



*Our Valley Voice*  
*August, 2021*

Why a fish? It comes from the Greek letters etched alongside the fish. The letters spell out "ichthys" or fish. Here is what the letters stand for:

I = Iota or Iesous in Greek for Jesus  
X = Chi or Christos in Greek for Christ  
θ = Theta or Theou in Greek for God  
Υ = Upsilon or Yidos in Greek for Son  
Σ = Sigma or Soter in Greek for Savior



The fish became a secret symbol for Christians in a time of persecution. According to one ancient story, when a Christian met a stranger in the road, the Christian drew one arc of the fish in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, thereby completing the fish, they knew they were in good company.

From July 2, 2021 E-Blast by Rev Diane Christopher



electronic copies are available on our website:  
<https://www.valleypresbyterian.net/>

# OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

## **Valley Presbyterian Church**

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Green Valley, AZ 85622

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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. Dr. Craig Lindsey,**

Pastor/Head of Staff

**Rev. Diane Christopher,**

Pastor of Discipleship

**Rev. Joe Hawkins,**

Pastor Emeritus

**Sunday Worship**  
**Traditional Service of Worship**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Online and In person.**

**Taize Services**  
**will resume in the fall**

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## Staff

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## Worship Service Schedule

August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pastor Craig	John 6:24-35    Communion Doing the Work of God
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Diane & Katie Sayre	I Corinthians 1:10-17 Walking in Footsteps of Paul 1
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Diane & Katie Sayre	Acts 18: 1-11 Walking in Footsteps of Paul 2
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pastor Diane & Katie Sayre	Revelation 19: 11-16 Walking in Footsteps of Paul 3
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Craig	James 1:17-27 In A Mirror Darkly
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Craig	Isaiah 35    Communion The Desert Shall Rejoice



## **Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor Head of Staff**

We have been learning about “the Winds” in the Southwest. For a decade we lived in Wisconsin, where the bitter cold winds were dried out as they came across the plains. Encountering the Great Lakes, the winds formed sheets of ice on roads and trees, like a treacherous glass fairy landscape. For two decades we lived in the Northeast, where the same winds had gathered up moisture blowing over the lakes, which the winds dropped in over 200 inches of snow each year. But two years ago the same winds of heaven brought us to Green Valley, where as the temperatures increase tropical storms in the Pacific and Sea of Cortez bring monsoons to the desert Southwest.

This is more than a basic review of meteorology and weather forecasts, when we consider the Biblical word for WIND can be translated Holy Spirit or Breath of God. For a long time, we have been in drought, without the regular visit of monsoons. But now, after all the problems and circumstance of the last few years, how the winds are blowing! We have begun to be visited by monsoons, replenishing life and faith in the desert and as in the case of the Haboob (dust storm): a bit frightening and dangerous.

I have a new friend who is Native American, who tells me that in July and August as temperatures are in triple digits, he prays that our lives would get hotter! Because if temperatures cool, the winds quiet down and the monsoons do not come. But when things get hotter, as we become more passionate and excited, the winds of heaven do increase bringing the monsoons to replenish the earth and our lives.

## **FINALLY THE EXTERIOR PAINTING IS DONE**

After five weeks of work and over 400 gallons of paint, from the top of the spires to the columbarium, Valley Presbyterian Church again gleams in the sunlight. Our church staff did become concerned one morning as we witnessed a neighbor going out of her way to walk her dog across the parking lots to have an animated conversation with the Painters. When asked, the painters laughed stating that rather than complaining, she had

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Pastor Craig can't

gone out of her way to compliment them on what a wonderful job they were doing and how beautiful the church building looked fresh and clean, ready for our next chapter.

## **PAYING ATTENTION TO OUR AUDIENCE**

March 2020, when the world shifted responding to isolation orders related to COVID19, Valley Presbyterian Church began video-recording our Worship for viewers to visit at our website [Valleypres.net](http://Valleypres.net). Beginning Memorial Day weekend 2021, we have been learning to broadcast our Worship of God live. This has been a complex endeavor, with a great deal of technology, and our volunteers are to be awarded for their hard work and never giving up. Each broadcast has been a significant improvement over the past. This summer of 2021 we have had great attendance in worship (complete with COVID-free/ Alcohol-free/ Gluten-free Communion; 2 Congregational Meetings; and a Believer Baptism), and yet we have also had an equal number of additional devices observing on-line (and these may have 1 to 80 persons per device). However, there is an important reminder when worshipping in person, or through technology: Worship is not a performance, like a Play, a Concert, a Movie, Radio or Television. In Worship, the audience is always GOD. The actors and performers in life are all of us. Your pastors have the distinction of being the Stage Managers, who prompt others with their lines, prepare sets and design scenes. But all of life is for the glory of GOD.

## **ENHANCEMENTS IN LIGHTING**

The Building and Grounds Committee have received special donations to change all of the bulbs in the Sanctuary chandeliers to LED lightbulbs; as well as to change all of the Choir recessed lights to LED bulbs. Please know that when designated gifts are received, we can only use these for that purpose, these are not Operating Budget expenses. Multiple benefits from these donations include: far lower energy costs, longer life to the bulbs (meaning fewer burning out on an annual basis), 4X brighter illumination, reducing the heat from that of incandescent lighting. In order to clean the chandeliers and replace the bulbs at 20 feet above the Sanctuary floor, we will need to rent a Boom-lift one weekend. Different from the Scissor-lifts we have used previously which only go up and down, the Boom-lift will be able to reach out over the pews to the chandeliers, as well as to the recessed fixtures above the Pipes of the Organ and above the Choir-loft. One year ago members of the Building & Grounds Committee were able to re-program our existing Digital Light-board, from all-on/ all-off; to instead permitting each

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Pastor Craig can't

different set of lights to be controlled independently, and each on dimmer switches. This provides far greater flexibility for our Sanctuary in Worship and concerts. We hope to be able to make many adjustments and enhancements in our sanctuary while the lift is on-site this summer. Brighter illumination should improve reading hymnals.

