

Valley Voice

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

April 14, 9:30 a.m. - PALM SUNDAY

Rev. Mark A. Medina - What Lies Beyond the Gates

April 18, 7:00 p.m. - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Rev. Diane Christopher - A service of light and darkness.

We remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples, and his arrest.

April 19, 12:00 p.m. - GOOD FRIDAY

Rev. Mark A. Medina - Suffering: The Lord's Last Hours

April 21, 6:00 a.m. - EASTER SUNRISE (BEGINS OUTSIDE)

Rev. Diane Christopher - Looking for Life

April 21, 9:30 a.m. - EASTER

Rev. Mark A. Medina - A New Day In The Resurrection of Jesus

Montlure Traveling Day Camp Returns!

June 24 - 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Montlure is our denomination's church camp, and they are bringing their Traveling Day Camp back to our church. Last year, the kids loved the camp so much that we decided to bring it back for an encore!

One week at Day Camp can serve as a powerful and life-changing experience in children's faith development. The Montlure counselors invest in the kids, and model what it means to live a life for the Lord. This is an amazing opportunity of outreach for our church as we bring the love of God to children in our area.

Here are ways you can be part of this experience:

- sponsor a child to attend camp (\$75)
- be a volunteer counselor (assist camp counselors)
- work at the registration table during camp
- host the camp counselors for dinner

On May 5, Kellie von Borstel, the director of camp, will be here to tell us more about the camp and answer your questions. Fundraising and volunteer sign-up will start May 5.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Diane (625-5023) or Pam Karbowsky (648-4281).

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Story of a Hummingbird

Sometime in late January, a hummingbird built a tiny, beautiful nest in my bougainvillea bush right outside my patio door. There was no need to go outside. I found a pair of binoculars and a had front row seat to the nest from inside my house.

It wasn't too long before she had two tiny eggs in that impossibly tiny nest. Unfortunately, her nest was right next to my composter. At first she flew away when I went to that composter, but eventually she got used to me. I could get as close as three feet from her as she sat on her precious eggs.

One day I walked by the nest while mom was gone, and there in the bottom of the nest was, what looked like, breathing feathers. I was so excited. I had two babies. I couldn't wait to watch those baby birds grow and take their first flight.

Then the snowstorm of February 22 hit.

I was so enamored with the snow that I forgot about the nest. But the next day while mom was away, I went over to the nest. The nest was still attached to the branch, but damaged....and the babies were dead. Heartbroken, for the next several days, I watched the mother as she continued to try and feed her babies and sit in that warped nest. After a few days, she left.

I hate death.

So at this time of year, I am thankful for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter. We say that Jesus had victory over death because of his resurrection. I used to wonder about that statement. If Jesus had victory over death, then why do we still die? I came to realize that it doesn't mean we don't experience death; it means that death does not have the final word. Jesus had the final word. We will experience life after death because Jesus did.

I think of the promise in the book of Revelation. It is a promise of a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no more death, or sorrow, or grief (Rev 21). Oh, I look forward to that time. "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." (Rev 22:20)



Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

Join us for Lenten Taizé Worship

April 3 and 10 at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

****There will be no Wednesday service on April 17****

After April 10, Taizé will be taking a break for the summer. Watch for updates in the fall.

Thoughts for the Journey

Dear Friends,

Soon we will enter Holy week. The events of that week take us on a roller coaster of emotions and sorrow. Palm Sunday finds us celebrating the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday finds us sitting at the table with the Lord as he passes the bread and cup for all to take and remember. Good Friday finds us uniting with other Christians to go through a time of sadness and darkness.

Easter! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! The words proclaim what we believe and experience from the first Easter morning to this present time. The power of God has been shown to the world in the raising of His Son from the dead. There is true power in the power of the resurrected Lord.

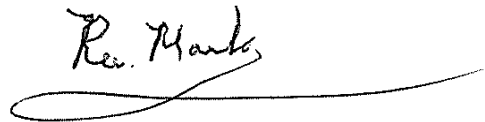
There is a story of an event that happened back around 1930 which bears telling today. "The Communist leader Bukarian journeyed from Moscow to Kiev. His mission was to address a huge assembly. His subject, atheism – the belief that there is no God. For a solid hour he aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity, hurling argument and ridicule. At last he was finished and viewed what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of humanity's faith.

"Are there any questions?' Bukarian demanded. A solitary man arose and asked permission to speak. He mounted the platform and moved close to the Communist. The audience was breathlessly silent as the man surveyed them first to the right and then to the left. At last he shouted the ancient Orthodox greeting, 'CHRIST IS RISEN!' The vast assembly arose as one and the response came crashing like the sound of an avalanche, 'HE IS RISEN INDEED!'"

Friends, the witnesses of the risen Lord in one's life proclaim the power of Christ breaking the bonds of death. May this Easter be a time of renewed commitment to the one who showed us the resurrected life.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Praise be to God!

