapped around them.

Several Prayer Shawls had accumulated, so it was decided to try a different approach to let the congregation know of their availability. Yellow request forms were left at each Information Center. Information went out regarding them, but people didn't respond to this approach. By the beginning of November 2023 there were 22 unblessed shawls to be added to the 13 shawls available. On November 12<sup>th</sup> the shawls were blessed, bringing the total of available shawls to 35. Barbara Bentley and I then discussed ways of how the shawls could be used. A discussion took place with Holly Faris, Social Services Coordinator with The Salvation Army of Green Valley/Sahuarita. She shared she would be happy to receive some Prayer Shawls. On November 17<sup>th</sup> 10 shawls were delivered to The Salvation Army. We now have a Salvation Army contact to give extra shawls to, which helps provide another ministry for us.

With the annual budgeted amount for the Prayer Shawl/Prayer Bear Ministry, more bears were purchased twice through the year. With additional available, it was decided to make up 15 Prayer Bear gift bags to share the spirit of Christmas with those in need of having their day brightened up. In each bag was placed a bear, a prayer card, a Prayer Square, a candy cane and a piece of chocolate. A table was set up in the Fellowship Hall on December 17, 2023, so people could pick them up. 12 gift bags were picked up, so this looks like a project to do again in the future.

2023 has been a good year sharing with others for this ministry. Looking at the month up to December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, there are still 18 shawls and 18 bears available. There are also 3 unblessed shawls – with the hope several more shawls will be made before the Fall of 2024.

## **Prayer Ministry**

January – December 2023 the Prayer Ministry met every Tuesday morning. The team is made up of 9 devoted women, led by Betty Singleton. The ladies involved are: Peggy Babcock, Joan Dakin, Laurel Erickson, Donna Faulkner, Sandy Green, Jean Hein, Kylene Joplin, Maureen Ramsey, and Betty Singleton. The group prays for the needs of the congregation, Green Valley community, mission projects, and world concerns.

## **Stephen Ministry**

This ministry consists of highly trained individuals who provide Christian confidential and non-judgmental listening, compassion, and the gift of presence to those who are going through a difficult time in their life. An expanded Stephen Ministry report is included in the Annual Report to the Congregation 2023.



## Sunday Fellowship

During the high season, with our seasonal attendees, (Nov.-March), we serve on average 100-200 guests approximately 150 cups of coffee, 30 glasses of lemonade and 30 glasses of water, and 12-15 dozen cookies. On the first Sunday of the month, the choir provides cookies, the second Sunday the elders provide cookies, deacons bring cookies on the third Sunday, the congregation brings cookies on the fourth Sunday, and if there is a fifth Sunday, Stephen ministry bakes cookies. After our "snowbirds" return to their homes, our numbers drop to about 100-125 fellowship guests. Then we use 75 cups of coffee, 30 glasses of lemonade, 30 glasses of water, and our cookie consumption is between 9-12 dozen. Our congregants enjoy meeting new and old friends with a beverage and cookies. Many stay for an extended length of time sitting around the round tables. Fellowship and relationships are a valuable part of our core values.

The serving of cookies or cake (provided by members of the congregation) and coffee, lemonade, continued every Sunday for the rest of the year (excepting July 4 and the Chili-Cook Off Sunday). Teams of four or five volunteers help set up, serve, and clean-up in the kitchen each week. This requires a large group of volunteers to make it successful and anyone who considers themselves a welcoming host is encouraged to offer their services.

## Faith Formation 2023

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### Linda Freeman, Chair

The Faith Formation Committee provides opportunities for us to ***Learn the Basics, Deepen our Faith and Share Our Beliefs.***

Over the course of the year, we offered classes, study groups and programs to help both children and adults more fully form and develop their faith through studying scripture, exploring the historical Jesus and the church, and learning how to live our faith.

Wow- look at the wide range of subjects in 2023:

The Story of God

- Bible Reflections
- Jesus' Last Days
- Grace in Les Misérables
- Seven Words
- You Are Never Too Old
- Jesus Eats!
- E-Blast Devotionals
- Daily Lenten devotional and a special Advent Devotional based on Christmas songs.

it was our desire to connect with everyone in whatever way works best for them:

- In the classroom: for both children and adults
- Through broadcasting classroom gatherings
- As part of E-Blast communications
- By supporting Men's and Women's Bible studies
- By distributing Daily Devotionals during Lent and Advent
- With organizing a successful Adult Bible School for 3 mornings this summer, great fun!
- Amid book discussion groups

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- By distributing Daily Devotionals during Lent and Advent
- With organizing a successful Adult Bible School for 3 mornings this summer, great fun!
- Amid book discussion groups
- Through the Little Lending Library in our community
- Providing a cool place to gather and discuss a movie during the sizzling summer months.

We support a well-appointed library that supplies excellent resource material in the form of print, DVDs and CDs. We are continually advertising new acquisitions and inviting everyone to enjoy this learning center.

We are going to miss Pastor Diane for her leadership and encouragement. She helped us be our best.

