

Valley Voice

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Submitted by Tommy Calhoun

The PNC has offered a call to a candidate for the Pastor/Head of Staff position and it has been accepted. At a special called Session meeting on Thursday morning July 18, the session approved calling a Congregational Meeting on August 11, 2019 for the purpose of hearing from the Pastor Nominating Committee, acting on extending a call to the candidate, and approving the Terms of Call. The Candidate will preach on August 11, 2019 and the Congregational Meeting will follow after the service. A total congregational mailing, including the candidates name and biographical information, will be sent out the week of August 4.

Transitional Pastor Resignation

Submitted by Tommy Calhoun

On another note, in the specially-called meeting Session also received the following letter:

Dear Ruling Elders and Personnel Committee
Valley Presbyterian Church,

The time has now come for me to disengage from the ministry and work here at Valley. I have worked alongside you over the past 2 years and a few months to get to where you are today. It has been wonderful to see and affirm the work of the Session. Overall, my time with you has been effective and productive. There were times that triangulation caused me grief and to see how some have a long way to go. I pray for continued blessings as you move forward.

This letter is my resignation as your Transition Pastor effective August 31, 2019. My last Sunday with you is July 28. Judy and I will then be leaving the Green Valley area and Arizona that afternoon.

I begin my ministry on September 1 at The Church of the Covenant in Cleveland, Ohio.

You now are preparing for the next chapter of your life alongside a new Pastor. Indeed, a truly exciting time for you and the congregation. I'm thrilled and happy that a new Pastor has chosen to be called to serve.

May God continue to guide and watch over you.

Peace,
Mark

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, August 11 after Worship in the Sanctuary

There will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, August 11, 2019 for the purpose of hearing from the Pastor Nominating Committee on extending a call for a Pastor Head of Staff effective October 1, 2019, and approving the Terms of Call.

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The Valley Voice is published each month. Please submit articles for consideration to notices@valleypres.net by the 15th of the prior month. Articles may be edited for style, length and content.

Eating and Drinking

I am taking two weeks of vacation at the end of August. Part of that time I will be in Minneapolis to visit family and friends, and hopefully, attend the Minnesota State Fair. I used to go every year when I lived in Minneapolis.

The main reason I went? The food.

Here are some of the new offerings this year:

- Cheesy Sriracha Funnel Cake Bites (bite sized funnel cakes infused with 3 cheeses, deep fried and served with a Sriracha dipping sauce)
- Deep-Fried Dilly Dog (pickle stuffed with bratwurst, dipped in batter and deep fried)
- Halo Cone (cotton candy and blue raspberry soft service ice cream)
- Joey Mary (an iced coffee slushie with a skewer of gluten-free baked goods)
- Nordic Waffles in Pebbles and Bam Bam (a waffle wrap with warm Reese's peanut butter cups and fruity cereal)

Who thinks up these things?

I think I will stick with the tried and true: fried cheese curds.

Like me, people come to the State Fair to eat. A lot. Did you know one of the descriptions of Jesus in the Bible is about food? "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking" (Luke 7:34). In the Gospel of Luke, you can find Jesus going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal.

Apparently, eating is Jesus' mission strategy.

We are not talking about just subsistence eating and drinking, Jesus was known as a "glutton and drunkard." A glutton is someone who eats too much, and a drunkard is someone who drinks too much. Jesus would have really liked the Minnesota State Fair.

So, as you think about your ministry or areas you serve, don't forget the food. If eating and drinking was Jesus' ministry strategy, it might work pretty darn good for us, too.

You betcha.



Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

*God has more in store
for you than you
can ever imagine.*

EPHESIANS 3:20

Thoughts for the Journey

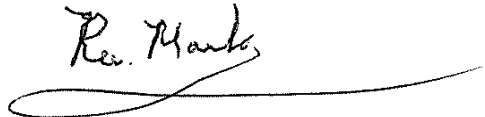
Dear Friends,

The ministry of the Valley Presbyterian Church began with a sense of Christ's call to serve people within a particular community. The awareness of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ carried with vitality and dedication. Every year of this church's life has seen different and innovative ministry and mission. There have even been times of chaos and conflict, and times of joy and harmony. Ultimately, the life of this congregation belongs to God's leading, Christ's example and the Spirit's energy. The ministry of this congregation belongs to God and we are the servants of Jesus.