In addition, while the new Hymnals, acquired at the end of 2019, have far larger print-font than previous hymnals (PICA Size 12 compared to ELITE 10), several individuals requested even larger print. Hearing you, 20 Large Print Hymnals (Black Cover) are now available in the racks at the rear of the Sanctuary and the Welcome Desks. In order to provide the largest font available, the publishers have printed these supplemental 20 Hymnals without musical scores, only the texts of hymns.



## **CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR PUNKY GRIGGS** **August 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**

One protocol after another has been lifted as our community have become more and more vaccinated. During the pandemic, family and good friends often abandoned having public celebrations of life and in-person memorials. Thankfully, we are now able to gather together to celebrate the life of Punky Griggs who joined the communion of Valley Presbyterian Church with her husband Stewart in 1992. Punky was one of the original five trained and commissioned Stephen Ministers, and Stephen Leaders. Punky has for many years been identified by others as A Spirit of Valley Presbyterian Church. The church and community are



## **Rev. Diane Christopher Pastor of Discipleship**

As most of you know, I was gone most of May and June. Since returning, people have asked me two questions. The first question: how is my Mom doing? My 99-year old Mom is doing well. She grieved hard for several weeks after losing her husband of 72

years, but she has rallied. She misses him greatly and looks at his picture every day, but is enjoying meeting new people in her new residence.



The second question: how was my trip to Greece? Now that question is hard to answer in a few sentences. Many of you have expressed an interest in hearing more and viewing our pictures. I am here to tell you that you will have several opportunities.

In August, Pastor Craig has graciously given Katie Sayre and me three preaching opportunities to share with you how God spoke to us while in Greece and the spiritual insights that have remained in our souls. We will share with you some music and even some Greek language.

Then in September, we will do an in-depth 4-week class following the footsteps of the Apostle Paul from the Book of Acts in the Bible. You will see our pictures to go along with places we visited and the places Paul frequented. We will tell you about the culture of Greece, what the people are like, and the food. Oh, the food! The Greeks are so proud of their food. We will bring samples of some of our favorites that were present at almost every meal. So to wet your appetite (so to speak) and in honor of this summer's Olympics (which originated in Greece), here is a little sample from the writings of Paul and the city of Corinth. Corinth was the big, vibrant city of Paul's day, and they loved competitions, especially athletic ones held every year. Paul used the language of running a race to help his Corinthian church (a troubled church because of its diversity) understand the endurance and discipline of the Christian spiritual journey.

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## **Pastor Diane** con't

So as you watch the Olympics this summer, hear the words of Paul: "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" (I Corinthians 9:25). The ancient Greeks ran for the prize of a crown of leaves. Our modern day Olympians run for the gold medal. We run for the eternal prize of heaven.

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### **Following the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul**

**With Katie Sayre and Diane Christopher**

**Starting Wednesday, Sept 15**

**2 p.m. in Classroom 5**

During the month of June, Pastor Diane and Katie took a trip to Greece following the footsteps of the Apostle Paul as he preached the Gospel throughout the countryside. Their trip included visits to Thessaloniki, Philippi, Berea, Athens and Corinth – all stories captured in the biblical book of Acts. You will experience the monasteries built on the pillar cliffs of Meteora, the ruins of the Crusades, and the beautiful island of Santorini. We will stop at Patmos, the place where the Apostle John received the words to the book of Revelation.

Diane and Katie are offering a 4-week class on their studies in scripture, the culture of Greece and how it affected Paul, the ruins, and of course, lots of pictures. Another highlight was the food of Greece, and each week Diane and Katie will give you a taste of some of their favorite Mediterranean food. Join us for an adventure!



## **Standards of Ethical Conduct Introduction**

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church took action in 1999 adopting a written statement and policy that provides guidance, direction, and a standard for ethical conduct for ordained officers, employees and volunteers in the Presbyterian Church. A standard that can be read and referred to by members, volunteers, employees, and church leadership when ethical dilemmas or situations present themselves provides that written accessible reference.

Seeing the value of the written standards, the Personnel Committee reviewed and recommended adoption to the Session and in May, 2021, the Session of the Valley Presbyterian Church unanimously adopted both the “Standards of Ethical Conduct for Ordained Officers in the Presbyterian Church,” and the “Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees and Volunteers of the Presbyterian Church.

Frank Coggins  
Personnel Committee

### **LIFE TOGETHER IN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH: STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

As a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in obedience to Jesus Christ, I accept Christ’s call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of the church, confirm that Jesus Christ is the pattern for my life and ministry and, relying on God’s grace, commit myself to the following standards of ethical conduct.

**I will conduct my life in a manner that is faithful to the gospel and consistent with my membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Therefore I will:**

Practice the disciplines of study, prayer, reflection, worship, stewardship, and service;  
Be honest and truthful in my relationships with others;  
Be faithful, keeping the covenants I make and honoring marriage vows;  
Treat all persons with equal respect and concern as beloved children of God;  
Maintain a healthy balance among the responsibilities of my life’s work and church membership, my commitments to family and other primary relationships, and my need for spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual renewal;  
Refrain from abusive, addictive, or exploitative behavior and seek help to overcome such behavior if it occurs;  
Refrain from gossip and abusive speech; and

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## **ETHICAL CONDUCT con't**

Maintain an attitude of repentance, humility, and forgiveness, responsive to God's reconciling will.