Together, with Pastor Craig and being led by the Holy Spirit, *may we all continue to grow our knowledge and spiritual selves during 2024.*

Committee Members:

Linda Freeman, Chair; Dick Davison, Devotions; Liz Haynes, Secretary; Joan Dakin, Session Liaison; Pam Karbowsky, Youth and Children Studies; Chuck Ramsay, Youth, Children and Adult Studies. Tom Lobb, Adult Studies; Marcia MacDonald, Adult Studies; Marie Valade, Adult Studies; and Anne Morrison, Librarian

## **Fellowship 2023**

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### **Pastor Diane Christopher-Chair**

This is a happy committee that looks for ways to bring people together to enjoy each other's company by providing fellowship events. In the year 2023, here is what they offered:

A chocolate Extravaganza on Shrove Tuesday (also called Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras) whereby participants were encouraged to bring something chocolate to share. The evening included a hot chocolate bar.

A reception after the organ recital on March 26 which introduced the congregation to our new organ. Sheet Cakes were decorated with pictures of the new organ.

Our annual Fourth of July party on Sunday, July 2, which included a picnic meal of hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans.

A line dancing party on Oct 13 at the West Center. Music was provided by Katie Sayre's band Hardscrabble Road. Over 140 people signed up.

The committee helped with the annual Thanksgiving meal on Nov 23. The purpose of this meal was to provide a home cooked meal for people who were alone on Thanksgiving or didn't want to cook for themselves. We fed 150 people, and Santa showed up.

Committee Members: Pastor Diane Christopher, Katie Carter, Ron Darrah, Sherry Darrah, Chris Fleischmann, Ellie Hargelroad, Marcia MacDonald, Anne Morrison, Jim Rusk, Tommy Thompson and Linda Walter.

## **Finance**

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### **Steve Ginader**

Financial management of Valley Presbyterian Church is handled by several individuals and groups.

Bookkeeper Suzanne Mandeville, oversees the day to day operations of the inflow and outflow of money.

Treasurer Steve Ginader, signs the checks and deposits the offerings in the bank each week.

A rotating volunteer team counts the offerings each Monday and records the information for Suzanne.

A finance committee, chaired by Ken Frahm, meets quarterly to review financial activities. In addition, the committee contracted an outside accountant in 2023 to audit our processes.

The operating budget is created to run the ministries, missions and expenses of the Church. Due to the benevolence of many people throughout 2023, VPC will show a positive balance at the close of 2023.

Below is a list of building projects that were completed and fully funded due to gifts and offerings. The Church Foundation is an additional support to the capital programs (reference the Foundation annual report)

1. A new pipe organ installed.
2. The final payment of the solar panels made.
3. Seven rooftop heating and cooling units replaced with insurance money.
4. An upgraded sound system purchased and installed in the choir area.
5. A used pickup truck purchased for patio sale and missions work.
6. A floor scrubber purchased to ease the workload of the custodians.
7. An expanded wi-fi system installed allowing building wide access.
8. Chancel area carpet removed and tile installed.
9. The sound booth repositioned from the foyer to the sanctuary.
10. Replacement tiles installed on the perimeter of the roof.

The committee reports in this booklet highlight the good work accomplished with funds in the operating budget. I want to give special mention to the following two.

1. More than \$100,000 was distributed to support our 17 partner missions. Many of these gifts were funded through the patio sale profits and special pass-through giving.
2. Our care ministries were well funded through our Deacons, Stephen Ministers and Parish Nurse programs. Changes were made to the George Pike endowment (reference the Planning Commission report) allowing that fund to be used for additional congregational care needs.

In September, committees submitted funding requests for 2024 and a budget was created by the finance committee. Based on pledges and requests received, the committee developed a balanced budget that includes a sizable cushion in operating reserves to cover any unforeseen circumstances.

### Valley Presbyterian Church

	2023 Annual Budget	2024 Approved Budget
<b>Income:</b>		
Church Support	773,017	730,460
Per Capita	7,500	8,758
Other Income	15,000	22,079
Investment Income	1,000	3,582
Restricted Fund Used	2,000	12,565
Patio Sale Funding	57,000	65,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>855,517</b>	<b>842,445</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Personnel Expenses	523,813	470,920
Per Capita	17,555	18,053
Administrative Expenses	69,475	61,600
Buildings & Grounds	80,000	80,022
Committee Expenses	-	29,500
Nurse Program	3,000	2,600
Deacons	7,525	8,000
Stephen Ministry	1,350	1,450
Faith Formation	8,500	10,300
Membership	575	1,400
Fellowship	3,000	3,000
Mission Expenses	112,214	130,000
Music Expenses	6,050	5,500
Promotion and Outreach	16,190	16,000
Stewardship	600	600
Worship	5,670	3,500
Fees paid out for Wed/Mem/Event		-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>855,517</b>	<b>842,445</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

DRAFT

Valley Presbyterian Church  
Budget VS. Actual for General Operation  
January 1 through December 31, 2023

