

# Valley Voice

## Advent and Christmas at VPC

### Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m. in the VPC Sanctuary

Communion served on first Sunday of each month

December 1	The Insomniac Christian	Rev. Diane Christopher
December 8	A Voice in the Wilderness	Rev. Craig Lindsey
December 15	Cantata with the Sacrament of Communion	
December 22	Birth Stories	Rev. Craig Lindsey
December 29	To Make Reconciliation for the Sins of the People	Rev. Craig Lindsey

### La Joya at La Posada

9:00 a.m. at La Joya

Communion served on the first Sunday of each month

December 1	Rev. Craig Lindsey and Helen Phillips
December 15	Marti Long
December 29	Special Christmas Musical Season Service led by Linda Freeman and members of the Music Ministry

### Special Events

December 4, 11, and 18 at 5:00 p.m.	Taizé Advent Services - followed by a meal and devotions	
December 20 at 12 noon	Longest Night Service	
December 24 at 4:00 p.m.	Around the Table Service in Fellowship Hall - Communion and Potluck	
	Hark! How All the Welkin Rings!	Rev. Diane Christopher
December 24 at 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service - Traditional Candlelight Service with Choir	
	The Missing Link	Rev. Craig Lindsey



## Christmas Carol Sing-Along

Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Carmen Nylund, Organizer*

The Fellowship Committee invites you to join us on Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary for a Christmas Carol Sing-Along. This will be a time to sing your favorite carols and hear some special Christmas music. Following our time of caroling, we invite you to continue celebrating the Christmas season with Christmas cookies and a holiday beverage in Fellowship Hall. If you are a Christmas cookie baker, please bring some cookies to share. And, please invite your friends and neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Around the Table

It is said that Christmas, Mother's Day, and Easter are the biggest outreach days for the church.

With that in mind, last Christmas Eve we tried an experiment. We took our usual 4 p.m. Family Pageant service, moved it from the sanctuary into the Fellowship Hall, and placed people at round tables. THEN in the middle of worship, we stopped and ate dinner. And THEN after eating, we had communion together at our tables, serving one another the elements in a continued time of worship. All of it tied together with the singing of Christmas carols. We called it "Around the Table" worship service.

There are two things that stand out for me as I look back at that service. One, we had lots of visitors. There were so many faces I did not recognize. I was rather stunned actually. I shouldn't have been. We had mailed 13,000 postcards to Green Valley residents inviting them to the service.

As we worshipped at round tables, I wondered what the visitors thought of our rather un-orthodox service. I can't begin to tell you how many of them came up to me after the service was over and said how wonderful it was. Several mentioned it was a great way for a new visitor to enter into a church.

The second thing that stood out is that we didn't have enough food! I foolishly (or rather generously) said on the Christmas postcard if you are a new visitor, come as our guest to the service and potluck meal. The visitors took me up on it. None of them brought food. Since the visitors outnumbered our church members, food was rather scarce that night.

So foolishly (and hopefully generously), we are going to try this service again. Again, we sent out 13,000 postcards to our neighbors inviting them to our Christmas Eve services. Again, we are inviting the new visitors to our potluck meal and worship service as a guest.

Again, I ask for your help. Please come to the 4 p.m. Around the Table Christmas Eve service on December 24 and bring a dish to share at the potluck meal. We will provide the meat. As a result, I hope our table can be overflowing in generosity to our visitors and neighbors.

And of course, don't forget the beautiful 7 p.m. Candlelight service later that evening.

Merry Christmas, my friends.

Pastor Diane

## Advent Devotionals

Available Sunday mornings beginning December 1 at the Welcome Centers and Faith Formation Kiosk.

## Being Counter-Cultural

One of the marvelous identities of Valley Presbyterian Church is how “Counter-Cultural” we are! Judaism was not intended to be normative, Israel was called to be a voice to the nations, to call all the world from their lives and desires to come to God’s holy mountain. The followers of Jesus were regularly challenged for not following the Levitical and Pharasaic laws. Jesus was crucified as a means of shame, but not even death could prevent the love of God through this one. The early Christian church was an underground movement for centuries.

Where the rest of the country and western Europe have been waning in worship participation in the last 50 years, VPC is vital and alive with new visitors every week. Throughout the world, missions have been struggling for support and VPC is committed to a host of missions changing the world. Many churches have given up on the glorious music of choirs, and the singing of actual music by following the projection of words, VPC is gifted with incredible choirs, concerts of fabulous music, and singing from new hymnals in a larger type font. Churches throughout the world cannot view the world through stained-glass windows, and this congregation looks to the high hills from whence our help comes! In the first weeks of November, when the rest of the nation plunged into ice, snow, sub-zero temperatures, Green Valley has come to life with residents returning home to Arizona!

Is life hard? You betcha. Are we confronted with the same problems we had years ago? Yes. But none of that stops us, or seems to matter. We are having too good a time to notice, and we believe in the possible, in reconciliation beyond our differences, and in resurrection beyond this life.

I have been reading through our chronology of Annual Reports as a congregation, only to discover that circumstances changed years ago, not because of this pastor or that one, and not because of decisions of the denomination. After our first 20 years, there appears to have been a tiredness, a milieu that settled in as if every church was the same and people could shop for what was most convenient. Today, we are leaner, but once again anything is possible. I am reminded of the Genesis story of the Tower of Babel. The problem was not a lack of leadership or faith or resources. Genesis states that the people settled. They tried to reach heaven by building towers to show the world they possessed the ability to do anything others could do. Therefore, God frustrated them. Until a day of Pentecost, when disciples discovered a flaming passion and that each one had gifts. No two possessed the same gifts, but they each were able to speak in ways that strangers could understand. We are discovering that every person, regardless of limitations, has abilities and faith.