### **II**

**I will conduct myself within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) so that nothing need be hidden from sisters and brothers in Christ. Therefore I will:**

Bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ with courage, speaking the truth in love;  
Honor the sacred trust of relationships within the covenant community and observe appropriate boundaries;  
Be judicious in the exercise of the power and privileges of positions of responsibility I hold;  
Avoid conflicts of interest that might compromise my witness and relationships within the community of faith;  
Refrain from exploiting relationships within the community of faith for personal gain or gratification, including sexual harassment and misconduct as defined by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) policy;  
Respect the privacy of individuals and not divulge information obtained in confidence without express permission unless an individual is a danger to self or others;  
Recognize the limits of my own gifts and training, and refer persons and tasks to others as appropriate;  
Claim only those qualifications actually attained, give appropriate credit to others where due and observe copyrights;  
Be a faithful steward of and fully account for funds and property entrusted to me; and  
Accept the discipline of the church.

### **III**

**I will participate as a partner with others in the ministry and mission of the Church universal. Therefore I will:**

Participate in the mission and governance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and work for the unity of the holy catholic church;  
Show respect and provide encouragement for sisters and brothers in Christ;  
Recruit church members responsibly, respect existing congregational relationships and refrain from exploiting persons in vulnerable situations; and  
Cooperate with those working in the world for justice, compassion, and peace, including partners in ministry of other faith traditions.



## Parish Nurse: Chris Erickson ,BA, RN



**Caring for those in our congregation**  
**Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News August 2021**



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment. Blood pressure screening clinic may resume in the fall.

Connections, during this time, are also essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care. Keep communications with friends, neighbors, and family during this time. Please let us know any concerns or needs that we may be able to help with.

Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy.  
We are hopeful for exercise programs to resume and/or start here at VPC.

Coming soon: Cardio-drumming will hopefully begin in the fall as a once a week exercise program for health, stress, and balance.

By My Side, a support and uplifting chorus, uses the irrepressible power of singing to move people with Alzheimer's (or other dementia diagnosis) and their care partners to rediscover themselves, make new friends, laugh together, learn together, empower and support, and create something unique together. The priority is to engage and embrace people with Alzheimer's/dementia and their care partners who live at home and who have fewer opportunities to socialize and contribute. We are hopeful that this chorus can begin again in the fall.



Also in the fall, we are planning a fall prevention workshop. Please watch for more information coming soon.

### **Medical Minute:**



Concentrate on the surface you are walking on, especially during the Monsoon season. Water, from the rain, might track inside or pool outside. Uneven surfaces such as pebbles or rocks can cause a slip and fall.

## **BY Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, BA, RN**



New AED at VPC

Over the last few decades, we have heard the importance of having an AED. What exactly is an AED? An AED is a portable automated external defibrillator and used during an emergency to help during a life threatening event such as a cardiac arrest. This can aid the first person on the scene to guide them through CPR and the AED diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias, which it can treat through defibrillation. Minutes matter when there is an emergency. The AED that has been at VPC has been one from the original Sarver Heart of Banner, almost a few decades old.

The company of this older style of AED has changed its name and the parts are difficult to find with expensive batteries and pads due to this model being outdated. Our older model of AED is also quite heavy. The newer models have a more user-friendly guidance through CPR and initializing shock, both with verbal commands and visuals.

Technology has changed over the last 18 - 20 years, and the AED's are now light-weight and designed for more people to use. The Faith and Health Committee/Parish Nurse has researched new models of AEDs over the last few months. A new Phillips HeartStart AED has arrived at VPC. This new model will only be 3.5 pounds and has a trainer video for training staff, ushers, Deacons, and others who may need to know how to use this in case of an emergency. Classes and/or self-study will be scheduled soon. The new Phillips AED is also capable of assisting with children and infants. Thank you to the Gifts and Memorials Committee for funding this new emergency AED. With this new user-friendly, lightweight AED, more people can be trained, and it can be used for all ages at our church. It is so important to keep the congregational members safe and have the right equipment to use if an emergency does happen, minutes matter.

The Faith and Health Committee/Parish Nurse will be reaching out to groups/committees for training. A DVD training kit of CPR is also available to be checked out for self-study, for those who may want to review CPR without a certification.



## **Being Presbyterian – The Book of Order**

By Linda Freeman



This month's article will focus on Part II of the Constitution – *Book of Order* – that has four parts: The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship and Rules of Discipline.

Each of these sections have been thoughtfully worded and challenges you to really think through such basic concepts as the mission of the church in the world of today. Our denomination recognizes that, when led by the Holy Spirit and faithful to Scripture, things change. Here are just a couple of concepts that got me thinking that are found in the first section – Foundations.

**Holy catholic church.** I know that these words from the Apostle's Creed seem odd to those of us who grew up associating the catholic church with the Catholic denomination whose head is the Pope. I know when I was younger – Protestants were right and Roman Catholics were wrong. But take time to read these two paragraphs from the Foundations section - they really got me thinking!

### ***F-1.0302c* The Church Is the Body of Christ**

Catholicity is God's gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. In the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God overcomes our alienation and repairs our division. Because in Christ the Church is catholic, it strives everywhere to testify to Christ's embrace of men, women, and children of all times, places, races, nations, ages, conditions, and stations in life. The catholicity of the Church summons the Church to a deeper faith, a larger hope and a more complete love as it bears witness to God's Grace.