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
					YTD Actual	YTD Budget	\$ Over (under) Budget	% of YTD Budget Used		Approved Annual Budget	Adjust for Mission Giving Actions	Transfers from Temp & Restricted	Total Adjusted Annual Budget	Remaining Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget Remaining
1															
2	Ordinary Income/Expense														
3			Income												
4			Church Support		\$ 768,892.78	\$ 778,337.57	\$ (9,444.79)	98.79%		\$ 771,403.00	\$ 6,768.00	\$ 166.57	778,337.57	\$ 9,444.79	1.2%
5			Per Capita		9,055.12	7,500.00	1,555.12	120.74%		7,500.00			7,500.00	\$ (1,555.12)	(20.7%)
6			Other Income		25,501.80	15,000.00	10,501.80	170.01%		15,000.00			15,000.00	\$ (10,501.80)	(70.0%)
7			Investment Income		11,455.31	1,000.00	10,455.31	1,145.5%		1,000.00			1,000.00	\$ (10,455.31)	(1,045.5%)
8			Restricted Fund Used		6,405.37	6,256.28	149.09	102.38%		1,500.00	1,613.00	3,143.28	6,256.28	\$ (149.09)	(2.4%)
9			Patio Sale Funding		57,000.00	57,000.00	-	100.0%		57,000.00			57,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
11			Total Income		878,310.38	865,093.85	13,216.53	101.53%		853,403.00	8,381.00	3,309.85	865,093.85	(13,216.53)	(1.5%)
12			Expense												
13			Per Capita Assessment		17,554.56	17,555.00	(0.44)	100.0%		17,555.00			17,555.00	\$ 0.44	0.0%
14			Personnel Expenses		485,493.38	523,813.00	(38,319.62)	92.7%		523,813.00			523,813.00	\$ 38,319.62	7.3%
15			Administrative Expenses		59,111.48	69,475.00	(10,363.52)	85.1%		69,475.00			69,475.00	\$ 10,363.52	14.9%
16			Buildings & Grounds		77,209.54	80,000.00	(2,790.46)	96.5%		80,000.00			80,000.00	\$ 2,790.46	3.5%
17			Committee Expenses		1,035.86	1,035.86	-	100.0%		-		1,035.86	1,035.86	\$ (1,035.86)	(100.0%)
18			Deacons		1,403.67	7,214.07	(5,810.40)	19.5%		11,875.00		(4,660.93)	7,214.07	\$ 10,471.33	145.2%
19			Faith Formation		4,336.41	8,500.00	(4,163.59)	51.0%		8,500.00			8,500.00	\$ 4,163.59	49.0%
20			Fellowship		1,292.08	3,000.00	(1,707.92)	43.1%		3,000.00			3,000.00	\$ 1,707.92	56.9%
21			Membership		1,028.44	575.00	453.44	178.9%		575.00			575.00	\$ (453.44)	(78.9%)
22			Mission Expenses		118,481.00	118,481.00	-	100.0%		110,100.00	8,381.00		118,481.00	\$ -	0.0%
23			Music Expenses		5,545.61	6,050.00	(504.39)	91.7%		6,050.00			6,050.00	\$ 504.39	8.3%
24			Outreach		12,537.40	16,190.00	(3,652.60)	77.4%		16,190.00			16,190.00	\$ 3,652.60	22.6%
25			Parish Nurse Programs		1,113.88	3,575.00	(2,461.12)	31.2%				3,575.00	3,575.00	\$ (1,113.88)	(31.2%)
26			Stephen Ministry		2,204.62	3,359.92	(1,155.10)	65.6%				3,359.92	3,359.92	\$ (2,204.62)	(65.6%)
27			Stewardship		217.29	600.00	(382.71)	36.2%		600.00			600.00	\$ 382.71	63.8%
28			Worship		3,561.78	5,670.00	(2,108.22)	62.8%		5,670.00			5,670.00	\$ 2,108.22	37.2%
29			Fees paid out for Wed/Mem/Event		9,986.84	-	9,986.84	100.0%		-			-	\$ (9,986.84)	0.0%
30			Total Expense		802,114.04	865,093.85	(62,979.81)	92.7%		853,403.00	8,381.00	3,309.85	865,093.85	59,669.96	6.9%
40			Net Income		\$ 76,196.34	\$ -	\$ 76,196.34	100.0%		\$ 853,403.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (76,196.34)	
41															

## **Foundation 2023**

### **Jim Rusk– President**

The Foundation board oversees the management of the VPC Foundation. Monies generated through the investment of these funds is dedicated for Capital improvements.

#### **2023 Activities:**

- \* \$41,503 was transferred to the general fund for capital expenditures in 2023.
- \* The market stabilized during 2023 and the “paper losses” experienced in 2022 were gained back plus a modest increase in our investments was realized.
- \* The board hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Giving Forum” for the congregation on February 19, 2023. The event was well received with positive feedback from the participants.

#### **Board Members:**

Jim Rusk, President  
Judy Christensen, Vice President  
Secretary, Annie Stitt  
Treasurer, Steve Ginader  
Jana Honermann, Member  
John Bently, Member  
Staff, Pastor Craig Lindsey

# **Gifts & Memorials 2023**

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## **George Curtis, Chair**

The Gifts and Memorial Committee administers the undesignated Gifts and Memorials Fund.