Yours in Christ,



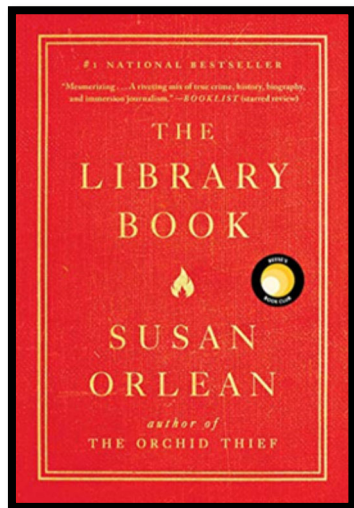
Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor

One Great Hour of Sharing

During the Lenten season, we Presbyterians nationwide join together to fulfill the needs of others during a time of disaster. You may ask "Where does our money go?" A gift to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by national disasters, providing food for the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Please contribute by using the special envelope in your pew, or use the regular pew envelope with your check to VPC marked "OGH." Thank you.

Valley Readers

Monday, April 22
2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1



In 1986 a disastrous fire gutted the main Los Angeles Public Library and destroyed much of the collection. Susan Orlean interweaves the story of the fire, information about the young man suspected of starting the conflagration, and the sometimes wacky history of the LAPL along with a discussion of the value of libraries in yesterday and today's world. This entertaining narrative appeared on several best-of-the-year lists and was described by reviewers as captivating, a constant pleasure, and mesmerizing. Help celebrate National Library Week by joining us for this discussion led by Liz Haynes. Please contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

Playground

April 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Sally Ruschmeier

Looking for fun?

Come see the state of the art playground which VPC supported.

Where: Los Niños del Valle at La Posada

When: April 5 (rain date April 12) at 3:00 p.m.

We will get a tour and then see the kids in action. Fun!

The Grapevine – an Open Congregational Forum

Monday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for the next Grapevine on April 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary as we discuss the finances of the church, with the Finance Committee answering questions.

Patio Sale Dates for 2019

Sorting takes place on Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.

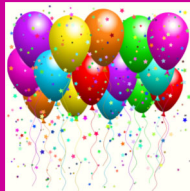
Sorting: Apr. 11, May 16, Jun. 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sep. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 19

Holiday Sale: November 22 & 23 (set-up November 20-21)

Gaslight Theatre

Sunday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gaslight Theatre

Presbyterian Campus Ministry will have a Mothers Day fundraiser at Gaslight on Sunday May 12. The show is "Back to the Past" and the performance is at 6:00 pm. Tickets will be \$35 (\$16 is a donation to PCM). Valley will have 50 tickets available. You may make a reservation for tickets by contacting George Curtis at 520-625-2394 or by email at crtcar9@cox.net.



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Special birthday greetings to Doretta VanNimwegen as she celebrates her **90th birthday** on the **21st** of this month.



Women's Ministries

Sheriff's Auxiliary Speaks about Frauds and Scams - April 16 at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Carol Peeler, Moderator

I am sure all of you know about the style show we have every February. We use clothes that have been donated for the Patio Sale. The luncheon this year was prepared here by a very dedicated Circle and their helpers. Ann Morrison is always here to see that things are prepared according to the recipes. All recipes have been from the VPC cook book except for a couple of desserts. We still have a few cook books for sale and those can be picked up at the Women's Ministry Table on Sundays for \$18.00. We all give Cheryl Stepp and Pat Nau a big thank you for all the work putting this together for the style show, and to Diane for being the MC.

We cancelled the March Gathering so we could all come to the Spring Presbytery Gathering, which was held here at Valley Presbyterian Church on March 23. Martha Ashton is the Moderator of Presbytery de Cristo's Women of the Presbytery, and she brought in a wonderful speaker, Rev. Yung Me Morris. She and Martha spoke about Trauma and Healing, and how it affects us. Rev. Morris also gave the sermon on March 24th.

Our next program will be presented by the Sheriff's Auxiliary. It is going to be all about frauds and scams. We have opened this to men as well, so if you would like to hear this program and have a wonderful lunch on the 16th of April, get your reservation (\$11) at the Women's Table on Sunday the 7th and 14th of April.

Pastor Diane will give the April and May lessons on April 2 due to the Pastor being out of town in May.

May will be here before we know it and we will be having a program of "Let's Talk!" - a special event staff appreciation. This is a salad potluck so get ready to bring your favorite salad.

An Opportunity to Help the Homeless

April 9 at 10:30 a.m. in Classroom 1

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Representative (520-282-1390)

Our Mission Committee is planning a church-wide effort to make bags of food for the needy.

Matthew 25:35 *"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."*

THANK YOU to our congregation for the many donations of snack items you brought in March that we will use to fill snack bags for the homeless. **After our April 9 Missions meeting, we will begin to assemble the bags. We welcome you to join us in Classroom 1 at 10:30 a.m. for this project.**

Completed bags will have two destinations:

1. We will deliver many to The Hospitality House of the Salvation Army who welcome individuals who are homeless.
2. Individuals in our congregation may take some to keep in their cars to deliver to homeless people they encounter on our streets.



THANK YOU for helping with this outreach. We look forward to the opportunity to assemble many bags for those who have very little.