### ***F-1.0402* Ecumenicity**

The presbyterian system of government in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is established in light of Scripture but is not regarded as essential for the existence of the Christian Church nor required of all Christians.

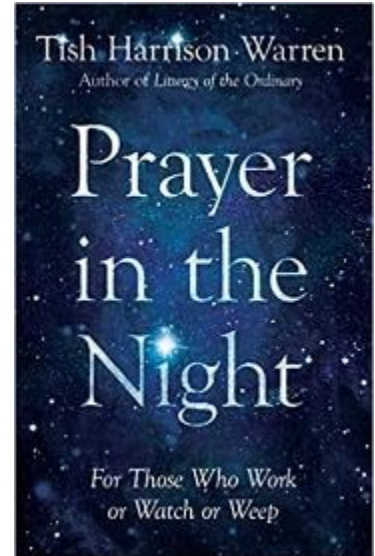
Wow – the power of those words – “summons the Church to a deeper faith, a larger hope and a more complete love” challenges me to re-think some of the ideas of my youth. What about you?

Next month: *Worship*

**Prayer in the Night**  
**Mondays, Starting August 2**  
**10 a.m. in classroom 5 and by Zoom**

My favorite book from the past year is *Prayer in the Night* by Tish Harrison Warren. I loved it for its spiritual depth and wrote many email blasts on its richness. It offers a prayerful and frank approach to the difficulties in our ordinary lives and in a world filled with uncertainty. The book is based on the following prayer:

“Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pit the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for you love’s sake. Amen.”



We are offering a summer class based on this book.

The class will be led in two ways: live in Classroom 5 taught by Linda Norman, and by Zoom taught by me (Pastor Diane). Here is an opportunity for those of you who are winter residents or traveling to take a summer class.

Books can be ordered online. I will have a supply in my office as well for \$15. To register for the class, contact me ([pastordiane@valleypres.net](mailto:pastordiane@valleypres.net); 625-5023) and let me know how you wish to join the class – Zoom or in person.

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## **Thank you!**

During Tom’s illness we have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of prayers, good wishes, cards, meals, flowers, gifts and encouragement from the staff and members of the church. The medical reports indicate all abdominal cancer is gone. Tom’s health improves daily. We praise the Lord for his recovery. Truly, we appreciate all you have done. We are grateful.

Thank you,



# **Solar Power System Status Report**

## **ENERGY COST SAVINGS**

Since the commissioning of the Solar Power System in late May 2018, Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC) has saved approximately \$20,562.75 in energy costs. This includes the monthly power purchase fee we pay the California leasing company, Technology Credit Corporation (TCC). During the second quarter of 2023 we will have the opportunity to purchase the system from TCC which will relieve VPC from the lease and all power generated by the system will be at no charge with the exception of Tucson Electric Power (TEP) monthly grid charge, maintenance and insurance. Currently the TEP grid charge is \$79.50 per month, we are estimating the maintenance to be \$900 per year and the insurance rider will be minimal. After the purchase we are estimating a yearly energy cost savings of approximately \$14,000 per year.

Billing Period	Power Costs		Savings	
	w/o Solar	w/ Solar	Year	Cum to Date
June 2018 Thru May 2019	\$ 24,484.41	\$ 16,963.80	\$ 7,520.61	\$ 7,520.61
June 2019 Thru May 2020	\$ 26,049.02	\$ 17,927.06	\$ 8,121.96	\$ 15,642.57
June 2020 Thru May 2021	\$ 19,344.96	\$ 14,424.78	\$ 4,920.18	\$ 20,562.75

## **PERFORMANCE**

The system has outperformed the installer's estimates by 6.19% over the past three years which should meet all of VPC's power requirements going forward. Bear in mind other factors (new air conditioners, "smart" thermostats and LED lighting have all reduced our power requirements.

## **FUNDING**

Thanks to the matching funds (\$19,140.00) pledged by one member our congregation, we are well on our way to the outright purchase of the solar system in the 2nd Qtr of 2023 without having to tap our Capital Reserve Account. The chart below reflects the current funding status. Expect another campaign solicitation in mid 2022.

Purchase Price	As of Date	Donations	Balance
\$ 100,097			\$ 100,097
	24-Jun-21	\$ 49,970.50	\$ 50,126.50

## **Patio Sale Financial Report**

(This text was run last month, but the actual financial report was not included. Editor's error.)

We, the Amigos, frequently get asked how we're doing. Are we making money? How do we keep track of our expenses and income? Where do we stand year-to-date? Well let's see if we can shed some light on this subject by first acknowledging that we can always do a better job of reporting our YTD Patio Sale (PS) expenses and resulting income for all to see.

Before looking at where we are in 2021, it needs to be noted that the PS is a year-around activity from January through December filled with income and expenses each and every month. The final net results are not known until the books are closed at year-end. It is from the net profits achieved **each year** that are given in support of the Mission Committee's recommended recipients, as endorsed by the Finance Committee and approved by Session, for the **next calendar year**.

Typically we have a large March sale with a smaller Holiday Sale in November and a lot of miscellaneous sales in between, whose expenses occur throughout the year. The financial accounting for all this activity is inputted by the Church Bookkeeper, using sign-off and approval procedures.

All is input into the Church's standard accounting format that we can report out YTD results whenever requested.

So, here we are YTD. Going forward we plan to use this format to report our progress throughout the year. Your questions and suggestions are welcomed.