In March of this year, Pastor Craig Lindsey asked the Gifts and Memorials Committee to approve an expense for a new kind of Sound System for the Chancel Choir to be able to hear. The current Sound System (Called Line Array Speakers) project from the Chancel Wall directly to the first through last rows of the Congregation. The new system is a rope like series of 40 speakers in each 5 foot long section. These are daisy chained together from an amplifier, with the speaker system draped from the backs of the front row of Choir Chairs. These speakers provide clear sound amplification for those in the first through 3<sup>rd</sup> rows of the Choir, without creating the distortion of reverberation from the windows, or sound being re-amplified by the microphones. Cost of the system was \$7,236 and another distribution of \$608.22 for NOC. This was approved by the Gifts and Memorials Committee and ratified by the Session.

2023 represented the resurrection of several of our long-standing members. Several of these left very generous gifts and their estates to Valley Presbyterian Church, for which we are extremely grateful.

In 2023 the undesignated Gifts and Memorials Fund received \$623,262.97 in new donations from Trusts, Bequests & Estates, and \$3,957.76 from other undesignated gifts and memorials. Total income to the fund for 2023 was \$627,220.73.

The beginning Undesignated Fund balance was \$1,622.92. The ending Undesignated Fund balance is \$620,999.43.

Committee Members George Curtis (Chair), Tom Macfarlane, Mary Lou Browne, Karen Brooks and April Boysen.

# Membership-Outreach 2023

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Judy Christensen, Moderator, Jim Rusk, Co-Moderator

The committee continues to contact all Newcomers who list any contact information on the Fellowship Pads reaching out with a friendly email or phone call. The office administrative specialists were now able to continuously keep the Church Picture Directory and database up to date.

## Accomplishments

- Pastor Diane held 3 rounds of membership exploration classes: A total of 42 members were added.
  - ◊ Of these, 4 are affiliate members;
  - ◊ 2 people reinstated their membership, and
  - ◊ 1 was added by profession of faith and baptism.
  - ◊ Of interest, 9 new members transferred from nearby churches. Members of the Committee served as hosts for the classes and mentors to new members, as requested.
- Through the Fellowship Pad process the committee identified 618 visitors who were our guests in 2023.
- The Committee started in October to send welcoming post cards to the homes of folks recently moving into the community. The post card offers a “gift of coffee”, either a gift card for a local coffee shop or a small bag of “Justo Coffee”, one of our mission partners in Mexico. The committee is evaluating this method of outreach.
- Dick Horn continues to design the *KGVY Community Quarterly* advertisements and hosts the Church’s website. We continue advertising in the *Sahuarita Sun* and the *Green Valley News* and increased our ad size. Our Administrative Specialist, Cindy Brown has undertaken creating the *GV News* ad design. Pastor Diane added posts to VPC’s Facebook account.
- The Valley Galley has remained busy providing catering for many and various events in the church and the community. They also organized a very successful and delicious Thanksgiving dinner, filling up Fellowship Hall with the event.

## Goals

- Reach out to seasonal and year-around regular attenders to include them in all aspects of the life of the church, encourage them and facilitate their interest in membership.

## Committee Members

Ann Bont

Lorna Corso

Lois Macfarlane

Lillian Richardson

Cheryl Stepp

Anne Stitt

Pastor Diane Christopher

Pastor Craig Lindsey

Linda Hester, Administrative Specialist



## **Mission 2023**

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**Doug Clark,**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2023 Mission Committee**

Mission is our Christian opportunity and responsibility! We, the members of Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC) Mission Committee, are given the privilege to invest in missions for the congregation. Our purpose is not only to dispense our congregation's mission giving of \$110,100.00 for 2023; but also, to keep our Christian missions in the forefront of our collective minds. Our 15 mission programs are local, regional, and international which includes our missionaries, Kristi and Bob Rice in the South Sudan and Dave and Pam Lovett in the dangerous unreached for Christ world of Iran, Pakistan, and Bangladesh,

Our goal is that each member of the Mission Committee contacts their specific mission unit on a monthly basis and share the mission's news and joy with the VPC. We share our information in our minutes, E-blasts, Valley Voice articles, church bulletins, and through our specific programs outside of the budget.

This year, five Mission Breakfasts occurred: Alexia Delgado, Executive Director, Hands of a Friend- Directors of Casa Vida Nueva para Niños- Alejandra Martinez, Executive Director, Nogales Crossroads Mission-a visit from Bob and Kristi Rice our missionaries from South Sudan, and James Martin with 2 Young Adult Volunteers (YAV). Noisy offerings the fifth Sunday of the year and Mission Breakfasts raised over \$17,051. Contingency funds of \$8,381, from the budget and from gifts, were given to our funded agencies for short-term emergencies. 96 Samaritan Purse's Children Christmas Boxes plus online orders were given to youths internationally. 200+ homeless packets were created and given for distribution by the congregation and the Salvation Army. Many programs including Back to School and Inspirational Card Making for YOTO, Food Bank Walk, partial funding for Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas hams for Crossroads Nogales Mission, and a virtual Christmas trip and gifts for Vida Nueva para Niños. were completed.

Special mission offerings included Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to Ukraine, Turkey's earthquake, Mississippi's tornado, Douglas church fire, Maui's wildfire, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Christmas Joy. Total Giving including pass through giving for 2023 was \$201,196 demonstrating the mission involvement of the congregation. These programs of giving and gifts fill important needs and help us meet our goal to be a "Mission Minded Church".