This congregation is in the midst of a life-changing transition. Soon you will get to hear, and vote to call, your next pastor. Another part of this transition is for your Transitional Pastor to disengage from this congregation. As it is said, one chapter ends and another one begins. You and I are at a place where we turn the page. I am truly glad and thrilled for you as you await the arrival of your new pastor.

Remember, the ministry of this congregation depends on each of us. No one person can sustain what God has called into reality and life. Each of us has a significant part to play in the life of the congregation.

Yours In Christ,



Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor

Traveling Day Camp and Your Donation

As many of you know, the Traveling Day Camp scheduled for June 24-28 was cancelled. Over \$3,000 was donated by the congregation and all volunteer spots were filled. However, only seven campers signed up for camp, and Montlure, who sponsors the camp, opted to cancel camp. The seven who signed up were offered spots in the Tucson camp. Three accepted and we paid their fee.

So, what do we do with the rest of the money donated to the camp? If you donated, there are several options for you to consider:

- You may request for your donation to be returned to you. Call the office to make your request.
- You can have your donation transferred to another ministry area of the church or mission we support. Again, call the office to make this request.
- We are setting up a children and youth fund that will be used for future youth events, such as a future VBS, or sponsoring a youth to attend Triennium or mission trip. If you wish your donation to be transferred to this fund, do nothing. Your donation will automatically be transferred.

Thank you for love and support for youth and children. We are deeply grateful.

Valley Readers



Valley Readers will not meet in August. See you in September!

Daily Devotion
is better than
Yearly Resolution

Patio Sale Pick-Up Summer Schedule:

August – 2, 16 and 30

In September, Friday pick-ups will resume on a weekly basis.

Patio Sale Dates for 2019

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

Sorting: August 15
September 12
October 10
November 7
December 19

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

Women's Ministries Collecting School Supplies

Submitted by Janice Potter

We all remember our excitement as we went to purchase school supplies for the new school year. Today many families cannot buy what is required for their children to do well in school. Having the right tools for success brings hope for the child.

Beginning now thru September, we will accept school supplies at the Women's Table to donate to Valley Assistance Services and YOTO. You can make a difference in a child's life.

Shopping for school supplies for children who come for help at VAS are mostly in the elementary and secondary level of school. You will find what they need in every store's display of school supplies.

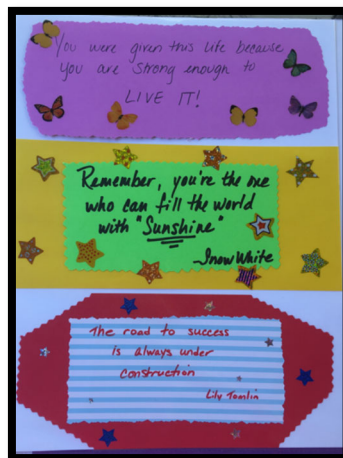
The older youth without the help of their parents, but supported by YOTO, have a different list for success: Mechanical pencils, flash drives, 1" 3-ring binder, college-ruled loose leaf paper, college-ruled composition books, backpacks, and \$10 or \$25 gift cards from Target or Walmart.

Please join this effort with us!



Join us for Inspirational Card Making!!

Wednesday, August 28 at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 5



Come join in the creative fun as we make cards to be included with stipend checks which are given to Youth on Their Own Students each month. We will meet for an hour to an hour and a half on the fourth Wednesday of the month, August 28 at 2 p.m. in Classroom 5.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Future Mission Trip to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

Join our November 7 trip to see, firsthand, the wonderful mission happening In Nogales, Arizona at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. On the first Thursday of every month, volunteer doctors, nurses, and helpers will examine, diagnose and treat children for whom care in Mexico is not available or affordable. The tour will start at 10:00 a.m. and will last about 1 hour. To sign up for this mission trip, contact Kay Brouwer 573-552-2313 or kbrouwer1942@gmail.com. More about this tour will be in a fall Valley Voice.

St. Andrews' Clinic is gearing up for the Cleft Palate Clinic on October 5-9. Laura and her staff are busy making plans and fundraising. Children needing surgery will be taken to Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico where trained and skilled doctors will perform the necessary surgeries for 50 to 60 children. After initial surgery and healing, more surgeries are required to re-construct the mouth and jaw. Mexican children suffering from this birth defect can look forward to a happier smile and acceptance in the community. If you want to donate to this mission project, contact St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, PO Box 67, Green Valley, AZ 85622-0067. Or you may contact Kay Brouwer at the above phone number or email address.