Richard Christensen, Amigo  
[christensenR519@gmail.com](mailto:christensenR519@gmail.com)  
 520-647-9021

PATIO SALES INCOME AND EXPENSES			
	Jan 1 - May 31, 2021		
<b>Income</b>			
Misc Sales to May 31		\$ 10,049	
April Sale		60,555	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 70,604</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Labor		8,173	
Storage		6,817	
Tents		7,929	
Trucking and Supplies		3,829	
All Other		2,383	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 29,131</b>	
	<b>NET INCOME TO DATE</b>	<b>\$ 41,473</b>	
2020 Fund Carryover		23,761	
<b>TOTAL 2021 FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 65,234</b>	
MISSION TRANSFER SUMMARY FOR 2021			
<b>2020 NET FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 78,761</b>	
<b>PLANNED 2021 TRANSFER TO MISSIONS</b>			
	2/15/2021	13,750	
	5/15/2021	13,750	
	8/15/2021	13,750	
	11/15/2021	13,750	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 55,000</b>	
Carryover Balance		23,761	
		<b>\$ 78,761</b>	





**More Bloggers wanted (17 and counting) Another member agreed to blog and pray for Bob and Kristi.**

A blogger is anyone with access to a computer who can type in [bobandkristi.blogspot.com](http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com). Have you ever wanted to read a missionary's diary?

Consider blogging the real life story of Bob and Kristi Rice who share on a weekly basis the story of God working in their life.

**"I have seen you"**

Recently on a Sunday afternoon I was sitting at the edge of our couch, dusting one of our two statues representing the pastoralist Turkana people of Northern Kenya. I heard a voice in the hall followed by an exclamation of surprise, then a knock at the door. When I opened our door, shock, disbelief, and joy were felt on each side of the threshold. "Susan!" I exclaimed. "Bob!" Susan cried out. Kristi joined the circle and we reveled in each other's presence. Several times during that chance encounter Susan said, "Rabuna fi," "the Lord is here." Susan, a former cleaner in our building, happened by the building that day and saw me from the hallway. We were so blessed to experience her presence and her friendship again. Susan saw us and then acknowledged the presence of the Lord. It was a holy moment.





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**Bob & Kristi    Con't**

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In The Primal Vision, a seminal work on African Christianity, John V Taylor describes the delight and wonder of human relationships in Africa. As he describes the agreeable and amusing account of twelve-year-old Nantume paying him a visit while ironing a shirt in his hut, the reader is mesmerized by the glory and beauty of human interaction and connection. Taylor describes Nantume's curiosity in the hut, coupled with her sense of



Kristi with Susan (middle) and other woman also named Susan, August 2017

feeling at home as she leans her body into the wall, "as relaxed as a young antelope asleep in the sun." Taylor describes how in Africa one can enjoy the presence of another without pressure or feeling hurried or troubled, whether in conversation or in silence.

I confess that I often struggle with this concept. I feel like I need a purpose when I visit someone. I also feel like there should be conversation when perhaps silence and just being present to one another is the more agreeable option. Taylor describes how in Africa a visitor is never an interruption. In the introduction to Taylor's book, theologian J.N.K. Mugambi depicts how the interaction between Nantume and Taylor is about presence. Nantume closes her visit with the words "I have seen you." The primal vision, as Bishop Taylor describes it, is a world of being present to one another, of seeing one another. It is the universe understood in the language of "I and Thou." While such an encounter between Nantume and Bishop Taylor sounds simple, Mugambi describes it as the core of the Gospel, that even as God encounters us in Jesus Christ, Christian mission should be first and foremost about acknowledging the presence and integrity of others, of 'seeing the other' as modeled by Jesus in his life on earth (Taylor, 2001).

Recently I enjoyed a long phone conversation with a friend and colleague. Over the course of the call my friend mentioned how he had observed Kristi and I during a recent Zoom call. It was obvious that my friend was present to the moment and present to us, even over Zoom. He then asked an important follow up question from his observation which allowed our relationship to take a deeper turn towards mutual understanding and appreciation. At the end of

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**Bob & Kristi    Con't**

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our conversation, I felt like my friend could have said “I have seen you.” Another colleague, John, described for us an experience he had in Ghana. Being present to the moment and the people around him, he was able to deeply connect with a young woman who was troubled. John spent time with this young woman and spoke words of life, hope, encouragement, and strength to her. At the end of their meeting, truly, John could have said “I have seen you.”

The beauty and glory of the Gospel is that Jesus sees people. In fact, during his public ministry here on earth, Jesus chose to see the very persons whom others had overlooked or chose not to see. He saw the ostracized Samaritan woman at the well. He saw Zacchaeus up in a tree. He saw a man with a withered hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath. He connected with each of these persons, offering them in their personhoods dignity and value.

Jesus, unhindered and unhandicapped by self pre-occupation, worry, and the emotional trauma which seemingly perpetually beleaguer us, lived in the moment and was fully present to those around him. I confess that too often I fail to fully live in the moment and be present to others.



Jesus sees the Samaritan woman at mid-day  
Artist, Jesus Mafa (Cameroon)

I pray for growth in this area.  
I pray that after each meeting with someone, planned or unplanned, I can say, “I have seen you.” May that be so for all of us who attach ourselves to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 and praying for our missionaries and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by emailing me [douglasclark68@me.com](mailto:douglasclark68@me.com) .



COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

## What's HungerWalk?

HungerWalk is a fun, family-friendly event, a chance to get out, get active, and give back. Join us for HungerWalk 2021 on Saturday, September 11th and walk to raise awareness and end hunger in our communities.