## **Music Department 2023**

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**Jamie Reed**

I always like to start off with a glance at last year's annual report. In 2021, I said "Our goals for 2022: I am looking forward to providing more challenging and new music for all our programs. As we continue to grow in every way, I look forward to this upcoming year of great possibilities!" In 2022, "The direction of 2023 will continue upward: more collaboration, old and new anthems, Christmas Cantata, new organ, new robes, scholarship opportunities, and growing numbers of participants."

Our Chancel Choir continues to grow in repertoire variety, number of members, and varying musical growth. "Syncopation" always used to be a scary word, but now it is natural. 2023 started off with the aftermath of our December Music in the Valley Concert and Advent. While we continued with new music, we delved deeper into preparation later in the year. In August, we began preparing for our Christmas Cantata "Everlasting Light." This Cantata Sunday included 45+ choir members, 3 children, an orchestra of 10 members, and beautiful narration by Pastor Craig. We were also preparing for our Choir Concert that will be in Feb. 2024. Robes are still in the works. You will see them soon.

Our Valley Ringers have gone through big changes in members. This year we said goodbye to 5 ringers and hello to 3 new members. It's been a beautiful transition, without a missed note.

In 2023, The Joyful Spirit Ensemble played almost monthly for church Sunday services, and for the Longest Night Service in December. In 2024 they will play for the Presbyterian Women's gathering in April, and for Valley Assistance Services "Empty Bowl" fundraiser in February. Also, members of the choir are adding original works to their repertoire.

This year we welcomed guest musicians from our congregation, Green Valley/Tucson, and University of Arizona. We were blessed with the talents of Robert Marshall, Pam Coggins, Ellen Entwistle, Callie Hutchinson, Mike Finkelstein, Brach Drew and Maureen Ramsay.

In April, we said goodbye to our Organist/Accompanist Wes Moulton. Before his departure, he blessed us with an Organ Concert on March 26, introducing our new organ! Shortly after we welcomed Jan Brachel as our Organist/Accompanist. Again, not a note was missed.

Our Music in the Valley 2022-2023 Season ended with Vocalist, Dr. Kristen Dauphinais in February and Sons of Orpheus in April. Each concert had an attendance of 100-300 audience members. Our 2023-2024 season began in December with the Tucson Jazz Institute's Ellington Band. Our season will continue until April/May of 2024.

As we continue into 2024, I look forward to continuing with scholarship opportunities for local high school students, as well as the arrival of our new robes.

#### Staff

Jamie Reed - Director of Music

Jan Brachel - Organist/Accompanist

#### Volunteer Staff

Kylene Joplin - Choir Librarian & Linda Freeman - Choir Secretary

#### Music Committee

Jamie Reed, Jan Brachel, Pam Coggins, Karen Bahnick, Ken Frahm, Bobbie Richards, Marie Valade

Pastoral Associate Members: Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsay, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Rev. Diane Christopher, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

## **Nominating Committee 2023**

Joan Dakin & Ed Storey

The Nominating Committee is charged with nominating candidates for Elders, Deacons and the next year's nominating committee. The 2023 committee consisted of two church members: John Green and Annie Stitt, as well as John Bentley, from the Deacons. In addition, Joan Dakin and Ed Storey, Elders, were the leaders.

The committee is tasked with filling the positions of Elders and Deacons whose terms have expired. In addition, any additional openings due to Elders or Deacons leaving before their terms ended would be filled.

In 2023, all openings were filled , including three members of the 2024 nomination committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Dakin, Ed Storey

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

November 2023, our congregation filled all existing vacancies for Elders and Deacons. Since that time, a vacancy has appeared among the Deacons, for a 2 year term. The Nominating Committee has recommended Linda Piotrowski.

This recommendation comes from the Committee so needs no Motion or Second, but requires the approval of the congregation.

## **Parish Nurse 2023**

**Chris Erickson**

Here are some of the things the Parish Nurse Ministry does:

- Member of Faith and Health Committee, works with Pastors, staff, and Deacons as needed. Supported and encouraged wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.
- Coordinated visits and calls with Pastor Diane and visiting congregational members, their families, and friends of VPC, as a faith and health care team, in homes, adult care homes, assisted living facilities, rehabs, hospitals, and skilled facilities/nursing homes.
- Received contacts through phone calls, in person, and emails: Made and received phone calls and emails, including contacts with members, neighbors and friends of members, and children of members who live out of state.

- Structured visits and advocacy, which are by appointment.
- Worked closely with our Faith and Health Committee, developed programs, and assessed needs of congregation.
- Provided Blood Pressure screening by appointment.
- Assisted with coordination of flower delivery weekly.
- Assisted with planning of Longest Night Service.
- Presented and assisted with medical information, AED, and fall prevention.
- Provided review and education on AED with those needing education on device.
- Instructed/led Cardio drumming classes, in coordination with co-leader Joan Dakin.
- Has consulted/met with local agencies and organizations, re: medical/health and care-giving concerns and issues with assisting congregational members.
- Prepared monthly articles for the Valley Voice on appropriate medical concerns and other health issues, E-blasts if needed.
- This past year, the vaccination clinic was not held due to a new high cost associated this event.