PW Synod of The Southwest Gathering

October 4-6 at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson

Submitted by Janice Potter

The organizers of this Triennial Gathering have planned an excellent program with hands-on workshops and outside experiences. The best part of any Gathering is making new friends and receiving information that helps us grow.

The focus of the plenary discussions will be on humanitarian issues, such as immigration and Native American Doctrine of Discovery. It is not intended to be political, but rather a coming together of faith-filled women who are asking the question, "What can we do?"

The three women on the plenary discussion panel are Joy Durrant, Rev. Elizabeth Smith, and Rev. Leslie Vogel. They all use their talents to serve others.

Scholarships are being offered by Presbytery de Cristo for those who stay for the full program, Friday dinner thru Sunday Lunch. The Coordinating Team of Women's Ministries are offering six \$100 scholarships to those who want to attend but might need some help. Bring your questions to the Women's Table and pick up a registration form that must be received by the Treasurer of the Synod of the Southwest before August 15.



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.

Sign up for the next trip to the Home for Children (orphanage)

Submitted by Reed Olson - Mission Committee



The next trip to the Home for Children in Nogales, Sonora, MX will be September 14.

See Reed Olson after church in Fellowship Hall August 18 or 25, or September 1 or 8, to sign up and received the trip's details.

You may also contact Reed to sign up early: 520-269-7829 or email: olsonr1@cox.net



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Save the Date!

10th Annual HungerWalk

Join the fun!

Be a part of the 10th Annual HungerWalk on September 14.

Enjoy the one and a half mile walk with your friends, family or co-workers.

Saturday, September 14

Registration 7 a.m. | Walk at 8 a.m.

In Green Valley at La Posada

Betty Kiesle-Yoder will be forming a VPC team. Please contact Betty for more information.



Faith Formation

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

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 "Be Diligent," Warren Wiersbe's commentary on the Gospel of Mark. 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). **This group will not meet June thru August.**

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 studying John's Epistles 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. **This group will not meet from May 29 thru September 4.**

The Inquisitors

The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience

Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 1 beginning September 20

Join the Inquisitors as we watch and discuss "The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience," one of The Great Courses. Here, award-winning scholar and practicing neuroscientist Dr. Andrew Newberg, Director of Research at the Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, presents lectures that explore the new and exciting field of neurotheology, a discipline aimed at understanding the connections between our brains and different kinds of religious phenomena.

Questions addressed include, how do religious experiences originate? What is their meaning? And why does religion play such a huge role in human experience? In this captivating course, you will peer directly into the seat of all human thought and action as you experience a leading researcher delve into the relationship between brain function and spirituality.

Throughout The Spiritual Brain, Dr. Newberg examines not only the neural activity of the religious brain, but also the effects of various religious beliefs and practices on human mental and physical health. There are literally hundreds of studies that show that religion has a measurable effect on health. Dr. Newberg evaluates fascinating research involving both believers and atheists showing the ways in which your beliefs actually determine how you rationalize - as well as mistake - the world around you.

Join us for this fascinating course which begins Friday, September 20th.



News of Note

By Wes Moulton



Hello Valley Presbyterian Community! This month, Jamie asked if I would write the newsletter article from the Music Ministry. Let me first say, it has been an honor and privilege to be with you these past few weeks. I have found VPC to be a wonderful, welcoming, and warm church family. Each week I look forward to the time I am lucky enough to spend with the choir, church staff, and parishioners at Valley Presbyterian.

Second, I am deeply impressed by the level of support the Music Ministry receives from the congregation. I have never seen, or been a part of, a parish that holds its Music Ministry in such high esteem. The interest you show in the music program is a gift to all of us who are involved in it.

Third, I am in awe of the willingness of the choir, pastors, committees, and congregation to try new things in worship. Just in the last few weeks we have: sung a Taizé chant for a prelude, had certain styles of hymns accompanied by piano and organ together, sung a Sanctus anthem as part of the Communion Liturgy, moved the position of the choral anthem during the service to better support the day's liturgy, had a choral procession during the opening hymn, and made other small changes on the fly as the need occurred. It is an amazing gift to be a part of a dynamic program in a dynamic congregation. It makes all the work worthwhile when we hear positive feedback from church members about what we are doing. And, when there are dissenting opinions about some of these changes, they have been offered in a kind and productive manner, which gives us all an opportunity to have a conversation and learn from one another. Thank you for that!