News of Note

By Joel Pierce



Thank you to all who attended the various concerts at the church over the last few weeks! Our sanctuary and parking lot were full of music from the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus, True Concord, the Green Valley Community Chorus, our Lenten concert series, and the Tucson Highlanders. What a joy it is for music to play such an integral part of our church life, both in and out of worship. On **April 5 at 6:00 p.m., the Music in the Valley Scholarship recipients will present a concert, and I will play some piano music from over the years I've been at VPC.** Thank you for your support of the music series. This year, we enjoyed increased numbers in attendance, and of course, wonderful music from my duet with Russell, Sonoran Bells, HarpFusion, Flutefinity, Nino Bakradze, the Sanctuary Choir, and the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus. On Easter Sunday, lift up your voices with the choir, and bring your copy of the Hallelujah Chorus. If you don't have one, copies will be distributed that morning.

As most of you probably know, April 28 will be my last Sunday as the Director of Music at VPC. The decision to move from one adventure to the next is never easy. I want to thank you, the congregation of Valley Presbyterian, for your support as I venture to the next chapter of my life. It is not easy for me, or you, but your support at this time means the world to me and reaffirms my belief that I've been serving the most caring and wonderful congregation. As of now, my plans are to relocate to the New England area where I will continue to work in church ministry, teach piano lessons, and do anything I can to stretch myself musically, including a possible run at a doctorate. I will share updates next month.

A Celebration for Joel Pierce's Last Sunday at VPC

Sunday, April 28 During and After Worship

This is our time to celebrate Joel's music ministry and to say goodbye to him as the Director of Music. He has been a vital part of the Worship services and the many special events he's lead. It is a celebration Worship service when we thank God for Joel. It will be a time of music incorporating many aspects of the music program and some of Joel's favorite hymns. Please join us for a full Worship service and a reception in Joel's honor after worship.

Music Ministry Notes

Submitted by Linda Freeman, Worship Committee

Saying goodbye to Joel brings up mixed feelings – we want him to continue his music leadership with us, but also appreciate that he is called to share his gifts elsewhere. To continue the excellent music ministry here at Valley is a priority. So, the Worship Committee, in collaboration with Personnel, will be advertising the opening of two new positions in the Music Ministry at the University of Arizona: Interim Director of Music and Interim Accompanist. We wanted to tap into this great resource which has provided our church with Joel and so many highly talented and qualified musicians. Plus, we want to move quickly. A posting of the two positions will be up soon with a desired starting date of April 22. Ideally, the new people will have the opportunity of working alongside Joel during his last week with us. These positions carry the Interim title, but whomever is hired will be considered for the permanent placement.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11



The National Council On Aging website (NCOA.org) posted a blog about some of the latest scams targeting seniors. I am sharing a couple I've heard about from other sources as well, because I think they might be pretty common. From NCOA:

Beware of Social Security spoofing calls

There's been a significant uptick in fraudulent telephone calls from people claiming to represent the Social Security Administration (SSA). In them, unknown callers threaten victims that they face arrest or other legal action if they fail to call a provided phone number or press the number indicated in the message to address the issue. Sometimes the scammers switch tactics and say that they want to help an individual activate a suspended Social Security number. They may even "spoof" the actual Social Security hotline number to appear on the recipient's phone: 1-800-772-1213.

If you receive one of these calls, hang up. Know that Social Security rarely contacts persons by phone unless you have ongoing business with them and they never make threats about arrest or legal action.

Report suspicious calls to the SSA Office of the Inspector General by calling 1-800-269-0271 or submitting a report on the OIG website (<https://oig.ssa.gov/report>).

Only work with reputable agencies after a natural disaster

Wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes - these unpredictable forces of nature can be devastating to those living in affected areas. Even those not directly affected may want to lend support in whatever way they can.

Unfortunately, natural disasters are a golden opportunity for scammers, who target both those who've been directly affected and those who want to offer their support. Natural disaster scams typically start with unsolicited contact by telephone, social media, e-mail, or in person. Scammers may:

- Impersonate charities to get money or private information from well-meaning consumers.
- Set up fake websites with names that mimic legitimate charities to trick people into sending money.
- Pretend to be from the IRS and collect personal information under the guise of helping victims file loss claims and get tax refunds.

To find reputable charities to support victims of natural disasters, use the IRS's tax exempt organization search (<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search>) or look for an organization's charity rating on places such as Guidestar and Charity Navigator.

In addition to this article, I recently read a thread on Facebook about people whose relatives had been victimized. Person after person recounted stories about their family member and how much money they had sent to a scammer. In rare cases, when they acted quickly, they were able to intercept the money and get it back, but the majority did not. As always, be skeptical anytime you are asked to discuss money or personal information by someone you don't personally know, and verify, verify, verify what they are telling you before taking action. Scammers will try to rush you into something with threats or scare tactics, but don't be intimidated. Legitimate situations rarely require instant action. Take just five minutes to make a call - it could save you thousands of dollars.