Craig Lindsey

## Moving In

In one of the longest arrivals in history, the Lindsey’s physically arrived in Green Valley in September, but like most of us moving to Arizona, it has taken time to make renovations, and repaint and carpet as we would like, before moving in. On November 19, we began unpacking boxes and settling where the couches go, just in time for company to arrive on the weekend of November 24. Now that we are moved in and our company has gone, please feel free to stop by and visit as you would anyone else new in the congregation. The Lindsey’s home is 4151 South Westcotta Drive, in the San Ignacio Heights development (behind the bull) at Camino del Sol and Desert Jewell.

## Valley Readers

**Monday, December 9  
12:00 p.m.**



Valley Readers will have their traditional holiday book exchange on Monday, December 9 at 12:00 noon. Please bring a gently used book from your own library that you think would appeal to others, wrapped and with no name. Each person picks a package when his or her number is drawn and can either keep it or exchange it for another book that has already been unwrapped. Lots of laughs and good times are guaranteed.

Please call Anne Morrison if you need additional information at 520-399-0762.

## Friendship Kettle Dinner

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

**Dinner:** A delicious meal of beef bourguignon with all the trimmings and dessert will be served promptly at 5:00 p.m.

**Program:** At 6:00 p.m., join us in the sanctuary for an evening of musical excellence by the Michael Mack Band playing country and western classics.

**Tickets:** (\$13) will be on sale in Fellowship Hall prior to, and following, the services on Sundays, December 1 and 8.

**Volunteers:** The Kettle Dinner is always in need of volunteers to help with serving. If you are interested and can help, please sign up when you purchase your tickets.

## Women's Ministries Christmas Gathering Luncheon

**Tuesday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m.**

*Submitted by Anne Morrison, Women's Ministries Coordinator*

As we move into the Advent season, mark your calendars for the Women's Ministries Luncheon Gathering on December 17 at 11:30 a.m. Our program will be working together to assemble gift bags for 10 people who have been recommended to us by Valley Assistance Services. We will have a variety of wrapped gifts including food, toiletries, handy home items, and Christmas decorations to place in each bag. We will sing favorite Christmas songs and celebrate the season. Join us for our mission of caring and concern, plus fun fellowship time together. \$11 reservations can be made at the Women's Ministries table on Sundays, December 8 and 15. The Presby Gift for December will be cash donations to cover the expenses of buying the gift items for our bags. Have a wonderful holiday season.

## Grief Recovery Workshop

**Begins Monday, January 6 for five weeks  
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room**

The purpose of the workshop is to discover the stages of the grief process, find healthy ways to deal with the pain and loss, and to begin the healing process. Call the church office (625-5023) to reserve your spot.

## Wednesdays in Advent

**December 4, 11, and 18**

Yes, the Christmas season is approaching. Advent is the time in December when we prepare for the birth of our Savior. Wednesdays in Advent will help us do so:

**5:00 p.m. Taizé Worship** in the Spiritual Life Center. Taizé is a simple worship service of quiet, candlelight, music and prayer. See the article below for more information.

**5:45 p.m. A simple meal** in the Fellowship Hall.

**6:15 p.m. Around the Table Devotions** on Christmas Spirituals.

Mark your calendars for a time of worship and fellowship around the table.

## Taizé Worship in December

**December 4, 11, and 18 at 5 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center**

Greetings, Valley Presbyterian family. The holiday season is such a busy time of year for all of us. For those who are active in churches, it is even more so.

In the midst of all the chaos, do you need a quiet time to relax, reflect, and worship? If so, please join us the first three Wednesdays of December for our Taizé services. The services will be at 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 11, and 18. This year, our Advent Taizé services will center around a group of Bible scriptures that traditionally make up Advent Lessons and Carols services. The scriptures are: Genesis 3:1-22, Isaiah 40:1-11, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Isaiah 64:1-9, Isaiah 35: 1-10, Baruch 4:36-5:9, Isaiah 7:10-15, Zephaniah 3:14-18, and Isaiah 65:17-25. Our worship will contain four of these scriptures each Wednesday. The Bible stories take us from the coming of sin into the world, to God promising a new heaven and a new earth. Some Advent Lessons and Carols services end with the nativity story. Ours will not, though, because that part of the story will be told in our Christmas Eve services at Valley Presbyterian. Please join us as we take this journey together, over the month of December, exploring man's need of redemption, the promise of the Messiah, and the culmination of that promise in Christ our Lord's birth. Merry Christmas, and best wishes for 2020!

Many thanks,  
Wes Moulton

## A Need for Help

Due to transitions, the Nominating Committee, which is designed to function with five to seven people, currently has only two members. Thankfully, those two, Tom MacFarland and Bob Campbell, are Ruling Elders, so we have the minimums required by the Book of Order. But, in order for us to elect five Deacons and four Elders and a new Nominating Committee in February, we need your help. Many have served previously, others have served in previous churches, but this is a new day and we are getting things accomplished with a spirit of laughter and hope. Please consider if you could serve, or if there is someone you would like to recommend, and do so! We need you.

## Patio Sale News

Thanks to the many workers who made our Holiday Sale a success. Our workers volunteered hours of their time to unpack the boxes, set out all the donations, and help buyers with their purchases. We ended up making nearly \$4,500 for missions, which is \$500 more than last year! All that was left after the sale was donated to other non-profit organizations to help them serve the community as well.