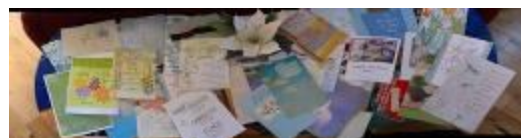
This year, HungerWalk is a hybrid event—you can join a small meet-up group to walk together in person, join our virtual walk by walking when and where it works for you, or donate online to support other walkers.

Wherever you walk and however you give, you can follow along on Facebook and Instagram with the hashtag **#HungerWalk2021**—and make sure you tell us why YOU walk!

Starting August 1st thru Sept. 5th there will be a registration table for the Hunger Walk 20/21 in Fellowship Hall. For those who want details and registration now they can do it on-line at [communityfoodbank.org/HungerWalk](https://communityfoodbank.org/HungerWalk)

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## Thank you



After being gone for almost 2 months, having put down my cat of twenty years and losing my Dad, I came home to the picture you see above: all your cards of encouragement, sympathy, love and prayers. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I shall keep them, and read them again and again.

What this teaches me is the importance of sharing your struggles and hard times with others. When we do, those with the gifts of encouragement and compassion can use those gifts to lift us up. This is how God has designed the church: “A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other” (1 Corinthians 12:7).

I have come back renewed and refreshed, and ready to be your pastor once again. Thank you for being my family.

All my love,  
Pastor Diane

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## **Operation Mobilization**

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Pam's father had a major stroke May 14 and then in the next few weeks continued to have more strokes and died June 14. After that we were busy planning for the funeral and then going to see the lawyer etc. It has been a tumultuous time to say the least.

We have been extremely busy all these months in ongoing ministry especially in reaching Muslims in North India. As I'm sure you're aware, Covid hit north India in the month of May like a tsunami. We know of at least 600 pastors who died and of course millions who were suffering being pushed into abject poverty with lack of work and faced even starvation.

Our partners with their teams have reached out to 1600 families in North India as we reached out with the love of Christ to Muslim communities to share the good news and demonstrate the good news of the gospel in practical ways by providing food and healthy packs.

We've also been coming along side widows and orphans who are left behind after their husbands, who were pastors and evangelists, had died. Many of them were formally with OM.

We would appreciate prayer for wisdom as we're supposed to go overseas at the end of August and then I should be in India at the end of September, in Bangladesh in October, and then the Middle East in November. Sometime in there I need to be in Pakistan as well.

Covid continues to put so much of this up in the air.

We're also just printing nine more books in Turkey which we will distribute to many different organizations and work to get them inside Iran to help the underground church. Please pray as we are also producing 20,000 SD cards with 64 GB of materials for discipleship and leadership training as well as of course Scriptures.

Thanks again for your partnership and prayer.

Blessings,  
Dave and Pam L





# St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

*Nogales, Arizona*

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

Laura Romero, the executive director at St. Andrew's Children's Clinic expressed concern about the upcoming trips to the Hermosillo Hospital with children who need Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate surgeries. With the increase in COVID cases among adults, the hospital beds are becoming full. The St. Andrew's staff and volunteers want to take no chances of exposing the children to this virus so they are being very cautious, monitoring the conditions in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

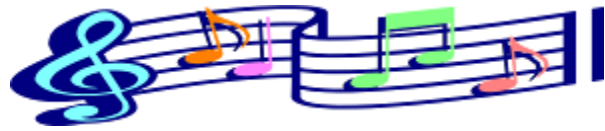
Unless things get worse, they will move forward as planned. In September they will take 25 pre-selected babies and very young children for first-time surgery for cleft lip/cleft palate. At the first of November, 25 toddlers will go for their second surgery.

Laura hopes that more clinics will be held before the end of 2021. One of her goals is to have a December Clinic which will also be the Christmas party for 15 children and families. At this time, she's still hoping that St. Andrew's Church will be able to serve as their Clinic each month. COVID has been a challenge for this mission. Above all, they certainly need the prayers and support of Valley Presbyterian Church.





## Notes from the Music Team



“When the music and rain sound the same, what an incredible sound they make!” – Unknown

Before moving to Arizona, I was constantly reminded, “Just you wait. Monsoon season is like no other experience. The downpour, the rainbows, the thunder and lightning is quite a sight!” Not until AJ and I started our 4<sup>th</sup> year in Arizona did I get it! Rain is musical. Music and rain: It calms and soothes you, it gives you a shower back into reality, it rinses away the dirt, it makes noise (sometimes quiet and sometimes loud), it waters and helps our roots grow, and we end with a beautiful rainbow! What a lovely season this has been! I thought I would close with a few song lyrics that have always put a smile in on my face.

“Singin’ In the Rain” by Arthur Freed

I’m singing in the rain, just singin’ in the rain  
What a glorious feeling, I’m happy again.  
I’m laughing at clouds so dark up above,  
The sun’s in my heart and I’m ready for love.  
Let the stormy clouds chase everyone from the place,  
Come on with the rain, I’ve a smile on my face.  
I walk down the lane with a happy refrain,  
Just singin’, singin’ in the rain.



“Shower the People” by James Taylor

Just shower the people you love with love  
Show them the way that you feel.  
Things are gonna work out fine  
If you only will.  
Shower the people you love with love  
Show them the way that you feel.  
Things are gonna be much better  
If you only will.

“My Favorite Things” by Rodgers and Hammerstein

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens  
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens  
Brown paper packages tied up with strings  
These are a few of my favorite things.



“Over the Rainbow” by Harold Arlen

Somewhere over the rainbow  
Bluebirds fly,  
And the dream that you dare to  
Oh why, oh why can't I?