Faith Formation

Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life A Lenten Study

Tuesdays, 1 p.m. in Classroom 5

Based on the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren, Pastor Diane will look at all the ordinary things we do each day – making the bed, brushing our teeth, checking email, sitting in traffic – and show us how to become aware of God's presence in our daily routines.

From the book: "Take and read. Taste – not just the wine and bread, but the peanut butter and jelly, too – and see. The Lord is good. Every square inch of our lives, every second, is his."

Come and discover the holiness of your every day.

Men's Weekday Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

***Two church-sponsored men's groups meet during the week,
and they would be glad to have you join them!***

The first group meets on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. They are now reviewing Warren Wiersbe's commentary "Be Loyal" on the Gospel of Matthew. A group of six men meet in the Media Room of the Silver Springs Retirement Community for fellowship and study and an all-around lively discussion. Anyone interested may join. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

The second group, with about six to thirteen men attending each week, meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. They meet at the church for one hour in classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (777-8027), but focuses on group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are just beginning a new study on John, chapters 1, 2, and 3. 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 able.

What the Heck Do I Believe????

Want to know more? Check this page in the May Valley Voice.

Forming Your Faith: An Adult Sunday School Class

8:30 a.m. in Classroom 5

Start your Sunday mornings with study and conversation. The class discusses the sermon scriptures being read during the worship service that day. Be enriched as you hear how God speaks to others through the scriptures, and then hear the thoughts of the preacher of the day. This class is open to all, so please join us.



Faith Formation

The Inquisitors Living the Questions

Fridays from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. in Classroom 1

Last Spring, with “Living the Questions,” we started examining our faiths in an environment where participants could interact with each other and fine-tune our beliefs to make them more worth having and living. Join us on Fridays at 1:30 to continue discussing this topic. For further information contact: Grant Stitt (396-3549 or email stitt@unr.edu).

Wednesdays in Lent

Continuing our special Lenten time of spiritual reflection, fasting, devotion, a time to walk with Christ to the cross, we offer the following on **Wednesdays at Noon and 5 p.m.**

At Noon:

April 3 Class: Church Music in the Middle Ages by Joel Pierce (Spiritual Life Center)
April 10 Piano/Organ Recital (Sanctuary)
April 17 Class: The Messiah: The Passion by Eloise Fredrickson

At 5 p.m.

Taizé worship on Wednesdays April 3 and 10 in the Spiritual Life Center. **No service on April 17.**

A Note from Dave and Pam L.

Submitted by Doug Clark

Well we got back from our longer trip and jumped right into the experience of our dog dying and having to put her down. Sad but we know it is just a part of life. But we miss our little dog Doosty!

We also had a guest from our team working with Iranians in Turkey here last week, and then we spoke in Pam's home church last Sunday. Tomorrow we have a group of 20 people coming over to hear about Bangladesh, and then Sunday we go for a Persian new year celebration with Iranians.













Thanks so much for the extra gift that we got in the mail and saw when we got back! That was also a blessing and help.











And, thank you again so much for hosting us when we were with you in January. That was a special extra blessing and breather for us as we were able to come and also enjoy some of the nice weather here with you all! Now spring is finally coming here and the snow is melting.

Appreciate prayer as I head to Pakistan March 30 to do training with our team and leaders and board.

Thanks again for your support and prayer. Every blessing,

Dave and Pam

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1 9:00 Faith Formation Committee 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Peace & Justice Resource 9:00 Mission Quilting 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 AAUW Meeting 11:00 Library Committee 1:00 Emotionally Healthy Spirituality  Bob L Campbell	2 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 8:30 WM Coordinating Team 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 Women's Ministries Bible Study 11:00 NOC Meeting 1:00 Liturgy of the Ordinary 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Betty Hughes	3 8:00 Ministry Of Presence 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 12:00 Church Music in the 1:00 Worship Committee 5:00 Lenten Taizé  Marilyn Barney, Carolyn Stubbs
7 Communion Food Bank Collection 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship & Communion at LaJoya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Confirmation Class  Sam Eidson	8 9:00 Faith Formation Planning Team 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Grapevine  April Boysen, Mary Nilsson	9 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 8:45 Mission Committee 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:30 Assembling Bags for the Homeless 1:00 Liturgy of the Ordinary 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Helen Phillips, Neva Stegman	10 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Deacons Meeting 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:30 Lois Circle 12:00 Piano/Organ Recital 12:00 Miriam Circle 5:00 Lenten Taizé  Donna Watt
14 Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Confirmation Class	15 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Mission Quilting 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Fellowship Committee 4:00 Ruth Circle  Vicki Bozarth, Bill Thies	16 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 11:30 Women's Gathering 1:00 Liturgy of the Ordinary 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 1:30 Buildings & Grounds Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	17 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:30 Finance Committee 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 12:00 The Messiah:  Meagan Jorgensen, Dick VanTreese
21 Easter Sunday 6:00 Easter Sunrise Service 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Easter Service of Worship  Jack Cissel, Bill Eustis, Doretta VanNimwegen	22 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:00 Valley Readers  Marvin Clark, Betty Shafer	23 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:00 Creative Hands 9:00 Prayer Shawls in Classroom 1 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 Publicity Committee 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	24 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:00 Card Making for
28 Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship 10:30 Reception for Joel Pierce 10:45 Blood Pressure Screening 3:00 Civic Orchestra of Tucson  Carolyn Joling, Lela Pavlick	29 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Mission Quilting 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Carol Wilhems	30 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	