We are so glad to see all of you who are returning from their summer locations. We struggle to make it through without you during the summer, so we are pleased to have you back again. Maybe we will see many of you at the next sort on December 19.

Since this is the time to write out a Christmas list, the Patio Sale has a few wishes. Topping the list - one we barely dare to mention - is a pickup truck that could help us with picking up donations and also tow the Valley Galley when needed. This is a far-fetched wish, but it will never come true if we don't mention it.

Here are two more attainable wishes:

- We now have a volunteer who would like to help with repairing furniture, but we have no woodworking tools for him to use. If you have tools in your garage that you are no longer using, we could use them.
- Our sale is getting bigger each year as more and more people in the community hear of our services. Therefore, we need more volunteers in all departments. In particular, we need men to help with driving the truck to pick up donations, and others to help load and unload the truck with donations. This usually happens on Friday afternoons, but there are other times as well.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our volunteers, to all who donate their goods, and to those who buy them. We also wish God's blessings on the people who serve on our Mission Committee and disperse the funds we raise, on the agencies and organizations who receive that funding, and on the individuals those agencies serve. What a blessing it is to do this work for the Lord!

### Patio Sale Dates for 2019

**Sorting:** Thursday, December 19 at 8:00 a.m.

## Why do we Save Plastic Bottle Caps?

*Submitted by Martha Ashton*

Nearly a year ago, the Women's Ministries at Valley Presbyterian decided to get involved in a Presbytery de Cristo project that benefits sick children in Mexico. Donated bottle caps are collected by women's groups at many of the Presbyterian churches in the Tucson area, and are dropped off at Immanuel Presbyterian in Tucson. There, Lucy Greenleaf sorts through the 1,000-plus pounds of donations she receives every month, to make sure there is no metal or other items that aren't bottle caps.

Several times a month, Lucy drives down to Nogales, Sonora, MX to deliver the caps to Pastor Jorge Pazos. In turn, he makes trips further south to Hermosillo to drop the donations off at a children's hospital that arranges for recycling of plastic caps. The money earned from this joint project is used to finance chemotherapy for children whose families cannot afford the treatments.

So, next time you empty a prescription bottle, drink a soda, or finish a larger beverage container that has a plastic cap, bring the cap in on Sunday and drop it off at the Women's Ministries table in Charter Hall. It feels good to know that if we all pitch in, the sum total can make a big difference to families in financial distress due to illness.





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

On Thursday, November 7, six people toured the clinic. Mission Quilters gave four quilts to donate. Our tour leader, an Episcopal priest from Tucson, was knowledgeable and thorough. This monthly clinic provides free, specialized medical care to children living in Mexico who cannot get, or cannot afford, the care they need in their home country. On this clinic day, the staff saw approximately 220-250 children. The church/clinic was "organized chaos" as we saw many children and their families being served. After our tour, our group went to lunch at Wisdom's Café. Our day was enhanced by eating outdoors with good food and conversation. The "Wish List" below was suggested by the clinic. You may donate these much-needed items at the clinic office, 75 Calle de las Tiendas, Suite 129B, or call Kay Brouwer, 573-552-2313.

### Home

AA batteries for speech/language devices  
Blenders  
Clorox wipes  
Trash bags with drawstring  
Ziplock bags

### Food

Breakfast drinks (powder or can)  
Peanut butter  
Powdered milk  
Prune juice - small cans only

### Personal items

Wipes  
Hand sanitizers

### Clothing

Disposable diapers (especially newborn size)  
Sunglasses & hats (child-size)

### Medicines

Hydrocortisone 1% ointment  
Petroleum jelly

### Kids

Children's craft supplies  
Simple picture books in Spanish  
Small mirrors and small toys/prizes for homework rewards  
Spiral notebooks, stickers, and pens for children's homework assignments

## Offering Envelopes

In the 1920's, people came home from work each week with a "pay envelope" of cash, and distributed so much into each envelope for the milkman, the gas-meter, the water-meter, taxes, groceries and the church. From this practice, churches created pew envelopes, and we each became accustomed to having our assigned number that stayed with us year after year. Technology has changed. Many of us have already been contributing by check, others by automatic withdrawal, some by stock, or once-a-year contribution. Because of this, the Session decided early last February TO DISCONTINUE HAVING BOXES OF OFFERING ENVELOPES. There will be generic envelopes in the pews, so if you contribute cash, please place it into an envelope and write your name on the envelope so we can credit your donation. If you have been looking for your envelopes, there are none anymore. This represented a significant financial savings in the operating budget. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE continue to contribute to the church, your support in so many ways is vital to the existence of VPC. We know that this represents a change to how we have always done things.



## News of Note



Tis The Season for some music, Fa La La La La La La La!!

This time of year always brings such excitement for music makers. The joy of the season is definitely in the air at Valley Presbyterian. While so much is happening, I'd love to hone in on two big events!

**DECEMBER 15 at 9:30 a.m., The Sanctuary Choir presents:**

**"O Magnify the Lord"**

This cantata is a lovely mixture of styles, traditions, verses, and messages that will touch the lives of all. Our choir will be accompanied by a string quartet, our dear Pam Coggins on oboe, as well as Wes on organ (to name a few).

"As did the angels, the shepherds, and the Magi, we this day "festival"  
the event in reverence and in great joyful song."

**DECEMBER 20 at 7:00 p.m., our next Music In The Valley Concert:**

**"Festival of Keys"**

Wes and I, along with my mom, Jan Brachel, and friend, Liz Spencer, are working on a very exciting program! From holiday to sacred to secular to classical to everything in between: Something for everyone! This would be a perfect opportunity to bring a friend! Let's fill those seats!