Lastly, I must tell you what a wonderful experience it is to work with Jamie. I believe that the reins of the Music Ministry at VPC could not be in more capable hands than hers. Besides being an extremely capable musician, she is engaging, experienced, kind, and a joy to be around. I am continually excited to work with a colleague who is as musically inspiring as she.

As we move into the Fall, there are many musical happenings at the church to be excited about. Please follow the announcements in the bulletin, and on the church calendar, to stay abreast of the dates and times of these events.

Note: Wes will be coordinating the music for the Taizé services that are beginning again in September. If you play an instrument, or sing, and would like to take part in the leading of the music in these services, please contact Wes (wmoulton@valleypres.net) as soon as possible. Thank you.

Taizé is back!

September 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

What is Taizé?

Taizé is a form of worship that comes from a group of ecumenical Christian monks in Taizé, a small village in the southern part of Burgundy, France. Every year, over 100,000 youth from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé for prayer, Bible study, communal work and worship. Their form of worship is so popular that it has spread all over the world, even to Green Valley, Arizona!

We invite you to this beautiful worship service which includes simple songs, scripture and silence in an atmosphere of candlelight.

Valley Assistance Services Making a Difference in the Community

Chris Erickson, BA, RN, Executive Director, Valley Assistance Services



At Valley Assistance Services we listen to the community. Our innovative programs assist those of all ages, in all environments and circumstances. Blending community health and social services, we serve over 5,000 annually to keep them independent and safe. Let me tell you why we do what we do.

In November of 2018, I became the Executive Director of Valley Assistance Services. As an RN for almost 30 years, I have worked in a lot of areas of nursing, especially Trauma and Neuroscience in a Regional Hospital, as well as a Clinic Educator and Certified Parish Nurse. I have seen people go through a lot. When you see something, it is quite different from when you experience it. My father had Parkinson's for around 20 years. As a nurse but also a family member taking care of him, I was devastated. He was a well-known businessman and pharmacist, brilliant mind, and knew so much. As time passed, he became dependent upon family and occasionally had hallucinations. When I returned to Minnesota to see him, I walked in and he said to me "Well, you look familiar." It was hard to imagine that he could not remember my name. He has since passed away and questions from my own family still exist: Why did we not know? Why did we not prepare for this? Why was there no support from any agency? Etc., etc., etc.

As you are reading this, you might be thinking that this is not a normal letter or article from Valley Assistance, and you are right. The backgrounds of us at Valley Assistance Services are unique, professional, and those of caregivers. We are all a part of a family somewhere, whether that be neighbors here in Green Valley or a family 2,000 miles away. We all have our own experiences with health challenges, with financial stress/crises, and life's changes. Our programs are defined by who we are and whom we see. As we listen and visit within the community, we continue to serve and implement well-known programs to assist as many as we can in our communities; quiet and humble experienced professionals who want to make a difference, who want to listen to others, and who want to make sure that there is support. Your giving, whether that be financial (donations, tax credit, or planned giving) or time and talents (volunteering in our office, as a driver, visitor, or as an educator) helps us to succeed, right here at home.

We invite you to stop by and take a tour of our office and see how Valley Assistance Services takes care of others with all of our programs and with professional advocacy. Our programs include the MAP program (rental and utility assistance), SHiM® Fall Prevention, Neighbors AIM (awareness in memory loss and dementia program), A Touch That Cares® RN comprehensive care management program, Neighbors Helping Neighbors program (transportation and friendly visiting program), Going Home with Care (post hospital program), Community Centered Approach to Care program (partnering with the Green Valley Fire District), Workforce Training/Career Path building, benefit programs such as SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) and, starting in September, Financial Literacy for Youth and End of Life program. Please join us for our next fundraiser on August 20, A Style for Every Story Fashion Show, at Quail Creek. Tickets available at Nancy Pantz and Valley Assistance Services. Thank you for your support of Valley Assistance Services. You make that difference in our family.



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Special birthday greetings to Ed Truitt (8/5) and Bob Hibschan (8/29) as they celebrates their 90th birthdays this month.