## **Patio Sales 2023**

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### **Carmen Nylund—Coordinating Team Leader**

The Mission of the VPC Patio Sale is to provide financial support for Valley Presbyterian Church's designated mission and outreach programs in southern Arizona, Mexico and missionaries abroad with semi-annual patio sales.

2023 was a year of unexpected events, challenges and changes. Earlier in the year, Amigo Pat Nau resigned her position for health reasons and we became a Coordinating Team of five – Carmen Nylund, Leader, Les & Linda Walter, Chris Schorr and Nelda Lobb. With our team in place, we moved right into planning the 2023 Annual Patio Sale. Everything was in place and then just days before the sale, Les fell and broke his ankle and Pastor Craig “asked permission” to travel with Judy to be at her mother's bedside. But we kept the faith – Dick Christensen returned to fill in for Les along with Custodian Steve Hart, and Pastor Diane filled in for Pastor Craig. Patio Sale Department Heads and more than 200 volunteers stepped up to help wherever needed.

All Departments were represented, except Books, at the sale in March and we took over as much of the church building as was available to us along with tents in the front and back parking lots. Once again, we were overwhelmed with the number of shoppers and the income from the sale exceeded all of our expectations – more than \$103, 875.

A second sale, the Holiday Plus Sale, was held in November. This sale included holiday items of all kinds, a wide selection of books, specialty items, top of the line clothing, shoes & purses, a bake sale and handcrafted items created by local artisans. Once again expectations were exceeded and the income was more than \$14,207. Along with incidental sales throughout the year, In-Home sales, Tool Sale, Style Show and designated giving, our total 2023 Patio Sale income was \$138,307.

As 2023 was coming to an end, two of our Team Members decided it was time to step away from their leadership roles with Patio Sale – Les and Linda Walter. They are not abandoning us, just taking a well-deserved break. They will be around to help get new Team members up and running. We also want to welcome Jim McDougall to the Coordinating Team. He will be taking on the responsibilities for the Trucking Crew, organizing table and tent rentals, etc.

Another change toward the end of the year was to submit a recommendation to Session to make a change to the Patio Sale Coordinating Team Charter. For many years, the term “Amigos” had been used to identify the leaders of Patio Sale. With the current make-up of our current Team and the passing of years, “Amigos” no longer seemed appropriate. It was our recommendation that we be known as the Patio Sale Coordinating Team with one person designated by the Team as the Team Leader. The Session approved this recommendation at their November 2023 meeting.

Patio Sale Coordinating Team  
Carmen Nylund, Les Walter, Linda Walter  
Chris Schorr, Nelda Lobb, Jim McDougall

## **Personnel 2023**

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### **Frank Coggins, Chair**

2023 was both a year of changes and challenges. Renewal and rebuilding were our watchwords. Our commitment and our confidence in our administrative and staff personnel was unquestioned yet we faced the loss of a valuable staff member and the retirement of our Associate Pastor of Discipleship. Working with our congregation, your committee sought ways to ensure the stability of our dynamic and vibrant Music Ministry and develop plans for our future ministerial needs. The stability, effectiveness and overall well-being and efficiency of our staff and team members have been positively demonstrated and your Personnel Committee remains committed to achieving God's purpose for our Church going forward.

### **Goals for 2023**

Remain committed to evaluating and supporting all our personnel in working for God and our church in a safe, healthy, and productive environment;

- Maintain a committed, productive, cooperative working team at VPC, following clear guidelines in the most cost effective manner .
- Assist our Pastors and committees in providing the staff needed to ensure that the job performance standards and functions are met and a smooth transition occurs if required.
- Monitor job requirements and update job descriptions, adjusting hours and staff as needed to meet budget targets and staff and committee succession planning.

## Accomplishments for 2023

### Personnel Business Operations

- Reviewed, revised, and added position descriptions to reflect current needs that resulted in staff changes and new hires.
- Reviewed and approved church office hour changes to meet the needs of our church reflecting winter and summer staffing requirements.
- Reviewed and revised vacation time for our full-time and part-time non-exempt staff.

Reviewed appropriate manuals and handbooks to keep them current and up to date, and began planning for required training for our staff, elders and deacons.

The following are recurring events or task for which the Personnel Committee is responsible and which were accomplished during the past year.

- ◆ Annual Report of Personnel Committee to Session—Jan.
- ◆ Annual Congregational Meeting and associated reports—Jan.
- ◆ Employee benefits, set group and select benefits—Oct/Nov.
- ◆ Board of Pension report—Sep.
- ◆ Explanation of benefits to staff—Nov/Dec.
- ◆ Personnel appreciation —ongoing
- ◆ Employee evaluations – Oct/Dec.
- ◆ Scheduled an Exit Interview for Pastor Diane Christopher – Dec.
- ◆ Review Committee Membership Terms—Dec.

### Terms of Call – Valley Presbyterian Church -2024

The personnel committee has approved an increase for 2024 of 5% across the board for all personnel. The Professional Expense and Study Leave for the head of Staff, Senior Pastor had been transferred to his effective salary for 2021 and will continue going forward. The vacation time for Head of Staff, Senior Pastor will continue to include five Sundays. The personnel committee has also approved a “Sole Pastor Annual Consideration” of \$25,000 to recognize the additional responsibilities of a single Pastor beginning January 1, 2024. This consideration is not to be included in “Effective Salary” as approved by the Board of Pensions and will be paid as a one-time employer contribution to the Pastor’s Individual Retirement Savings Plan at year end.