**"Just love what you are doing, and try to play more." - Lang Lang**

Join us as we share our love for this beautiful instrument!

Please take an extra peak at your calendars and join us for all of the splendid, festive opportunities.

On a side note, it is never too early for a pre-season preparation "thank you." There is so much happening with all our dedicated music makers. To the Sanctuary Choir, Valley Ringers, Joyful Spirit, and especially WES: THANK YOU! Rehearsals have been added for learning more music, and new singers, ringers, and players have joined us! Your extra time, heart, and soul is beautiful. It's so exciting, but also a lot of work.

THANK YOU!

Jamie Reed

## Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Operation Christmas Child is a program that Valley Presbyterian Church participates in each November. This year we delivered 97 filled Christmas boxes to Calvary Chapel of Sahuarita, the collection point in this area. A big "THANK YOU" to all the people who took a box, filled it, and returned it to Valley Presbyterian Church by November 17. Great Job!



## Neighborhoods of Caring

Thank you to each of the NOC's who have invited Judy and Craig Lindsey for lunch or supper. We have greatly enjoyed and appreciated being able to meet and come to know you in small gatherings as well as in the full congregation. Our pastor's only concern is, with all the wonderful cooks we have in this congregation, we are gaining weight by being part of this church! If your NOC has not yet gathered and you are looking for a reason, please schedule a date for us to come and get to know one another better.



## 2019 Pledge and Budget Status

*As of November 10, 2019*

*Submitted by Donald Brooks, Church Treasurer*

**Pledge Status at the end of Week #45, 2019:** As reflected in the chart below, VPC has currently received 92.74% of the 2019 pledges. There are numerous reasons for this shortfall. In some instances, folks have just merely forgotten to fulfill their pledge. So, please take this communication as a friendly reminder. This applies to membership pledges only.

PLEDGE STATUS 2019				
Year	Pledged	Received	% of Pledged	\$ Shortfall
2019	\$ 500,674	\$ 464,350	92.74%	\$ 36,324

*NOTE - 2019 Data as of November 10, 2019*

**Church Operational Finances at the end of Week #45, 2019:** As the weekly chart below reflects, VPC Operations giving is exceeding the budget even though we have a slight pledge shortfall. Some of this is due to functional re-organization as suggested by the Journey Ahead Group (JAG) and the associated staff adjustments made by the Personnel Committee. But, some of this is from the **generosity** of the folks who attend VPC. By the way, attendance is on the rise for the first time in several years. GOD is surely blessing VPC. Thanks to all.

Week #45 (through 11/10/19)				
Church Weekly Operations Finances			Church Weekly Attendance	
Weekly Giving Income	\$10,132		2019 Attendance	392
Δ Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,181		2018 Attendance	340
*YTD Giving Income	\$605,027		*YTD 2019 Attendance	14,343
Δ*YTD Giving Budget	\$551,203		*YTD 2018 Attendance	14,218
(*) YTD: Year-to-Date				
(Δ) Based on Aug 2019 Budget Adjustment			2019 Per Capita is \$40.22 per member	

## October Noisy Offering

The Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board wishes to express its appreciation for the donation of \$685.65 collected from our October Noisy Offering. Valley Presbyterian's support for this Ministry is really great!

## Supper Clusters

*Submitted by Carmen Nylund, Organizer*

The time to sign up for Supper Clusters is coming to an end. The last official day to sign up is **Sunday, December 1**, so stop by the "Supper Cluster Table" in Fellowship Hall. We will begin forming groups later in December, but if you missed signing up forms will still be available in the church office. Just pick one up, fill it out, and leave it with the receptionist by **Friday, December 20**. Don't miss out! Supper clusters are a great way to meet new people and/or renew old friendships.



Twice in the past week I have received emails from people at VPC asking me questions about promoting events at the church. Many of you are involved in ministries, committees, or even outside organizations offering events or activities that benefit the people in our community by providing information, services, or entertainment. You want to get the word out to as many people as possible, but how?

There are a number of free resources you can use to promote these events, and while this is by no means a comprehensive list, it's a good starting point. For events that directly involve our church, including the ministries we support, you can share information via our weekly Sunday bulletin (handed out during Sunday worship), our weekly e-blast (goes out by email to subscribers), our monthly newsletter (goes out by email to subscribers, and printed versions are available at the church), the church Facebook page (seen by anyone who "likes" that page), our church calendar (found on our website, [www.valleypresbyterian.net](http://www.valleypresbyterian.net)) and the News & Events page on our church website. You can get information to all of these areas at once by sending an email to [notices@valleypres.net](mailto:notices@valleypres.net) with information about the event and where you would like it to appear.

There are two additional, free options for providing information to the community via the Chamber of Commerce and the Green Valley News. We have left brochures at the Chamber of Commerce promoting events happening at the church, and at times they have even sold tickets for us. This is especially handy on Fridays when the church office is closed. Please stop by and talk to the people at the Chamber for more information.

The Green Valley News charges for ads, of course, but you can promote events for free on the event calendar found on their website. If you want to see what's going on in our area, or list an event for others to see, go to [gvnews.com/events](http://gvnews.com/events). You can search for an event, browse the list of upcoming events, or if you want to list an event, you can click on the green "+PRMOTE YOUR EVENT" button in the upper right corner. It will take you through a series of questions about your event to make sure readers get the information they need. The GV News selects items from this list to feature on the What's Happening page of the printed newspaper, so you may get additional free advertising that way. Note, however, that we have no control or influence over which items are chosen, it's something the people at GV News decide for themselves.