	Thu	Fri	Sat
Middle Ages Monte Crook,	4 9:30 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:30 The Inquisitors: Living the Questions 6:00 Music in the Valley: Scholarship recipients	6 7:30 Communion Prep 8:00 Presbytery De Cristo Meeting
		 Larry Phillips	 Roger McFarland, Betty Singleton, Gretta Tameling
Lunch Prep	11 8:00 Patio Sale Sorting 9:00 Faith & Health Committee 1:00 Personnel Committee 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	12 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Education 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Stephen Ministry New Peer Group 11:00 Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting 1:30 The Inquisitors: Living the Questions	13
	 Joyce Lambert, Marcia MacDonald, Fredric Roeming	 Seth St. John	
Lunch Prep	18 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 1:00 Green Valley Genealogical Society 3:45 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting 12:00 Good Friday Service 1:30 The Inquisitors: Living the Questions	20
The Passion	 Ernest H. Bakker, Karen Brumm	 Karen Backus	 Colton Sayre
YOTO	25 8:00 Session Meeting 3:45 Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Salad, Soup & Sweets Potluck	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Education 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Stephen Ministry Peer Group 11:00 Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting 1:30 The Inquisitors: Living the Questions 6:00 Civic Orchestra of Tucson Rehearsal	27
	 Joan Bolin, Carol Tahse-Roeming	 Karen Curtis, Rosemary Mathews, Carolyn Sitnick	 Gail Gesell, Gloria James

April 2019

The Mission Committee Thanks the Patio Sale

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

What wonderful work was done by the entire Patio Sale committee and volunteers to enable Valley Presbyterian Church to give generously to our designated missions: Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Banks, Posada Community Services, Casa Vida Nueva para Niños, (Home for Children), Crossroad Nogales Mission, Hands of a Friend, Mission Quilts, Pam and Dave L. with Operation Mobilization, Bob and Kristi Rice in South Sudan, Presbyterian Campus Ministry (University of Arizona, Tucson), St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, Valley Assistance Services, and Youth On Their Own to name most, but not all.

The Mission Committee recognizes the long hours and hard work of many volunteers led by the Amigos Eloise Fredrickson, Dick Christensen, Steve Setterlund, and Lorna Kitchak. Giving stories abound. Some buyers purchased clothing, linens, dishware, etc. to give to hurting friends. Clothing was given to families who are waiting in Nogales and Tucson areas for approved admittance to the U.S. One man, who travels to Indian Reservations all over the Midwest and West, bought clothing to give to struggling Indian communities. These are just a few of the heartwarming stories that happen during the annual VPC Patio Sale. Nothing is unused as all items not sold by noon on Saturday were donated to the Animal League, Equine Voices, White Elephant, Salvation Army, and other places.

The Mission Committee could not function if it were not for the monies raised during the Patio Sale. We express sincere thanks for all you do!

Patio Sale News

Submitted by Eloise Fredrickson

Kudos to the many people who worked at this year's Patio Sale. It is simply amazing how hard our people work and how willing they are to help out when something needs to be done. This year was particularly stressful for two reasons: the weather and the amount of merchandise we had. Those people who worked in the tents set up their areas with only a little protection from the wind, the cold, and the rain. On Tuesday during the set-up, the rain gathered in low spots on the top of the tent, and then, when the wind gusted, the tent flapped, dumping the water onto whatever was below, which was sometimes our workers. Nevertheless, they kept on working, sometimes using a hair dryer from the electronics department to dry themselves off.

Everyone worked to find places to display the increased amount of merchandise. Every department was overrun with goods, meaning they had to work extra-long to get it all out of the storage boxes plus do their best to get it displayed in a way that would appeal to our customers. Many of the volunteers arrived at 7 every morning in order to get their work done. Their dedication is remarkable. Special thanks to those who handled the furniture, who loaded it and unloaded it for all those days and who still had to haul tables and set-up fixtures after the rest of us were done. What would we do without you?

Although our conditions were stressful, most volunteers enjoyed the fellowship, the laughs, and the camaraderie of the event, and knowing that our efforts were all for the benefits of the missions this church supports made us sure the effort was worthwhile.

Thanks to our workers, and thanks to our customers, our take before expenses is very close to \$80,000. We are in the process of finalizing our numbers to determine our net proceeds and the amount that will be available to the Mission Committee for distribution to various agencies.

The Amigos – Eloise Fredrickson, Dick Christensen, Steve Setterlund, and Lorna Kitchak

New Stephen Ministers

On March 24, we commissioned our newest class of Stephen Ministers.



Bob Lillie (left) has been a winter resident for seven years, but last fall he and his wife bought a home in Green Valley to be here full time. He was a Stephen Minister in a previous church and retrained here now that he has time to make a greater commitment to help others.