### Reverend Dr. Craig Lindsey, Head of Staff, Senior Pastor

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
Effective Salary (includes Housing)	\$ 97,355.00	\$ 102,201.75
Pension/D & D	9733.50	10,220.18
Medical Insurance	28,227.15	29,638.50
One Time Contribution to 403B Retirement Plan	0	25,000.00
Total	\$135,295.65	\$167,060.43

### Changes in Staff:

#### Losses:

Christopher, Diane, Retired  
Moulton, Wes, resigned  
Van Hyfte, Randy, resigned

#### Additions:

Brachel, Jan Organist/Accompanist  
Snow, Joe, Fulltime Custodian

### Personnel Finance

Session approved a motion from Personnel Committee for a budget for 2024 that included a 5% increase across the board for all personnel.

The Personnel Committee in conjunction with all other committees worked with the Finance Committee to reduce expenses where possible to meet a balanced budget. Efforts to develop staffing proposals consistent with current needs resulted in the Personnel Committee ending the year about \$34,000 under the Personnel Budget.

**Personal Committee Members:** Annie Stitt, Carmen Nylund, Sheila Frahm, Judy Christensen, and Frank Coggins, Chair.

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## Planning Commission Report 2023

The Planning Committee formed in 2023 was created to tackle issues that do not automatically fit under any existing committees. Members include Maureen Ramsay, Bud Landry, Ellie Hargleroad, Dick Horn and Eloise Fredrickson. Special thanks go to former members Rudy Sweisfurth and Linda Walter, who were instrumental in launching the group.

The first issue presented for consideration was the George H. Pike Endowment for Pastoral Care. This endowment was originally established in 2013 to fund the salary of a third pastor for Pastoral Care. The stipulation was that no funds could be spent until the principal reached \$1,500,000. Currently the fund value was \$204,262.

The committee met with Pastor Pike and members of the original governing board and, after consideration, recommended changes to the endowment as listed.

1. The George H. Pike Endowment would keep the same name and be used only for pastoral care needs of the church.
2. Formation of a 2–3-person committee to manage the funds. The committee members would be named by the Session and serve a 3-year term. The committee would have the discretion to recommend to the Session, the amount of monies to be distributed, capped at 5% of the principal, beginning in January 2024.

These changes were approved by the session in September.

At this point, the **committee** was reconstituted as a **commission** to focus exclusively on a Mission Study. The study, which is usually conducted after a Pastor retires, includes looking at our history, demographics, community and beliefs and practices. Our Presbytery gave permission for us to undertake the study before Pastor Diane retires in December 2023.

We have begun the process and should make a recommendation to the Session on future staffing needs and goals of the congregation in the second quarter of 2024. At that time the commission will have completed its charge and will disband.

## Scholarship Fund 2023

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### George Curtis, Chair

The Scholarship Committee administers the Larry DeLong Memorial Scholarship Fund. **Meghan Erickson**, (daughter of our Parish Nurse) a graduate of University High School in Tucson AZ. Meghan achieved a 4.3 GPA and has been admitted and registered at Arizona State University. **Sophia Szabo**, (granddaughter of Lynn Szabo) a graduate of Walden Grove High School in Sahuarita, AZ. Sophia achieved a 3.7 GPA and received a Scholar Award. She has been admitted and preregistered at Arizona State University. **Chuck Dunlap**, (employee of VPC) a graduate of Walden Grove High School and received recognition for academic achievement. Chuck has been admitted and preregistered at Pima Community College

No additional scholarships were awarded in 2023. Scholarships are supported by gifts and memorials to the Larry DeLong Memorial Scholarship Fund.

A four-year program scholarship is \$5600, payable at \$700 a semester. A two-year program scholarship is \$2000, Payable at \$500 a semester. The funds to cover these scholarships are encumbered when they are awarded. The Larry DeLong Memorial Scholarship Fund is supported by gifts and donations.

Committee members are George Curtis, Chair, Charlie Ashton, Gail Barker, Joanna Miller and Gee-Gee Smith.

## Stephen Ministry 2023

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### Jana Honermann - Stephen Leader Team Coordinator

Stephen Ministry started out the year with a new training class of four trainees, two from VPC and two from St. Francis Episcopal Church. VPC's two trainees, Kathryn Duncan and Debbie Van Hyfte, completed the training successfully, graduated, and were commissioned in April. In addition, Deb Jones, a trained Stephen Minister from another church was commissioned in April.

We added two Stephen Leaders to the team. Linda Piotrowski was commissioned in April and Deb Jones in June.

The Stephen Minister retreat was held on April 7 with Helen Phillips and Jana Honermann presenting on the topic "Compassion" based upon Henri Nouwen's book of the same name.