Those are just some of the free and easy ways I know of to promote events that are relevant to our church and surrounding community, but I'm sure there are many more. Local radio stations and other area websites and publications may offer additional ways to share information for free, and it certainly never hurts to ask.

## The Moving Chancel

On October 1, Craig Lindsey came to worship as our new pastor. On November 1, after trying things the way they had been for several weeks, a few changes began taking place. The Oasis of Grace pitcher and crystal bowl moved from a small table to the baptismal font, representing that VPC is an "Oasis of Grace" and that as we worship, we reflect upon and re-new our acceptance of our baptismal covenant of grace. Then, the pulpit became central! Some of our preachers have been on the left and some have been on the right. Our hope is to cut right down the middle, comforting the afflicted and challenging us all when we get too comfortable. Acoustically, the spoken word "projects" and carries more articulately down the center of the room, to all corners, rather than diagonally cutting across. Also, by centering the pulpit behind the communion table, in practicality we create a lot more room for the hand bell choir, the Orff ensemble, etc.; while spiritually we are making the claim that the Word of God and communion of the Holy Spirit are not extraneous, but are central to all we do. We are not moving pews, nor the time of the worship service. There will always be three hymns, an anthem and offering, a desire that all God's children have a place here and are welcome, but more minor things may continue to change from time to time.

## Welcome, New Members!



Jeff Babcock



Roxy Blair



Dianne Burke



Carl Charette



Karen Holthofer



Ron Darrah



Sherry Darrah



Dale Honermann



Jana Honermann



Brandon Jones



Judy Lindsey



Joanna Miller



Trudy O'Leary



Jan Schoeben














Mike Schoeben

## Committee Needs

Three of our committees have vacancies: Gifts & Memorials, the Scholarship Committee, and the Presbyterian Campus Ministry Board. If you would be interested in any of these opportunities, please contact George Curtis at 520 625-2394, [crtkar9@cox.net](mailto:crtkar9@cox.net), or leave a message at the church office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<b>1</b> Communion Food Bank Collection 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship & Communion at LaJoya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship   Rick Nau	<b>2</b> 9:00 Membership Committee 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Peace & Justice Resource 9:00 Mission Quilts 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 AAUW Board Meeting 1:00 Home for Christmas   Ron Bell, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, Helen Triplett	<b>3</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 8:30 WM Coordinating Team 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 Bible Study Leadership Class 4:00 Kettle Dinner Committee	<b>4</b> 8:00 Ministry of 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 1:00 Youth on Their 5:00 Taizé Service   Larry Grove, Ruth
<b>8</b> Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship 11:30 By My Side Chorus Info Meeting 2:00 Christmas Caroling in the Sanctuary   John Agner, John Dunham	<b>9</b> 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Employee Handbook Workshop 11:30 Valley Readers Book Exchange - Luncheon Meeting 1:00 Home for Christmas 7:00 Green Valley Community Chorus   Bill Case	<b>10</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 8:30 Mission Committee 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Buildings & Grounds 2:30 Green Valley Community Chorus	<b>11</b> 8:15 Crossroads 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's 9:00 Deacon Meeting 10:00 Chair Exercise 10:30 Lois Circle 1:00 Miriam Circle 5:00 Taizé Service
<b>15</b> 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship Service at La Joya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship - Christmas Cantata 10:45 Blood Pressure Screening 5:00 Friendship Kettle Dinner	<b>16</b> 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Fellowship Committee 1:00 Home for Christmas 2:00 Memorial Service for Ben Coppock 4:00 Ruth Circle   Carol Claton	<b>17</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 11:30 Women's Gathering Luncheon	<b>18</b> 8:15 Crossroads 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 10:00 Finance 5:00 Taizé Service
<b>22</b> Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship   Jeannie Moore, Carol Peeler	<b>23</b> 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:00 Home for Christmas	<b>24</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 4:00 Christmas Eve Around the Table Worship Service 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir	<b>25</b>   Carol Cikanek,
<b>29</b> 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship   Christina Baxter, Mary Lou Browne, Carol Gutenkunst	<b>30</b> 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Mission Quilts 10:00 Chair Exercise Class   Tom Macfarlane, Anne Morrison	<b>31</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry	

**Thu****Fri****Sat**

<p>Presence Exercise Class Own (YOTO)</p> <p>Kroon</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:00 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Worship Committee 2:15 Handbell Practice 3:30 Choir Practice</p> <p> Earl Yarborough</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:30 Inquisitors - The Spiritual Brain</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:30 Cantata Rehearsal 3:00 Civic Orchestra of Tucson</p> <p> Donna Allen</p>
<p>Mission Lunch Prep  Exercise  Class</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:00 Faith &amp; Health Committee 1:00 Personnel Committee 2:15 Handbell Practice 3:30 Choir Practice</p> <p> Carol Yarborough</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Stephen Ministry Peer Group 11:00 Stephen Ministry Leadership 1:30 Inquisitors - Early Christianity 2:00 Memorial Service for Janice Potter</p> <p> Louise Netherton, Larry Root, Sadie St. John</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10:00 Cantata Rehearsal 1:00 Memorial Service for Tom West</p> <p> Ron Erickson, James Montgomery, Gary Yanamura</p>
<p>Mission Lunch Prep  Exercise Class Committee</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:00 Patio Sale Sort 1:00 Alzheimer's Association 1:00 Genealogical Society 2:15 Handbell Practice 3:30 Choir Practice</p> <p> Kelly Lorrain</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting 12:00 Longest Night Prayer Service 1:30 Inquisitors - Early Christianity 7:00 Music in the Valley</p> <p> De Etta Haynes</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p> Judy Aguayo</p>
<p>Elizabeth Johnson</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:00 Session Meeting</p> <p> Dave Nutting</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Stephen Ministry Peer Groups 11:00 Stephen Ministry Leadership</p> <p> Ron Darrah, Peggy Klap</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p> Joy Johnson, Wes Moulton, Bette Stevenson</p>