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed |
|--|--|---|---|
| <h2>August 2019</h2> | | | |
| 4 Communion Food Bank Collection 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship & Communion at LaJoya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship | 5 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Peace & Justice Resource 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Chris Erickson, Edgar Truitt | 6 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 2:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Mikayla Szabo | 7 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Genna Lemman |
| 11 Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 congregational Meeting | 12 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Alberta Di Gregory, Richard Horn, Parker Long | 13 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 2:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  John Ireland, Vic Valade | 14 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Finance Committee 11:00 Faith Formation  Grace Martin |
| 18 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Cal Danhof, Bruce Garnett | 19 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Fellowship Committee  Bill Campbell | 20 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 2:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Gwen Lamb, Linda Mutimer | 21 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  George Curtis, Clayton Messelt |
| 25 Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Donna Richards, Mary Shurigar | 26 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Keith Adrian | 27 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 2:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Bob Lillie | 28 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:00 Card Making for  Jane Lovat |

| | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | 1 9:30 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers  Juanita Anderson | 2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Milo Burnham | 3 8:30 Communion Prep  Tom Erickson, Wanda Myers |
| | 8 1:00 Personnel Committee  Joyce Green | 9 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Education 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Gratitude Affirmation Prayer  Roger Fisher, Kate Kepler, Lois Macfarlane | 10  Mike Brouwer |
| Lunch Prep Committee Meeting | 15 8:00 Patio Sale Sorting 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers  John Marchica | 16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting  Charlie Watt | 17  Kay Davison, Patti Messerschmidt, Allen Moore, Carol Wilking |
| Lunch Prep | 22 8:00 Session Meeting  Joan Briggs, Carol Collins, Liz Haynes | 23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Steven Larson, Gayle Tompkins | 24  Martha Jenkins, Wendy Kopera, Dan Wilking, Mike Yoder |
| YOTO | 29  Bob Hibschan, Jean Messelt | 30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class | 31  H. Larry Sharp |

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.



I looked over at the faces of the choir members, rigid with intensity and dripping with sweat as they sang and danced down the road. The large drums beat loud, but the people sang even louder, lifting their hands in the air. I was humbled by their enthusiasm and energy. This was something of a ‘welcome parade’ to greet the moderator and the team that accompanied him on a visit to Bentiu. We were walking (or dancing and marching, with the choir) through the large camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS), ending with a celebration at the church. Being met by such an enthusiastic crowd was humbling, and then we were welcomed in traditional Nuer fashion by having our feet washed. I was overwhelmed by the welcome, and realized how significant it was for this remote congregation to be visited by their leaders and feel connected to the church in other places.

On Sunday morning in church, the youth choir again impressed people with their full-throated and exuberant songs. I asked Nyakuma to explain the song to me. “They are singing about suffering,” she said. “We are dying of hunger, disease, and war. Come close to God, and He will comfort us. He is our only hope in this suffering.” I was surprised – somehow, I did not expect them to sing about suffering. But that is the reality in the region around Bentiu, where conflict and instability have driven most of the population into one huge IDP camp. As we drove to our lodgings that night, Nyakuma pointed to the places where dead bodies had lined the road when she was fleeing to the camp in 2014. Her family had been living in the swamps and bush for three months at that point, because their village had been attacked. They ate waterlilies until starvation forced them to find a way to the camp. She recalled the struggle to get her siblings past the roadblocks so they could enter the camp. On this visit five years later, she was glad to see Bentiu again when it was peaceful, even though the displacement of so many people continues.



Welcomed in traditional Nuer fashion by having our feet washed.

The environment of Bentiu felt harsh and barren to me. When it rained, the clay soil became gooey mud that you sink into or that sticks to your shoes in big chunks. At those times, everyone either goes bare footed or wears gum boots. In the sun, the ground became hard – not ideal for farming. The land was dotted with scrub bushes, but not big trees or lush green like I expected. I learned later that large trees near the camp had been cut down to prevent soldiers from sitting under them and attacking refugees coming to the camp. Yet, in this remote, harsh environment, communities are slowly rebuilding and people are surviving, healing, and holding onto hope. I join them in praying that peace will continue to come, and that doors will open for them to leave the camp and rebuild their lives.

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.

Exciting News Alert - Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA Missionaries)

Submitted by Doug Clark



Bob and Kristi Rice are missionaries assigned to South Sudan. Bob is also an instructor in Theology, Biblical Studies and Ethics at the Nile Theological College in Juba, South Sudan. Kristi serves as an economic and development advisor for the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.

They will be spending some time this year on furlough and are planning to spend the weekend of November 1-3 in Green Valley, visiting Valley Presbyterian Church. **They will be featured at our Mission Breakfast on Saturday, November 2 and will preach on Sunday, November 3.** Their hope is for the members of VPC to have the opportunity to learn more about the work of the church in South Sudan. They also look forward to getting to know us better as a church and hearing the unique ways that we are ministering to those in the church and community.