At the end of the year, there were 14 active Stephen Ministers, with six of them also serving as Stephen Leaders. Many thanks to all of the Stephen Ministers who served so faithfully in 2023. I consider them to be “Angels on Earth.” Special thanks to Helen Phillips who retired this past year as a Stephen Leader (for the second time!) who has put so much of her heart and soul into this ministry. Thankfully, she will continue on as a Stephen Minister. I also give thanks for Donaldina Joung and Parkie Copeland who have retired from active Stephen Ministry. Both were very long time active Stephen Ministers at VPC. And it is with sadness that I acknowledge and honor Carol Marshall who was a Stephen Minister so briefly before she passed into heavenly glory in April. As one of our Stephen Ministers commented, “Carol was a lovely, kind, and compassionate woman. I will miss her.” Yes, Carol, you are gone from us but not forgotten. You were the perfect example of what a Stephen Minister should be - full of love, kindness, and compassion.

My heart is full of thanks for every one of our past and present Stephen Ministers. They may never know the full impact they have made in this world. But God knows. Well done, good and faithful servants!

## **Worship Committee 2023**

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**Joan Dakin, Chair**

The purpose of the Worship Committee is to support our pastors and musical staff in planning meaningful worship events and services.

The year 2023 was rich in practical successes: A new sound system and organ were installed for services and memorials, and an organist/ accompanist was hired to replace Wes Moulton.

Worship events included Taizé during Lent with simple meals afterwards, Kirkin’ of the Tartans, Blessing of the Animals, a special inter-faith service in December, and our services with the Chancel Choir for each Sunday of the year. Communion Sundays include outreach communion to assisted living places and the home bound.

# Women's Ministries 2023

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## Lesley Bruce, Moderator

The purpose of Presbyterian Women:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study.
- To support the mission of the church worldwide.
- To work for justice and peace.
- To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

The ways that happens at VPC includes:

### **Monthly Bible Studies:**

**La Posada Circle** is led by Leah Bohor and Linda Freeman. They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:30 for lunch and fellowship followed by the Bible Study.

**Miriam Circle** is led by Liz Haynes. They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1pm in Classroom 1 at the church.

**Ruth Circle** is led by Sue Horton. They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 3pm in Classroom 5 at the church.

Monthly Gathering Luncheons have a ministry focus and each month's Presby Gift (Offering) supports that ministry.

### 2023 Gathering Luncheons:

**January** Apron Show – Anne Morrison.

**February** Style Show – Patio Style Show coordinators, Cheryl Stepp, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, Karen O'Rourke.

**March** Green Valley Animal League Guest Speaker, Kim Eisele, President of TALGV.

**April** Valley Assistance Services, Guest Speaker, Chris Erickson, Exec. Director.

**May** Grandmother's Dress, Guest Speaker and Author, Martha Ashton.

**September** Introduction to study "Sacred Encounters" Guest Speaker, Pastor Diane Christopher.

**October** "Tool Kit for Daily Living", Guest Speaker, Marcia MacDonald.

**November** "Blessed are the Piecemakers" Guest Speakers, Linda Freeman, Sue Luhring, Lois Macfarlane, Linda Norman, and Lesley Bruce.

**December** Celebration of Christmas and Gift presentation to Pastor Diane for her retirement

Presby offerings during 2023 supported Green Valley Food Bank, Green Valley Animal League, Valley Assistance Services (2 times), Genesis House, YOTO, Crossroads Thanksgiving Meal, and the annual PCUSA Thank and Birthday Offerings. We made donations to the Valley Presbyterian Organ Fund, Douglas Presbyterian Church, and Presbyterian Women in Presbytery de Cristo in memory of Kay Davison. We also support the Ronald McDonald House by donating beverage can top tabs. These tabs are delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson.

In addition to the monthly circles and luncheons, ladies of the church attended:

April 2023 Spring Presbyterian Women's Gathering at Southside Presbyterian Church, Tucson .

During this Gathering Judy Lindsey was installed as Moderator for PW Synod de Cristo.

September 2023 Synod Gathering on September 30 at Northminister Presbyterian Church, Tucson where our speaker was Chris Casanova, Moderator of the Presbyterian Women Synod of the Sun.

**Mission Quilts** Patti Bright and Martha Jump lead this ministry which meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month. The finished quilts are given to various mission projects.

**Baby hats and sweaters and older children/adults hats and mittens/gloves** given to various mission projects supported by VPC

**Prayer Shawls** are crocheted or knitted by the ladies of VPC and are given to the Deacons who then prepare them for blessing in November.

**Prayer Squares** are knitted by Maureen Ramsay who makes them available at the welcome centers and office as well as putting them inside the Christmas Shoeboxes (Samaritan Purse) in November. Maureen Ramsay is also available to any of the ladies who would like to learn how to knit.

Women of the church are encouraged to join one or more of the ministries offered. Information is available at the Womens' Ministries table in fellowship hall after worship two Sundays of the month.

I would also like to stress that while the most Presbyterian Womens' ministries are called "Presbyterian Women" we here at VPC, call ourselves Womens' Ministries. Because Green Valley is host to many winter friends who come from various church backgrounds at their winter homes, they come to Valley Presbyterian Church to worship and participate in the many activities here. We feel it is better to be more inclusive. VPC Womens' Ministries also does not require Presbyterian Church membership to be included and be active in our ministries.