**December 2019**



## 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 *Traveling Light* by Max Lucado. A group of six men meet in the Media Room of the Silver Springs Retirement Community for fellowship, study, and an all-around lively discussion. Anyone interested may join. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

The second group, with about six to thirteen men attending each week, meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. They meet at the church for one hour in classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (777-8027), but focuses on group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying Paul's letter to the Colossians. 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.

### The Inquisitors

#### Early Christianity: The Experience of the Divine

**Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 1 starting December 13**

Join the Inquisitors as we watch and discuss "Early Christianity: The Experience of the Divine." After 2,000 years, Christianity is the world's largest religion and continues to prosper and grow. What accounts for its continued popularity? Simply put, Christianity is powerful and persuasive as a religion. It offers a convincing personal experience of ultimate, or "divine," power.

In **Early Christianity: The Experience of the Divine**, Professor Luke Timothy Johnson maintains that the most familiar aspects of Christianity - its myths, institutions, ideas, and morality - are only its outer "husk." In this two-part course, he takes us on a journey to find the "kernel" of Christianity's appeal: religious experience. We will travel back to Christianity's origins, its first 300 years, to identify the elements that first made it appealing and which still hold the secret to its ability to attract new followers.

In his presentation, Professor Johnson employs scholarly techniques that have only recently been applied to religion. By combining such disciplines as history, the social sciences, and comparative literary analysis, you look at religious experience and behavior from a fresh perspective. We have experienced Professor Johnson's courses in the past and they have been some of our favorites.

Join us for this fascinating course which begins Friday, December 13th at 1:30 in Classroom 1.





## 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.

### Home for Christmas - An Advent Study

**Mondays December 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 1 p.m. in Classroom 5**

Homeboy Ministries, founded by Pastor Gregory Boyd, helps formerly incarcerated men and women find work and opportunities. This study matches their life stories to the Advent themes of hope, love, joy, and peace to show how the light of Christmas shines brightly even in hard times.

Books are \$12 and can be purchased in class, or on Sunday, December 1 at the Faith Formation Kiosk after worship.

### Faith Formation Winter Classes Coming Soon!

#### Mondays

*What the Heck Do I Believe? (more info in the next Valley Voice)*

1 p.m., February 3, 10, 17 in Classroom 5

Your teachers: Linda Freeman and Diane Christopher

#### Tuesdays

*Emotionally Healthy Relationships (more info in the next Valley Voice)*

10 a.m., January 7 - February 25 in Classroom 5 and SLC

Your teacher: Mark Horton

*Being Mortal (more info in the next Valley Voice)*

1 p.m. January 14 – February 18 in Classroom 5

Your teacher: Eloise Fredrickson

#### Wednesdays

*Turning the Gem (more info in the next Valley Voice)*

1 p.m., January 8 – March 25 in Classroom 5

Your teacher: Diane Christopher

#### Fridays

*Inquisitors – Early Christianity: The Experience of the Divine (see previous page)*

1:30 p.m. Fridays beginning December 13 (12 weeks)

Your teacher: Grant Stitt

# Pastor Craig's Installation Service and Reception







## Financial Update

*Submitted by Annie Stitt*

(Based on financial data through October 2019)

The Finance Committee met on November 20 to review financial activity through October. As of October 31, 2019, the financials show that we are remaining in a positive position as we have been fortunate to report for each month of 2019.

When we look at budget-to-actual, the revenues exceed the year-to-date budget by 7.8% and expenses are under budget by about 4.2%. This puts us significantly ahead of our budgeted year-to-date as shown below:

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenues	\$603,072	\$559,380	(\$43,692)
Patio Sale transfers	\$ 36,500	\$ 34,500	(2,000)
Expenses	<u>\$600,146</u>	<u>\$626,326</u>	<u>\$26,180</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>\$ 39,426</u>	<u>(\$ 32,446)</u>	<u>\$71,872</u>

The Finance Committee watches the results closely each month. The difference between this year-to-date and last year at this time shows that our bottom line for the year-to-date has improved by \$138,643. Our operating reserves stand at \$165,945. To date, we have collected and paid \$9,019 (45.2%) of the Presbytery de Cristo assessed \$19,949 per capita. This has been paid only as collected. We have recommended to Session that the full per capita for 2019 be recorded as payable in anticipation of a positive year end position. That was our commitment to the Presbytery when we asked for time to stabilize our finances.

We gave Session an estimated expense budget at their October meeting. We are now waiting for the results of the Stewardship Committee's Generosity Campaign to determine if changes need to be made to the committee expenses. We remain confident that we have laid the groundwork for a successful 2020.

Thank you to all who are continuing to meet your pledge for 2019. We were informed at the November meeting that collections on the 2019 pledges are currently at 92%. A sincere thank you to all for your continued support of Valley Presbyterian Church.