Boy have we had a rash of criminal emails coming to the church staff lately!

In the most recent examples, scammers are creating fake email accounts under the name of a staff member and using our staff member's name and that fake email address to try to trick other staff members. These scammers cruise organization's websites to gather the names and email addresses of the employees, then pick someone at a high level to pretend to be. Even though the email address they are using is not the same as the staff member's real email address, most of us don't look that deeply at sender info. We see the person's name and assume it's from them - and the names match up with our staff members. Only if you pay close attention or specifically look for it will you see that the email address itself does not match up.

One of these scams involved pretending to be a staff member who changed banks, and they sent new direct deposit info to try to steal that staff member's church paychecks(!). In another case, they sent a quick email to several other staff members saying they needed a favor, and if/when someone responded, they then asked the person to run out and pick up gift cards for them, and to then send the numbers from the gift cards which could then be used to make purchases. If anyone buys gift cards and gives out the numbers, they will lose their money and to the best of my knowledge there isn't a thing they can do about it.

I write and write about these kinds of things but I can't write it enough, because when it actually happens the recipients usually aren't thinking about scams - they are thinking about work stuff (or if not work, normal life) and doing what they are asked by a friend or co-worker. **ANY AND EVERY TIME** you receive a call or email asking you for information related to money, or for actions related to money, be skeptical and check it out before providing info. If it's legit, the person on the other side should be willing to give you that opportunity. If they try to scare you into immediate action, it's just another, very large, red flag. Be careful!

Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

(Based on financial data through June 2019)

The Finance Committee met on July 17 to review the result of operations through June 30. We had another positive meeting because, as of June 30, 2019, we are maintaining a positive bottom line of \$68,464 compared to last year's deficit at June 30, 2018 of \$37,448.

Year-to-date, the revenues are up a little over 4% as compared to year-to-date budget and expenses are also less than year-to-date budget by a little less than 5%. For all of you who are non-accounting people, this means we are doing well this year. Results are shown below:

| | <u>Year-to-date</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Variance</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | \$440,701 | \$423,678 | \$ 17,023 |
| Expense | <u>\$372,237</u> | <u>\$391,192</u> | <u>(\$ 18,955)</u> |
| Net income (loss) | <u>\$ 68,464</u> | <u>\$ 32,486</u> | <u>\$ 35,978</u> |

The Session accepted our proposal to discontinue the American Church contract for 2020, so we will not be mailing giving envelopes. We will have extra pew envelopes printed for those who want them.

We accepted the Faith Formation committee proposal to maintain donations designated for the 2019 children's camp in a custodial account for future camps and/or children's programs after asking donors if they would like a refund since the 2019 camp was cancelled.

We have delayed any further 2019 budget adjustment proposal to the Session until the August meeting if necessary. We plan to begin the 2020 budgeting process in August with requests to the committees to plan their activities and financial needs for 2020. At future meetings, the committee will be reviewing costs and savings from the Solar panels and considering ways to fund a buyout.

Session Notes from June

Submitted by Charlie Ashton, Clerk of Session

- Approved Judy Christensen, Sheila Frahm and Lynn Szabo as members of the Personnel Committee.
- Approved \$2,700.00 additional funds for air conditioner replacements.
- Elected the following Corporation Officers: Tom Dierken, President, Charlie Ashton, Secretary, and Don Brooks, Treasurer.
- Approved an increase in the salary range for the new pastor to \$70,000.00 - \$85,000.00.
- Accepted the donation of a 2005 Chrysler Caravan to the church for the Patio Sale from a non-member.
- Affirmed Session support for the Transitional Pastor.

Independence Day Celebration at VPC



Hands of a Friend Needs Help

Submitted by Doug Clark



Patty O'Berry, Founder/CEO, is asking for help and prayers in updating their 62-year 'older' shelter.

She writes, "Our shelter turned 60 in 2017, and the time has come to renovate the 2,300 square foot 'older' section of the shelter. We must have flooring, bathroom updates, closet doors, and paint. Due to the high volume of usage, stains can no longer be shampooed out of the carpeting. A median grade floor tile thought would last, for the least, another twenty years. Second, the original two bathrooms in the family suite are in need of total renovation. Third, standard closet doors would greatly improve our storage capacity in each bedroom. Fourth, the old built-in drawers can no longer do their job and must be removed. Lastly, all walls and ceiling in the original house needs repair and paint. The cost of this update is approximately \$40,000, with approximately \$10,000 in donations already set aside for this project. Genesis House continues to do God's work for the victimized, the abused, the trafficked, and hurting."