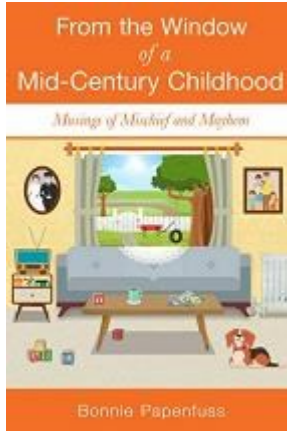
Have a great month!!

Jamie



## Valley Readers

2:00 PM – August 23, 2021  
Classroom 1



Our August Valley Readers gathering will have a special treat. Author Bonnie Papenfuss will be with us to discuss her two books, *From the Window of a Mid-Century Childhood* and *From the Window of God's Waiting Room*. These books of musings, prose and poetry are both available in the Church Library. Mary Horn will facilitate the session. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

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## Women's Ministries

During the summer we are taking a break as far as the Women's Ministries table in the Fellowship Hall is concerned. We ask that you please hold on to your bottle caps and aluminum pull tabs until September when we'll be glad to take them.

The Presbyterian Women's nation-wide triennial gathering that was scheduled for this summer in St. Louis has been cancelled as far as in-person attendance is concerned. However, a plenary session that includes the worship service and several keynote speakers, including some of our past and present Bible study authors will be available via livestreaming on the PW Facebook page. Save the date for August 5, 1 – 3 pm (Arizona time). See [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org) and click on Gathering in the menu across the top of the page for additional information.



We are planning a full slate of Gathering lunches starting in September so stay tuned for further details.

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## **Crossroads Mission, Nogales AZ**

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Submitted by Joan Bolin

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, I texted Bert Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, and received the following information:

**Health Report on Ben Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission.** Ben has had health problems the past few years because of a fall, which has sent him in-and-out of hospitals and rehab facilities in Phoenix and Tucson. Ben fell in 2018 and bruised his brainstem and cerebellum of the brain. Bert was happy to report Ben will be coming home July 15, 2021, after months of rehab. Ben is still having problems with his right arm and his body still shakes. His left arm has a steel plate from the elbow to the wrist. Ben's arm will heal but the shaking will get worse. He has months of rehab in front of him. Please pray for Ben, and Bert also.

On a happy note, Crossroads Mission celebrated Father's Day on Saturday, June 19, 2021. A luncheon of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, beans, bread and cranberry sauce was prepared and served to the 40 people who attended. Each man also received a cake, toiletries and working gloves.

There currently are 3 women and a 6-year-old child living in the women's shelter houses.

**Help Needed:** Men to frame and finish a small area with cement. I don't have any more information, but any person interested in this project please call or text Bert, 1-520-470-3860.



Crossroad Mission's main building which houses the men's shelter and the chapel.



## **Crossroads Mission**    Con't

### **Crossroads Mission's Stats for the month of June 2021:**

- Shelter Guests - Men: 79
- Shelter Guests – Women: 17
- Shelter Guests – Children: 16
- Total Meals prepared on-site: 1191
- Produce Bags Handed Out: 616
- Chapel Attendees: 951

Bert again gave thanks for the quilts she received from Valley Presbyterian Church's quilting group 5-months ago for use in the Missions women/ children's shelter houses. A BIG thanks goes to our quilting ladies of the church.

Monetary gifts are always needed to keep the Mission running and the facilities in good condition. Canned food is also needed to keep the Mission's pantry stocked so meals can be prepared on-site for people who arrive at the Mission in need of a meal. Deposit all donated canned food in the container labeled "Crossroads Mission" in Fellowship Hall.

Please keep praying for Crossroads Mission, it is a vital part of Nogales, Arizona.



A note from Pastor Craig:

On the evening of July 19, Joan Larson passed to God's care. Thank you for all the care and faith you demonstrated in her care. Our continued prayers for Steve and family.  
Pastor Craig



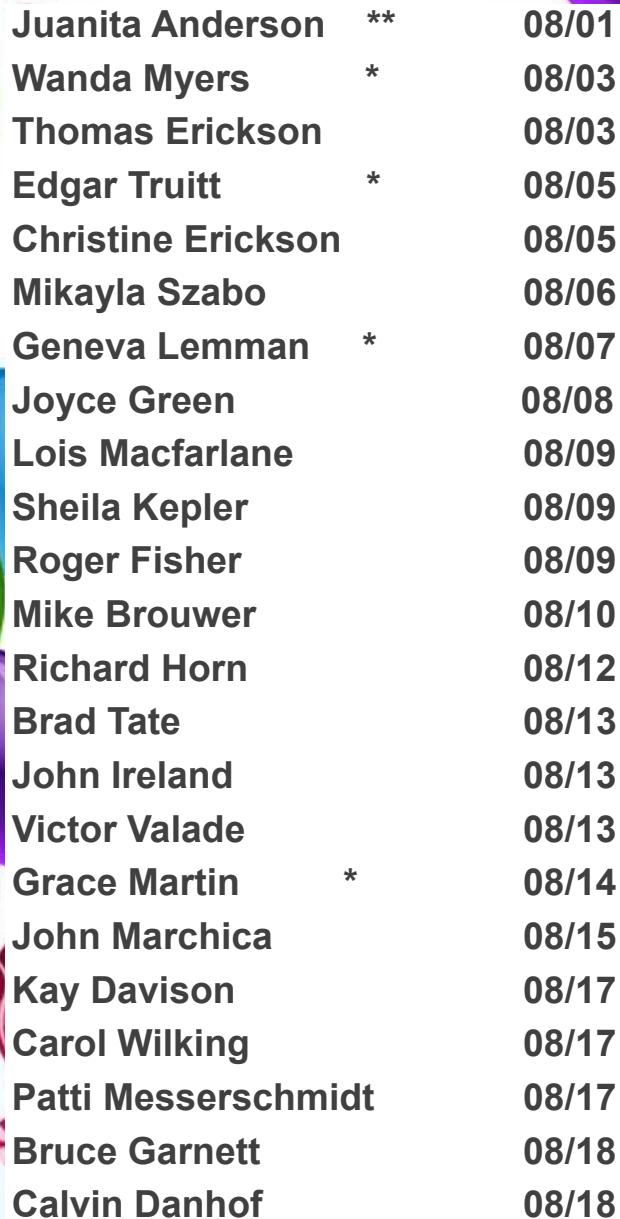
We will pass along any information we receive on a memorial service.