## Session Notes from October

*Submitted by Charlie Ashton, Clerk of Session*

- Schedule Longest Night Worship Service for Friday December 20, 2019 at noon.
- Elected a Session Member (starting in 2020) to the Foundation Board - Ruling Elder-elect Judy Christensen.
- Elected Ruling Elder-elect Judy Christensen as Session Member of the Membership Committee.
- Authorized the purchase of new hymnals - GLORY TO GOD - using \$10,800 of undesignated funds from the Gifts and Memorial funds, to be offset by funds from the Music Committee and gifts from the congregation.
- Voted to honor and thank Pastor Diane for her leadership, sacrifice, love, and devotion to our church, and show our gratitude, in part, by the following: to grant her an extra weekend of vacation; to pay her airfare to and from Minneapolis for that weekend; and to obtain and pay for two tickets to the Minnesota Vikings vs. Detroit Lions game at noon on December 8, 2019 at a covered, heated stadium.



*Submitted by Mary Horn - Mission Committee Liaison to Youth on Their Own*



THANK YOU for your generous contributions to Youth On Their Own for their SPREAD THE WARMTH Campaign. We will continue to collect PLUSH THROWS, \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATES (Fry's, Safeway, Target, Walmart), or a monetary donation thru December 1. Thank you for joining our efforts at Valley Presbyterian Church to let these young people know that we care about them.



### **Wednesday, December 4 from 1 - 3:45 in Classroom 1**

INSPIRATIONAL CARD making for YOTO students will be held on Wednesday, December 4 from 1 - 3:45 at church in Classroom 1. Join the fun as we create cards of encouragement to accompany monthly stipend checks for the kids. Feel free to come when you can and stay as long as you can. The participants in October made 117 cards! KUDOS!!



### **SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!**

Special birthday greetings to Ron Bell (12/2) and Jeannie Moore (12/22) as they celebrate their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays this month. Also, to Bette Stevenson (12/28) as she celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!



## More Blog Readers Wanted (\*14\* and Counting)

*Submitted by Doug Clark*

A blog reader 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 reading the real-life story of Bob and Kristi Rice, who share, on a weekly basis, the story of God working in their lives.

### A New Start for Farming

Food insecurity continues to be a major problem in several parts of South Sudan. The conflict and instability has displaced many people from their homes and made it unsafe for others to farm fields, which exacerbates the food insecurity problem. But this year, with a tenuous peace in the country, church leaders wanted to help people in stable areas to be able to ‘restart’ their farms. The SSPEC (South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church) received a grant to provide seeds and tools to some of its congregations where people were able to farm but did not have the means to get started. They sent funds to a few congregations in different regions of South Sudan this year, investing in and hoping for long-term development.

Here are some pictures from Pochalla, from clearing the field initially, to sprouted peanut plants, and finally the hard work of drying and shelling the peanuts.

In the region of Pochalla, there were multiple congregations involved, with a committee established to coordinate the work. As you can see from the photo on the bottom of people shelling peanuts, everyone got involved. I was encouraged to see that even men participated! The shelled peanuts spread out to dry in the last picture is the culmination of months of work and collaboration. And it is a great motivation and encouragement to people wearied by war that they can have a hand in changing their situation.



Unfortunately, this month there has been flooding in several parts of South Sudan. People are again displaced from their homes, forced to rebuild, and struggling to find food to eat. As far as I know, Pochalla has not had floods, but several other areas have. Please pray for the recovery efforts, and that South Sudan would again become a source of food rather than just a recipient.

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](mailto:douglasclark68@me.com).



## Pam & Dave L. - Women's Traveling Team

This women's team in Pakistan goes from village to village, and city to city, with the gospel to reach women and children. During the door-to-door visitation in Bakhar, the team met a married lady who has been childless for several years. She was so disappointed and discouraged and shared, "I don't pray anymore because God doesn't listen to me." The Women's Team encouraged her through the Word, and shared Hannah's faith story from the Bible with her. The lady realized that she lost faith in God and prayed to God with tears, asking for forgiveness.



A women's fellowship meeting

The team reached 672 people through film shows, Sunday school, Christian literature, door-to-door visitation, and women's fellowship meetings during this visit. 144 people accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

Please pray for Pam and Dave L., advisers to Operation Mobilisation in Pakistan.



## Congregational Care

### "We are a Stephen Ministry Church!"

*Submitted by Helen Phillips*

This phrase appears in many places - on the front page of our website, in print media, and on our bulletins. What does that mean? If you click on the blue Stephen Ministry icon at the bottom of the VPC web page, it will take you to lots of good information about Stephen Ministry at VPC. You can learn what Stephen Ministry is; you can hear from care receivers and what Stephen Ministry means to them; you can find out how to get a Stephen Minister if you need a caring person to walk with you through the journey of life. You can also click on the link about how to become a Stephen Minister. At the very bottom is a short video celebrating our 20th anniversary of Stephen Ministry at VPC, with interviews by some of the original Stephen Ministers here. We invite you to take time to visit the VPC website, [www.valleypresbyterian.net](http://www.valleypresbyterian.net), and learn more about how we are a Stephen Ministry Church!



## The Longest Night

**Friday, December 20 at 12:00 noon**

A beautiful gentle service of hope, healing, and prayer.

The Longest Night Service will be held on December 20 at Noon. A light lunch (rsvp requested) will follow this time of remembrance and hope. RSVP to Jean 520-625-1489 or email [majahein2@msn.com](mailto:majahein2@msn.com).



## Congregational Care

### By My Side Chorus

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

Giving Voice is the name of a chorus in Minneapolis for those living with dementia. There are now 40 choruses for dementia around the country with two in the Phoenix area. Each have their own select names.