Marita Ramsey (right) is a winter resident, living in Idaho in the summer. She is a new member of VPC, but she says Jesus has always been there for her, no matter what happened in her life. She became a Stephen Minister to be there for others and, in turn, grow spiritually.



Norm Tenbrink (left) first experienced Stephen Ministry through his wife Shirley, who was a Stephen Minister here until her death from cancer in 2015. Her enthusiasm for Stephen Ministry and her strong faith led him to complete training for Stephen Ministry this year. Norm has a great love for the outdoors, both in Michigan where he spends his summers, and here in Green Valley.

Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Submitted by Tommy Calhoun

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly since January 15. If you have looked at the progress charts posted by the welcome desks and in Fellowship Hall, you will have seen that there are 22 steps in the process for hiring a new pastor. This past week we reached step 11, so we are half way there.

Now, what does this mean? It means we have finished writing the Ministry Information Form and sent it to Session for signature on February 24. This form introduces our church to candidates interested in our position of Pastor/Head of Staff. It also describes our church and provides information about the characteristics we are looking for in those candidates.

After the Clerk of Session signs it, it will go to the Presbytery Committee On Ministry for review and signature on March 5. They will send it to the Church Leadership Connection where it will be available to all interested, nation-wide.

We could start receiving Pastor Information Forms (applications) around two weeks after the advertisement is made. Some applications from our Presbytery will arrive quickly. So, we are well on our way, but hard work is ahead as we start evaluating what we hope are many applications. Here is something I borrowed from an ad I read about our job as a PNC. Our job is to discern who "God has already chosen to join our church family and enthusiastically lead and challenge us for service that reflects the grace of God to all people."

We ask that you continue to be patient and to keep us and this church in your prayers as we continue our journey of transition.

More Blog Readers Wanted (13 and Counting)

Submitted by Doug Clark

A blog reader is anyone with access to a computer who can type in "bobandkristi.blogspot.com." Have you ever wanted to read a missionary's diary? Consider reading the real-life story of Bob and Kristi Rice, who share, on a weekly basis, the story of God working in their lives.

The All Seeing Lord Within

Theophan the Recluse, a well-known saint and mystic in the Russian Orthodox church of the 19th century, once said, "To pray is to descend with the mind into the heart, and there to stand before the face of the Lord, ever-present, all seeing, within you." A week ago I began teaching Spiritual Formation to our fresh intake of students, our "junior" class. Spiritual Formation is an exceptional class in that we not only open our minds but also descend into the heart where we face the 'ever present' Lord who dwells within. In actual fact, being still and silent and 'descending' are not easy things to do. For most of us, our "inner lives," our "interiority," is either underdeveloped or undeveloped. We do not have a good sense of who we are, even as Christians, and we often are perplexed by the things we do and the things we say. In many ways our "mysterium tremendum," the overwhelming nature of our inner lives, leaves us strangers even to ourselves, shaking us to the very core.

One of the things I have been learning over the last twenty years or so is the need for silence, solitude and understanding what it means to be contemplative. Slowly I am learning to make progress in detaching myself from preconceived notions, from my "ego" or "false self," and learning what it means to embrace my "true self" as God created me, listening to God's quiet voice within. By no means am I a Spiritual Master, but I embrace this journey of 'descending' into the heart, allowing myself to be totally exposed to the all-seeing and ever present Lord who inhabits my very being. The late Henri Nouwen, a student of the interior life, summarizes the meaning of spiritual formation as the ongoing formation of the heart, exercised in community life, expressed in service to the world. This growth can only happen when we take the inward journey of the heart, walking the royal road of silence, and then moving back towards community. Too often our conceptions of God are too small as we race around with our busy and frenetic lives; God is so much bigger and perplexing and almost unknowable and mysterious than we can possibly imagine. In the end, none of us are experts when it comes to the things of God.

I am hoping and praying that my students will capture the vision towards the contemplative life through this class. Already we have begun practicing Lectio Divina, or "Divine Reading" of Scripture, and within one short week my remarkable students have been sharing this ancient practice with others in their churches and helping them receive a fresh 'Word' from the Lord. I am greatly encouraged! In conclusion, here is a quote from the syllabus I created which gives a vision of where we are going together as a class (see below). Pray with me that God works powerfully in our midst!

We will learn together about the contemplative life and we will reflect together on spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, retreat, solitude, silence, Bible reading, family worship, personal devotional life, lament, celebration, community, confession, and service. Practicing the spiritual disciplines together over the course of the sixteen weeks will be a hallmark of this course. As students and teacher learn together what it means to be in Christian community and to be in solidarity with all peoples, particularly the poor and powerless and those who are different from us, together we will become better disciples and thus better witnesses to others of life and faith in Jesus Christ, thus fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19).

The past blogs read like a real-life novel, chronicling God in action through the writings of Bob and Kristi Rice. Please join me in following our missionaries, and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by telling me in person, or emailing douglasclark68@me.com.



Casa Vida Nueva para Niños, A.C. Home for Children (Orphanage)

To the world you may be one person, but to a child, you are the world.

March 23, 2019 Trip to the Home for Children

Submitted by Reed Olson - Mission Committee

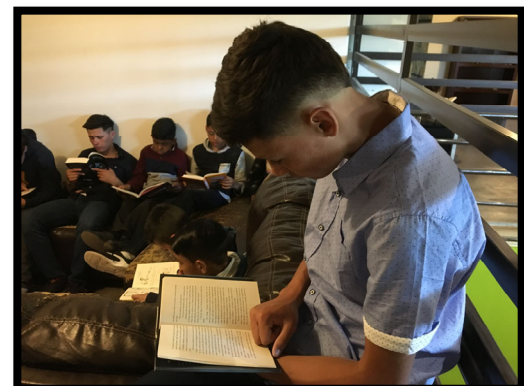


42 children received their own personalized book in Spanish

This trip was special!

30 people witnessed the joy each child had when they received their very own, hardcover book written in Spanish with their name in it. Cal Judson created a program called "Give a Kid a Book" and coordinated the entire event. When a child's name was called they were handed their very own book. After the each child received their book, a group photo was taken and then they went out to the audience and hugged/thanked each visitor. The visitors also received an overview of the Home, a RISE Scholastic Achievement presentation, a tour of the facility, and lunch with the children. It was another great day to share the love of Jesus Christ with these children. Thank you all for the love and generosity you have given to these deserving children.

The next trip is scheduled for September 14.



Welcome, New Members



Ken and Sheila Frahm



Chuck and Anna McCarty



Marita Ramsay



Bob Streng



Leilani Young

Farewell to Drew



Drew Weaver, one of our custodians, has resigned his position effective March 26. He is heading back to Indiana to be closer to his family and to find other opportunities. He has been a hard-working and dedicated part of Valley's support staff. He will be missed by many who depended on him to move things around, to help with the Patio Sale, to keep the church clean and presentable, to provide support to outside groups, and to willingly assist where he is needed. Drew, may God protect as you travel to Indiana to start a new life full of possibilities. God Speed.

Session Notes from February

Submitted by Charlie Ashton, Clerk of Session

- Accepted the following persons as new members: Ken and Sheila Frahm, Chuck and Lanette McCarty, Marita Ramsay, Bill Streng, and Leilani Young.
- Elected Charlie Ashton as Clerk and Don Brooks as Treasurer.
- Reviewed and approved an amended 2019 budget with a projected \$48,700 deficit with future review in subsequent meetings.
- Reviewed and approved the Ministry Information Form (MIF) submitted by the PNC, and authorized the signing by the Clerk, and conveyance of same to Presbytery.
- Did not accept the resignation of Elder Dick Horn.

Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

The Finance Committee met on February 20 to review the January through February financial statements. The financials as of February 28, 2019 show we are currently in a positive position although we are slightly below the anticipated budget to date of \$13,706 as shown below.

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue	\$168,141	\$163,996	\$ 4,145
Expense	<u>\$156,082</u>	<u>\$150,289</u>	<u>(\$ 5,793)</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>\$ 12,059</u>	<u>\$ 13,707</u>	<u>(\$ 1,648)</u>

Looking at budget to actual, the revenues are ahead of year-to-date budget by 2.5% but the expenses are over year-to-date budget by approximately 4%. This gives us a negative net income variance as displayed above.

For 2019, the finance committee recommended to Session that we pay the annual per capita payment only as received. To date we have paid \$6,616 that was collected in January and February which covers approximately 164 of the members. Based on the membership number of 496 at December 31, 2017, we would be assessed \$19,949.12, so we have only collected 33% of our assessment. Hopefully, many more members will step up and pay the \$40.22 per member per capita (note: associate members pay their per capita through their home church).

The Finance Committee continues to look for ways to balance the budget and is working with various committees to find savings through their programs. The initial balanced budget as approved by Session in November 2018 is constantly changing because revenues were estimated before we knew the results of the 2019 Generosity Campaign. Pledges continue to come in through March and most committees have been asked to reduce their program expenses as best they can because the estimated giving is not coming to fruition. Currently, we are projecting that the church will suffer another deficit for the year 2019 of approximately \$48,000.

Thank you to all who have pledged to this campaign, who are contributing faithfully, who are working on budget reductions, and who are praying for our success.

Remember: the 2019 Per Capita payment is \$40.22



Congregational Care

Are You Prepared?

By Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, RN, BA, CFCN

We make preparations for those “big” events that happen such as a wedding, a graduation, a job interview, a move, or a social event. Easy to do, just prepare, organize it and make sure it is on your calendar. Do we ever prepare for the End of Life, for those times when we might not be able to tell others what we want? Some claim that this is just too hard to do. Is it?

April 16, 2019 is National Healthcare Decisions day. We now have it on the calendar, let's prepare. Healthcare decisions is sometimes called by other terms like, living will or advance directives. Advanced care planning should be done at any age. We never know when a health/medical crisis may happen and not allow us to make those decisions. An advance directive allows you to express your values and your preferences about the types of decisions that need to be made related to end of life. Decisions that might come up are: CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), ventilator use, artificial nutrition, and comfort care.

There are two main elements in an advance directive, a living will and a durable power of attorney. A living will is a written document that helps you tell healthcare providers how you want to be treated if you are dying or permanently unconscious and cannot make your own decisions about your treatment. Durable power of attorney for health care is a legal document naming a healthcare agent or proxy, someone to make medical decisions for you at times when you are unable to do so. This person should know and understand your wishes, and would be able to decide as you would. Another element is a DNR (do not resuscitate) order tells medical staff in a hospital or facility that you do not want them to try to return your heart to a normal rhythm if it stops or is beating unsustainably using CPR or other life-support measures. A pre-hospital or non-hospital DNR order in Arizona is an orange colored form and is signed by your healthcare provider after discussions with them.

The Five Wishes is an advanced directive written, giving you choices as how you would like to be treated and cared for. This document is legal in 42 states and a caring way to decide about those end of life decisions.

Another source is the Arizona Secretary of State Website, azsos.gov, where there is a section on advanced directives and life care planning. Forms are also located on this site. Also in the state of Arizona, there is a registry for your advanced directives. In Arizona, there are three power of attorneys needed for your wishes: financial power of attorney, medical power of attorney, and mental health power of attorney. An advanced directive is only used if you are in danger of dying and need certain emergency or special measures to keep you alive, but you are not able to make those decisions on your own.

When we prepare for things, don't we want to talk about them? Don't we usually talk to our families about something we will be doing? We need to have open communication with our healthcare providers, with our family, with our church, and with our neighbors and friends, so others know what our wishes are. April 16, 2019 is National Healthcare Decisions day. Are you prepared?

Medical Minute



Stay sharp!
Keep busy.



Congregational Care

Parish Nurse

Parish Nurse hours vary depending upon appointments and meetings. Starting in April, please make appointments and leave telephone messages for the Parish Nurse through the church office, 625-5023, during regular church office hours.

Grief and Bereavement

The Ministry of Presence reaches out to those members who have recently experienced loss, and provides comforting materials and a friendly presence to that person's home. For those who have lost a loved one, The Grief Support Workshops are group workshops offered at different times during the year by an experience counselor in grief and loss.

Facility Visitation

Visits are made regularly to members who are in the local assisted living facilities, adult care homes and the local nursing home. These friendly visits keep our congregational members aware of what is going on in the church, and let them know they are thought of and prayed for.

Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News



Blood Pressure Screenings: You may have your blood pressure taken during the week by appointment with the Parish Nurse. The next **Sunday blood pressure screening clinic** will be on **April 28**. Join us that Sunday, right after Worship services, in the Sweet Family Room for a blood pressure screening.

Movement & Exercise Classes Here at VPC:



- **Parkinson's Support/Exercise** meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 - 10 a.m. For more information, contact instructor Mia Cooper at 204-5264.
- **Chair Exercise** classes are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m. There is a fee. For more information, contact instructor Mia Cooper at 204-5264.

Alzheimer's Support & Education at VPC: The Alzheimer's support group continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Sweet Family Room. This support group helps to share feelings and concerns, and receive information. For more information, or to register, contact the Alzheimer's Association at (520) 322-6601.



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



Valley Presbyterian Church

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www.valleypresbyterian.net

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

Pastors

Rev. Mark A. Medina,
Transitional Pastor
Rev. Diane Christopher,
Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Joe Hawkins,
Pastor Emeritus

Staff

Joel Pierce,
Director of Music
Chris Erickson,
Parish Nurse

Mission Statement

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

Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship

9:30 a.m. in the VPC Sanctuary

Communion served on first Sunday of each month

April 7	Extravagant Love	Rev. Diane Christopher
April 14	What Lies Beyond the Gates	Rev. Mark A. Medina
April 21	EASTER - see front cover	
April 28	A Farewell Blessing	Rev. Diane Christopher

La Joya at La Posada

9:00 a.m. at La Joya

Communion served on the first Sunday of each month

April 7	Rev. Dr. Mark Horton and Marti Long
April 21	Linda Freeman

Taizé

Wednesdays, April 3 and April 10

5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center



Promoted to Glory



January 25
March 1

Anne J. (Nancy) Fiorito
Richard H. Ernsting



St. Andrew's Children's Clinic Tour

On Thursday, March 7, our Church's Mission led fourteen enthusiastic adults on a tour of St. Andrew's Children's Clinic at the Episcopal Church in Nogales, Arizona. After watching an introductory video, we were divided into groups of four to six. A knowledgeable and understanding guide conducted each group through the clinic where we saw staff welcoming more than 200 children and their parents. Snacks were served to the families, doctors diagnosed and treated problems, volunteer nurses and aids worked with children with multiple difficulties varying from hearing loss and vision impairment to cleft lip/palate to limb amputation and prostheses fittings. A visit to this clinic makes us recognize the amazing help children of Mexico receive because of the generous benevolence of our church mission and from other donors. Watch for future tours or visit the church website, www.valleypresbyterian.net, to learn more about St. Andrew's Children's Clinic.