**August 2021**

*Happy Birthday*



Juanita Anderson	**	08/01
Wanda Myers	*	08/03
Thomas Erickson		08/03
Edgar Truitt	*	08/05
Christine Erickson		08/05
Mikayla Szabo		08/06
Geneva Lemman	*	08/07
Joyce Green		08/08
Lois Macfarlane		08/09
Sheila Kepler		08/09
Roger Fisher		08/09
Mike Brouwer		08/10
Richard Horn		08/12
Brad Tate		08/13
John Ireland		08/13
Victor Valade		08/13
Grace Martin	*	08/14
John Marchica		08/15
Kay Davison		08/17
Carol Wilking		08/17
Patti Messerschmidt		08/17
Bruce Garnett		08/18
Calvin Danhof		08/18





- \*\* indicates age over 100**  
**• indicates age in their 90's**

Joy Hoar	**	08/20
Gwen Lamb		08/20
Linda Mutimer		08/20
Clayton Messelt		08/21
George Curtis		08/21
Joan Briggs		08/22
Elizabeth Haynes		08/22
Carol Collins		08/22
Les Walter		08/23
Steven Larson		08/23
Gayle Tompkins		08/23
Martha Jenkins	*	08/24
Daniel Wilking		08/24
Mike Yoder		08/24
Donna Richards		08/25
Keith Adrian		08/26
Bob Lillie		08/27
Ann Tate		08/28
Jean Messelt	*	08/29
Carol Stephens		08/30
H. Larry Sharp	*	08/31

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## **Stephen Ministry**

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### **What Is a Stephen Minister?**

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 13,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.



### **Training to Become a Stephen Minister**

Stephen Minister training is a Christ-centered experience that equips participants with essential caring and relating skills. Trainees learn how to listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times in life.

Stephen Ministers are trained by their congregation's Stephen Leaders using resources from Stephen Ministries St. Louis. The training they receive in the congregation equips them to provide high-quality care to people who are hurting.

Here at Valley Presbyterian Church, we conduct our training on Fridays for 10 weeks between January and March. It is a total of 50 hours of in class time. Recruiting begins in late October through early December. Please pray about joining this essential ministry. Contact Patti Bright (520-305-3275) if you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Stephen Minister.

### **What Stephen Ministers Do**

After being matched with a person experiencing a life crisis, the Stephen Minister meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists.

### **A Life-Changing Experience for the Care Receiver**

Stephen Ministers have cared for over one-and-a-half million people in one-to-one caring relationships—and they have touched countless more lives with compassionate understanding and encouragement.

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## **Stephen Ministry con't**

There are many people who could benefit from having a Stephen Minister walk with them through a difficult time, but they tell themselves their problems aren't that bad, or they don't want to "bother" anyone. We are here for you. We WANT to support people when life is tough. We are here for you. Contact Gee-Gee Smith (610-212-1172) or Helen Phillips (520-282-1783) if you have any questions about having a Stephen Minister.

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## **Our Children's Ministry**

We have exciting news regarding our children's ministry. In the last year, our children have been in the Nursery/Kids' Room on Sunday Mornings. However, we have noticed something! Right before our eyes, our children are growing up, and therefore, it is time to bring back Children's Sunday School. On Sunday mornings, grade school children will be in classroom 5 having a Bible lesson. Children under grade school will remain in the Nursery with Alice.

We are looking for Sunday School

teachers who will teach once a month. We provide the curriculum, a Sunday School assistant and excited children. Will you help us with this important ministry to bring our children up in the Christian faith?

If you are interested, contact Pastor Diane for more information:

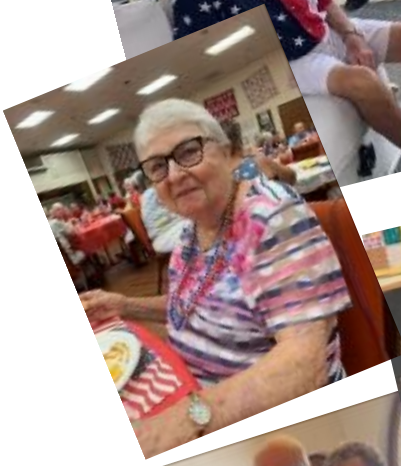
([pastordiane@valleypres.net](mailto:pastordiane@valleypres.net); 625-5023).








**Happy 4th of July!  
VPC Picnic with no  
Ants!**







**Thank you to the  
Deacons and Jim Nelson  
For Setting Up This  
Wonderful Picnic**



And Thank You to  
Joyce Lambert for  
These Wonderful  
Pictures