Valley Presbyterian Church is exploring the view of being a dementia-friendly church and starting a Giving Voice Chorus (GVC), that will be called By My Side Chorus. We are looking for volunteers to get this amazing opportunity off the ground and will hold an informational meeting on Sunday, December 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. Speakers include Marlys Fiterman, whose vision is to start this very first chorus in our area, and Heather Mulder, Outreach Program Manager from Banner Alzheimer's Institute. The Faith and Health Committee has been meeting with Marlys and will sponsor this health related activity.

Giving Voice Chorus is a performing chorus that uses the irrepressible power of singing to move people with Alzheimer's (or other dementia diagnoses) and their care partners to rediscover themselves, make new friends, laugh together, learn together, empower and support each other, and create something unique together. In the process, the singers and their communities develop a new understanding of what life with Alzheimer's can be. Singing in the chorus is a meaningful way to engage in community life, and give joy and purpose.

We know from research that music and poetry are the last memories to stay with people who struggle with dementia, and we know that people with dementia are often marginalized and nearly invisible after a diagnosis. The priority is to engage and embrace people with Alzheimer's who have fewer opportunities to socialize and contribute. Similarly, their care partners often feel more isolated and alone. While many people living in care facilities could also benefit from participation in a chorus, we chose to direct our limited resources to where we see the greatest need, where those with dementia still live at home.

This chorus is vastly different to music therapy. Music therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individual goals.

By My Side is also different than a sing-along. It will offer a unique depth of learning and participation. The songs are in SAB (soprano-alto-bass) parts, unlike sing-alongs which are usually a single melody. The fun is in learning three-part music, and provides socialization and support before, during, and after.

There will be regular, weekly rehearsal where the singers meet for a total of two hours on Thursday mornings (with an exercise break) and the ultimate goal is to have a concert in April.

Besides care partners, there are volunteer singers who help singers with dementia manage their printed music, follow instructions, and generally help make sure the rehearsals run smoothly.

By My Side Chorus in Valley Presbyterian Church will cost \$25 each to cover the costs of printing name tags and materials (folders/music). This chorus will have volunteers to provide assistance, music direction, and accompaniment.

Who helps our chorus? Volunteers. Below are some of the ways in which volunteers can donate their time.

Volunteers are essential to the By My Side Chorus life and operation. Volunteers can be musicians, singers, advisors, ambassadors, and help with day-to-day operations.

Volunteers are needed to help with registration, music collation, snacks and greeting, publicity for membership and for upcoming concerts, ticket sales, and programs.

Volunteer singers are a familiar, welcoming face as singers arrive for rehearsal each week. Each sings alongside



## Congregational Care

a person with dementia, helping him or her follow the music and lyrics, taking instructional notes, and ensuring everyone has an enjoyable experience during rehearsals and performances. Volunteers commit to attending all weekly rehearsals and performances. Volunteers receive training on Alzheimer's and other dementias and dementia-friendly communication strategies. Volunteer ambassadors help spread the word about the chorus. They are well informed about the activities and plans of the chorus, and make valuable connections in the community, generate enthusiasm, and promote understanding of living well with Alzheimer's.

The words of the well-known song Side By Side by Kay Starr describe the By My Side Chorus' empowerment and hope which will create a new world of support and joy:

Oh, we ain't got a barrel of money  
 Maybe we're ragged and funny  
 But we'll travel along, singing a song  
 Side by side  
 Don't know what's coming tomorrow  
 Maybe it's trouble and sorrow  
 But we'll travel the road, sharing our load  
 Side by side

## Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News



**Blood Pressure Screenings:** You may have your blood pressure taken during the week, by appointment, with the Parish Nurse. **The next Sunday blood pressure screening will be on Sunday, December 15** right after Sunday worship services in the Sweet Family Room.

### **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. Support groups help us 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 Congregational Care leaders if you know of someone who may need this meal.

### **What to watch for coming up:**

By My Side Chorus informational meeting Sunday, December 8.

Cardio drumming starting once a week in January.



## Medical Minute

A new study has shown that going to church and church activities can increase one's longevity by seven years.



### Valley Presbyterian Church

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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

### Mission Statement

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

## Christmas Eve at VPC

**December 24 at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
Around the Table**

**December 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Traditional Candlelight**

At VPC we have the opportunity to attend several services celebrating the birth of Christ. Some members prefer the traditional evening candlelight service singing familiar hymns, while others have enjoyed the informal afternoon "Around the Table" service.

It doesn't matter if we celebrate Jesus Christ's birth in the evening at a candlelight service or in the afternoon in an informal service, only that we celebrate!

The afternoon informal service has been a joyous time of fellowship. Everyone is reminded of the story of His birth, a story that imparts a valuable lesson. Then we spend time eating, followed with more reflection of the true meaning of Christmas, a moment full of hope and joy for humanity.

Consider joining us at the informal "Around the Table" service at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve in Fellowship Hall, a popular way to celebrate Christ's birth in recent years at VPC. See below for more details.

And of course, ugly Christmas sweaters are always welcomed!

## Come and Celebrate!

### Annual Christmas Eve "Around the Table Service"

**4:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall**



Come in the afternoon on December 24 to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share as part of this informal worship service beginning 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Plate settings and a meat dish will be provided.



### Promoted to Glory



October 31	Gloria James
October 31	Ben Coppock
November 5	Carrie Malovich
November 11	Janice Potter
November 14	Gene Arnold
November 17	Bruce Bohor
November 20	Marcy Dart
November 24	Tom West