Donations can be sent to Hands of a Friend/Genesis House Shelter, PO box 2097 Green Valley, AZ 85622 or can be routed through VPC using the Memo designation.

Peace & Justice Essay Winner

Submitted by Cara Bissell



On May 16 I was honored to present the annual Peace Essay Contest award to Sahuarita High School graduate Amber Nicole Hensley. This is the Sixth year the Peace & Justice Committee of Valley Presbyterian Church has been able to offer this award. CONGRATULATIONS TO AMBER!! Amber had to give in her essay Past, Present & Future examples of Peace through nonviolence as well as at least two supporting nonviolent examples from institutions or hypothetical arguments.

Underground Church in Iran - Dave and Pam L.

Submitted by Doug Clark

Pam and Dave have been working with an international network of Iranian ministries for the last 14 years to help support the persecuted underground church in Iran.

The highest priority has been providing training materials to help train young leaders by creating a website, using SD cards and flash drives, and printing books. We obtained copyright permissions for the top 50 books chosen to help in discipling and developing mature church leaders.

We have been hearing stories of how these life-changing, dynamic books are helping the emerging underground church in Iran. One pastor told us of how he wept and wept as he read through one of our books as God met him in the midst of the suffering and trauma he had experienced when he was arrested and then had to flee his country because of government persecution.

Please pray for open doors as we continue to work to help the persecuted church in Iran.





Congregational Care

Real Ministry, Real Difference: A Word About Stephen Ministry

Submitted by Gee-Gee Smith

Having served as a Stephen Minister myself, I always enjoy talking with other Stephen Ministers. When I met Steve Feith, I was moved by his story of discipleship, ministry, and transformation. So I got his permission to share it with you. ~Joel Bretscher | Program Director | Stephen Ministries St. Louis

Men are sometimes reluctant to reach out for help or to accept help. Can you tell me more about how men could benefit from having a Stephen Minister? I would encourage any man going through something difficult - divorce, loss of a job, death of a loved one, financial difficulties, a serious illness - to be open to having a Stephen Minister. Men are often conditioned to be strong and self-reliant, so we put a wall around ourselves and don't talk about what's going on inside. But talking with a Stephen Minister really will help. I've seen the difference it can make. Your Stephen Minister is going to respect you. He's not going to tell you what to do; he's not going to judge you. He's there to listen - to walk alongside, to help you talk things out and work things through. And it's totally confidential. No one will even know you have a Stephen Minister, and your Stephen Minister won't share anything you say. And remember, it's not just the two of you in that caring relationship - the Lord's there too, and that's where the healing comes in. It's God who will help you take hold of what's buried deep inside and bring it out and kick it out the door. So I would recommend Stephen Ministry to any man - or woman - during a difficult time.

What would you say to encourage other men to become Stephen Ministers? I'd say, if you think God's calling you to this ministry, if you even have an inkling that you might want to be a Stephen Minister, give it a shot! The training is fantastic. It took an old nub like me, rounded off the edges, and taught me how to relate in a more caring way. You're going to be very well trained, and you'll have the Lord right there shoulder to shoulder with you. And if you're like me - and you're not a real touchy-feely person - you can still be a good Stephen Minister. You just need to be willing to listen with the heart of Jesus to someone who's going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministry is about one man supporting another in the name of the Lord. It feels so good to be able to really help someone. The rewards you get from being a Stephen Minister, personally and spiritually - I just can't tell you how great they are. You have to experience it for yourself.

If you are going through a difficult time and would like someone to talk to, contact Peggi Briggs, (520) 965-9203 or John Agner, (520) 398-5107. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Patti Bright, (520) 305-3275.





Congregational Care

Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News

Mark your calendars for SHiM® Stay Vertical Day on Monday, September 23 at VPC from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Healthcare providers from Phoenix and the local area will speak on this day. Lunch will be provided to those who attend.

Blood Pressure Screenings: You may have your blood pressure taken during the week by appointment with the Parish Nurse. Please make appointments through the church office. **The Sunday blood pressure screening clinics will resume in September.** Blood pressure clinics are done right after Sunday worship services in the Sweet Family Room. Watch the bulletin in September for more details.



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.

Medical Minute: Watch Where you Walk



Many of us may walk in the evening as the sun is going down. Keep a flashlight with you and always watch where you walk. Snakes like the heat of sidewalks and roads.

God's mercies are new
every morning.

Lam. 3:22-23





Congregational Care

The Heat Is On

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

Too much heat is not safe for anyone. It is even riskier if you are older or if you have health problems. It is important to get relief from the heat quickly. If not, you might begin to feel confused or faint. Your heart could become stressed, and maybe stop beating.

Being hot for too long can cause many illnesses, all grouped under the name hyperthermia.

- Heat cramps are the painful tightening of muscles in your stomach area, arms, or legs. Cramps can result from hard work or exercise. While your body temperature and pulse usually stay normal during heat cramps, your skin may feel moist and cool. Be sure to drink plenty of fluids, but not those containing alcohol or caffeine.
- Heat edema is a swelling in your ankles and feet when you get hot. Putting your legs up should help. If that doesn't work fairly quickly, check with your physician.
- Heat syncope is a sudden dizziness that may come on when you are active in the heat. If you take a form of heart medication known as a beta blocker or are not used to hot weather, you are even more likely to feel faint when in the heat. Putting your legs up and resting in a cool place should make the dizzy feeling go away.
- Heat exhaustion is a warning that your body can no longer keep itself cool. You might feel thirsty, dizzy, weak, uncoordinated, nauseated, and sweat a lot. Your body temperature stays normal, and skin feels cold and clammy. Your pulse can be normal or raised. Resting in a cool place, drinking plenty of fluids, and getting medical care should help you feel better soon. If not, this condition can progress to heat stroke.
- Heat stroke is an emergency. It can be life threatening. Signs of heat stroke include 1) fainting, possibly the first sign, 2) body temperature over 104 F, 3) a change in behavior - confusion, being grouchy, acting strangely, or staggering, 4) dry, flushed skin and a strong, rapid pulse or a slow, weak pulse, and 5) not sweating, despite the heat, acting delirious, or being in a coma. You need to get medical help right away.

(Information from the National Institute on Aging)



Dehydration can happen quickly here in Arizona. If your mouth and throat feel dry, it has already begun. Drinking products with caffeine, cola, and coffee act as a natural diuretic. Try to avoid those with caffeine. We know that some of us need those caffeinated drinks in the morning, however if you drink a cup of coffee or can of cola, drink a full, large glass of water per every cup of coffee or can of cola so you are balancing out the effect of caffeine. If you are exercising or walking, make sure you replace what you are sweating out with water or a Gatorade. Keep a water bottle with you as you walk. Dehydration can be severe and you may not feel it coming on. Electrolyte imbalance can be dangerous. Know some of the first signs of dehydration: headache, feeling thirsty, dry mouth, and muscle cramps. Get out of the heat, cool off, drink plenty of fluids.



Valley Presbyterian Church

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www.valleypresbyterian.net

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

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| August 4 | Verbalizing Faith | Rev. Diane Christopher |
| August 11 | Time to Celebrate | Candidate for Pastor/Head of Staff |
| August 18 | Jesus Loves Me | Rev. John Dunham |
| August 25 | Hearing and Listening to God | Carmen Nylund |

La Joya at La Posada

9:00 a.m. at La Joya

Communion served on the first Sunday of each month

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| August 4 | Rev. Barb Streng and Marti Long |
| August 18 | Linda Freeman |



Promoted to Glory



June 30
July 24

Connie Ackerman
Helen Bertrand

The Beautiful and Blooming Flower Ministry An Update

The flower ministry is one of those behind-the-scenes ministries that touches people's lives in quiet ways. Each Sunday morning in worship, we have a beautiful bouquet of flowers up on the platform for you to enjoy. We invite you to sponsor a bouquet in honor of someone, or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or in memory of someone.

To sign up, look for the big flower sign in the Fellowship Hall next to the Information Table. A payment of \$45 is required at sign-up. (This is a change from the Flower Calendar. If you signed up on the Flower Calendar, your date has been reserved. Please visit the Information table to make your payment if you have not already done so.)

After worship, the flower arrangement is broken down into three smaller bouquets and brought to the sick or homebound with a note saying, "These flowers have heard the music and prayers and sermon, and come to you now to assure you of God's love."

We encourage you to take part in this ministry by signing up for flowers on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall.