

Valley Voice

Love Is In The Air

Jesus replied, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matt. 22:37-38 NIV

Valentine's Day is around the corner. What is your fancy: Red roses, chocolate, a nice dinner out or to know you are loved?

I remember back when I was in grade school, every Valentine's Day I had to give a valentine card to each fellow student in class. I struggled in this task because I inevitably had cards in my packet that said "Love," right before the place where I signed my name. Who I would send "love" to was a burning question for a 10-year-old.

I was confused by the "love" because I had no choice but to give students cards with "love" on them and I knew I did not love them. Perhaps the school system was trying to teach us about loving one another. I suppose I was stingy with my love as a child.

Well, the truth be told, some of the girls in class found out to whom I had sent love cards. I was embarrassed when they teased me with, "You're in love with so and so.... Roses are red, violets are blue, Paul's in love with you."

When Jesus calls us to love God and love our neighbor, he is calling us to the greatest gift we can give. We give the gift of love because of God's love for us. If I may paraphrase the last part of the scripture above, "Everything hangs on love! Everything!"

Love is the air! That is a nice slogan for our church.

The love of Christ be with you,



Rev. Paul Phillips, Pastor of Care

Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Service of Worship - 9:30 a.m.

February 5	You are Gifted!	Rev. David Dethmers
February 12	Only Servants	Rev. Paul Phillips
February 19	Be Perfect? Be Holy?	Rev. Diane Christopher
February 26	Speaking from God	Rev. Paul Phillips

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Forgiveness in God's Time

I am teaching a class called "The Heart of God's Story" whereby we look at the Bible as a whole story. Recently in this class, we read the story of Joseph. Joseph had a tough life. His brothers sold him into slavery. He ended up in Egypt, far from home, where he was thrown into prison with false charges of raping his master's wife. He languished in prison for quite a few years.

Eventually Joseph was released from prison and worked his way up to becoming the right hand man of Pharaoh, a position of great power. With God's guidance, Joseph helped Egypt survive a 7-year drought and famine. It was during this famine that Joseph's brothers approached him to ask for food (unaware that it was Joseph).

Joseph had several choices. He could send his brothers away without any food, thereby refusing to forgive them. He could give them food to survive the famine, but send them away unforgiven. Or, he could offer them food and forgiveness. Joseph choose the latter. Not only did he forgive his brothers' past actions, he reconciled with them as well.

I have been thinking about the length of time that had passed from when Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and the day they approached him for food. It was at least 10 years. Ten years before there was forgiveness and reconciliation in the family. That is a long time, yet, it appears to have happened in God's perfect timing.

I read Joseph's story with a bit of relief. I have people in my life that I need to extend forgiveness. I have people with whom I have not reconciled. I struggle with the "Should I?" And if I should, then "when" and "how." After reading Joseph's story, I realize that forgiveness doesn't have to be today. It may not happen tomorrow. But prayerfully, it will happen in God's perfect timing just as it did for Joseph.

I pray that God will help me/us with forgiveness. May we have the wisdom to wait for God's timing, recognize when the opportunity comes, then have the courage to take it.



Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

Time is still the best answer, forgiveness is still the best pain-killer, and God is still the best healer.

-Unknown

A Tale of Two Churches

Shortly after I retired for the first time, Anna and I went church shopping. After several visits to different congregations, we heard about the United Methodist Church of Big Rapids, Michigan, which we hadn't even known existed. We decided to give it a shot. As we walked in that morning, we were greeted by several folks—not only greeters and ushers, but individuals sitting around us in worship who extended a welcome before the service began. Impressive!

After the benediction, an older gentleman sitting next to us invited us to coffee hour. We followed him to the Fellowship Hall where numbers of folks came up to say hello. As we were about to make our departure, three couples came up to us and said, "We're headed out for lunch. Would you like to join us?" We did. And we found both some new friends and a new church home.

A couple of years later we decided to become snow birds to Green Valley and began another search. Valley Presbyterian was the first church we visited because my Aunt Ruth had been a member here and absolutely loved the place. As we walked in we received a perfunctory "good morning" and a bulletin from the usher, but nothing more from him or anyone else. But we enjoyed the worship. So, as the service concluded, we decided to take the initiative and said "good morning" to a number of folks who were leaving the sanctuary as we were. They were polite but clearly not interested in a conversation. Nonetheless, we cranked up our courage and decided to head for coffee hour. We saw one woman who Anna knew from AAUW and had a nice chat with her. After that we stood around Fellowship Hall, awkwardly sipping our coffee and saying "good morning" to folks who walked past. Most returned the greeting but no one stopped to chat. After a very long ten minutes, we retreated to our car. We did not return.

When I was hired as your Executive Pastor this past fall, our experience was pretty much the same. We came to Valley Pres several times to worship before I became involved in worship leadership. The folks who were involved in hiring me and the staff members I had gotten to know in the office were cordial but no one else initiated conversation with us. Now, of course, more people know who I am and there's no lack of people who are happy to chat with me. But when Anna sits in worship by herself (because I'm up front), she's largely ignored.

I tell these stories not because I want you to feel sorry for Anna or me, but because I want you to reflect on how you personally...and our church family corporately...relates to newcomers. Pastor Diane tells me that when she holds membership classes, one of the main reasons folks give for joining the church is its friendliness. So I'm not making blanket judgments. I'm simply sharing our experience and wondering if we're an aberration. Being a friendly church does not mean hanging with your friends on Sunday morning. It means intentionally and proactively reaching out to people we don't know, whether they're new to the church or not, making sure everyone around us feels welcomed and included, even if that means we don't get to talk to our close friends as much or as frequently as we would like.

If you visit the churches in town that are growing, you'll experience a high level of energy on Sunday mornings and high priority given to reaching out to visitors and newcomers. Valley Presbyterian Church has a lot going for it and a lot to offer our community. But if those who come through our doors don't feel genuinely welcomed, it's unlikely we'll ever have the opportunity to share with them the joys of being a part of the VPC family or the chance to partner with them in ministry!

Wishing only the Best for VPC!



Rev. David Dethmers, Executive Pastor

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in Classroom 5

Living as a Community

During February, the class will review selections from Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Paul wrote to churches of this Roman Province (currently in Turkey) in response to these congregations having members who have questioned Paul's gospel and his apostleship. These new Christians were arguing! The scripture selections state that as Christians, we are "re-created" to live in harmony, that with this new birth we experience freedom from the "old" ways, but without a spirit-led life we will stumble and fall.

All persons are welcomed to join in this study and discussion. A book is provided along with coffee and cookies. Begin your Sunday morning with scripture – you will be warmly welcomed!



Men's Weekday Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m.

Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Two church-sponsored men's groups meeting during the week would be glad to have you join them!

The first group meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:45 a.m. They are now discussing Warren Wiersbe's commentary on the first 13 chapters of the Gospel of Luke. A group of six to twelve men meet at the Old Chicago Deli in the Green Valley Mall for one hour. The group meets for fellowship, food, and study and an all-around lively discussion. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

The second group, with about seven to thirteen men attending each week, meets Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. This group meets at the church for one hour in classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (777-8027), but focuses on group discussion. They are studying Proverbs using the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They will soon be doing a short study on the Sermon on the Mount. 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.

Into the Wilderness: Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea

Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1
4 Weeks, Beginning February 1

So – what happened between the time when Pharaoh finally said – "O.K., go!" and the Israelites landed safely on the other side of the Red Sea? This class, led by Linda Freeman, will review each verse of this dramatic tale: Exodus 12:29 through chapter 14. This is a fascinating story – and one that is almost always glossed over because it falls between Passover and the great "parting of the sea." But this section deserves a closer look. Within these 2½ chapters we will discover and discuss the concept that Yahweh is leading the "chosen" people into a new, bewildering yet promising, future.

As we delve into this part of the Exodus story, we will review how the Israelites move from slavery to worship, from Israel's bondage to Pharaoh to its bonding to Yahweh. Come, bring your Bible, and join in the study of this exciting story.

All Church Lenten Study

Final Words by Adam Hamilton

Begins February 27, 2017

During the church season of Lent (the last week in February through April 8), we, as a whole congregation, will study the words of Christ on the cross using Adam Hamilton's book *Final Words*. Hamilton was the author of our popular Advent study.

Using Hamilton's book, you will have an opportunity to study with others and hear a sermon on what you have studied. We will offer eight classes each week, Monday through Saturday. You can sign up for a class and purchase the book (\$7) starting February 5. Look for the Faith Formation Kiosk in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

Let us come together during one of the most beautiful seasons of the church year, Lent, and experience the final words of Jesus from the cross.

The Inquisitors: Jesus and The Gospels

Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center
Begins January 27, continues through early June
We will not meet during Patio Sale or on Good Friday

Join the Inquisitors as we view and discuss Jesus and The Gospels, presented by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. Jesus and the Gospels is a far-ranging course. It examines not only the canonical Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John familiar to us from the New Testament, but also the many other, apocryphal narratives and literary works that have contributed to our perceptions of Jesus, Mary, and Christianity.

The figure of Jesus has tantalized both Christians and non-Christians who have sought definitive answers to questions about his words, his acts, and even his very existence. For most of the last 2,000 years, the search for those answers has begun with the Gospels, but the Gospels themselves raise puzzling questions about both Jesus and the religious movement within which these narratives were produced. They also provide sometimes bewilderingly diverse images of Jesus.

What accounts for this great diversity in the images of Jesus that have emerged, or in the approaches taken to understanding the story of his death and resurrection? Is it possible to shape a single picture from the various accounts of his life given us by these Gospels? Can we really know who Jesus was?

Professor Luke Timothy Johnson attempts to show us the human Jesus underlying the many portraits we have. He approaches the Gospels and our perceptions of Jesus from a different perspective than the popular quest for the "historical Jesus." Professor Johnson points out that, "It has never been the historical Jesus who has served as the motivating force for anything, except during his lifetime, but rather the Jesus who is inscribed in these Gospels."

In this class you will experience Jesus as you have never experienced him before. Through a myriad of different perspectives the total Jesus will emerge in a way that you will find most fulfilling. Come and join us.

Reserving Space at VPC

How often have you had someone mention an important event to you while you are in no position to write it down, and later you realize you forgot? This happens to all of us! When it comes to scheduling things in the church (and making sure they are set up properly and that they make it onto the calendar), please be sure to use our Space Reservation Form (available in the front office or at the welcome centers) so that our custodians will know how you would like things set up, and so that Danielle can be sure to put your event on our calendar. Please don't stop one of our staff in the hall to tell us about an event - that's how things fall through the cracks! We want to make sure we are doing our jobs well, and having your requests in writing (with all the necessary details) makes that possible. The completed forms can be given directly to Danielle, or left in her mailbox at the front office. Thank you!!!

Used Book Exchange

Saturday, February 18, 2017

10:00 a.m. sharp

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring your books and trade for someone else's.

Please bring your donations to the Church Library the week of February 13 so that the books can be sorted prior to the event.

FICTION and NON-FICTION

(hardcover and paperback)

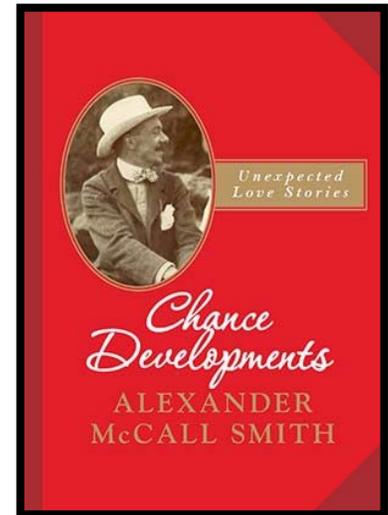
RECORDED BOOKS

DVDs

Sponsored by the VPC Library Committee

Valley Readers

Monday, February 27
1:30 p.m. in Classroom 5



Valley Readers will be discussing a book by Alexander McCall Smith for February, entitled Chance Developments: Unexpected Love Stories. McCall Smith has crafted five fictional stories inspired by vintage photographs, all of which revolve around unexpected intersections of love and friendship. Marcia MacDonald, who will be leading, has requested that members bring a vintage photograph to share with the group.

Please join us for a discussion of this charming and unusual book led by Marcia MacDonald. Contact Anne Morrison, 520-399-0762, for additional information.

Reenactment of the Lord's Supper

We are looking for actors, or those who have always wanted to be one.

At the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 13, we will be reenacting The Lord's Supper. We are looking for 12 men to play the role of the disciples and one woman to be Mary. Requirements are the ability to memorize and say your lines in front of others. If interested, contact Jeff Babcock (829-6704).

Friendship Kettle Dinner

Sunday, February 19
5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

“Music by Vickie Bellville”

Dinner: A delicious dinner of Chicken Picatta with all the trimmings will be served promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Program: At 6:00 p.m., join us in the sanctuary to enjoy the singing artistry of Vickie Bellville. Vicki plays a fully orchestrated keyboard singing popular songs, including: country, 50-60’s rock, big band, swing, polkas, waltzes and current ballads, as well as inspirational.

Tickets: (\$11) will be on sale in the Fellowship Hall prior to, and following, the services on Sunday, February 5 and 12.

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

Love children? Love God?

Will you share your love with our children? Our children would love several more Sunday School teachers. Here is what is involved:

- Teach once a month during the months September – May
- Curriculum is provided
- Age group is grades 1-6
- You will have 3-5 kids
- Helpers are always near-by

Contact Pastor Diane if God is tugging at your heart! (625-5023)

Movie Ministry

The movie ministry will be on hold until we have a volunteer to take it over. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Diane through the church office and she will have someone help you get started.

The Importance of Per Capita Funding

Why is per capita important?

Per capita is the way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and it allows us to participate in the work of the wider church.

Per capita dollars help to undergird our governance system.

- Per capita brings Presbyterians together — literally!
- Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ.
- Per capita makes it possible for us to maintain our historical awareness.

As a member of Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC), we are also a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.

VPC is assessed **\$37 per member** which is payable to the Presbytery and then shared with the Synod and the General Assembly. As members, we are all responsible to pay this assessment over and above our commitment to sustain VPC. Please look for your per capita envelope or simply write “per capita” in the memo line of your check. This is a responsibility that each of us take on when we commit to membership in the Presbyterian denomination.

ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 3:00...DINNER AT 5:00 (see article on next page)

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

“THE BEST THING ABOUT VALLEY PRES IS...”

“WE REALLY NEED TO WORK ON...”

“MY DREAM FOR VALLEY PRES IS...”

Do these questions get you thinking? Get you excited? Make you want to put in “your two cents’ worth?” We hope so! And we hope you’ll plan to join us for our Annual Meeting on Friday, February 3, beginning at 3:00 p.m..

After a brief opening worship experience, we’re going to spend some time exploring these questions together in three smaller groups, with each pastor working with one of the groups. After coming back together, we’ll share some of our “discoveries” and then spend some time reviewing the 2017 proposed budget and affirming the roles of our pastors and leaders. At around 5:00 p.m. we’ll conclude our time together with one of our favorite activities: EATING! Jim Nelson has graciously agreed to act as our chef for the evening. It’ll be well worth waiting for!

So, put it on your calendar and plan to join us for a fun...filling...fulfilling...time!



Ransomware strikes again! I now personally know of three instances of successful ransomware attacks. One came through an email posing to be from Fedex, and since the recipient had recently ordered some items they opened the attachment. One came disguised as a resume from someone looking for work (again, prompting the recipient to open the attachment), and the last one (the one that attacked my personal computer) appears to have come in through a piece of software (not a common type, and unlikely to happen to most people). Ransomware goes through the files on a computer (usually Word docs, PDF's, and pictures) and encrypts them so they can no longer be opened. A message will pop up instructing the victim to go to a website and pay to have their files decrypted. From what I've read, sometimes they actually follow through and decrypt the files and sometimes you pay and get nothing. However, there is NO other way to decrypt those files; if you don't have a backup, they are lost. The worst part is in all three cases I know about, the ransomware not only attacked the main computer, but also attacked any attached hard drives (which many of us use for backing up our files). When this happens, not only are your primary files gone, but also your backed up versions! The best method to avoid this is to prevent the ransomware from attacking in the first place by refraining from clicking on any attachment you aren't completely certain is safe. However, there are couple of options for avoiding lost files when they do manage to attack, and both involve backing up your computer files regularly. One is to plug in your back-up drive only when you are actively backing up the computer. This is very effective, but not very convenient. If you are backing up your computer, you probably have it set to back up automatically each day or each week and you don't want to have to remember to plug and unplug the back-up drive each time the back-up runs. The other option - and the better option - is to use the cloud for your back-up drive. The ransomware would have a much harder time accessing your files on the cloud, but even if it gets to them, cloud drives typically keep old version of files for a period of time (usually 30 days) so you can restore them if needed. There are a variety of options (both free and paid) for cloud space, and next month I'll go over some of them. In the meantime, if you can't wait, use our friend Google to do a little research on your own. It's not too difficult to set up - basically just like an external drive that “plugs in” via the internet instead of a cable.

By Giving We Are Receiving

Friday, February 3, 5:00 p.m.

Jim Nelson, Deacon

Member of the Connection Committee

Ever have Stone Soup?

Some travelers come to a village, carrying nothing more than an empty cooking pot. Upon their arrival, the villagers are unwilling to share any of their food with the hungry travelers. Then the travelers go to a stream and fill the pot with water, drop a large stone in it, and place it over a fire. One of the villagers becomes curious and asks what they are doing. The travelers answer that they are making "stone soup", which tastes wonderful, although it still needs a little bit of garnish to improve the flavor, which is missing. The villager does not mind parting with a few carrots to help them out, so that gets added to the soup. Another curious villager walks by, inquiring about the pot, and the travelers again mention their stone soup which has not reached its full potential yet. The villager hands them a little bit of seasoning to help them out. And so it went as more and more villagers walked by, each adding another ingredient: potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on. Finally, the stone (being inedible) is removed from the pot, and a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by the entire village.

Villagers gave. Villagers received. Together, by contributing, a greater good was achieved.

Friday February 3rd is our Annual Meeting. We are inviting everyone to enjoy some delicious Stone Soup at the conclusion of our annual meeting.

Why Stone Soup? The stones embody the passion of a promising future for VPC. Contributions of cans of vegetables signify the capital, resources, and support offered by the congregation. Everyone who adds a small amount to the stone soup will be symbolically helping to make our future come true.

And to enjoy the soup we ask you for a can of vegetables and invest in our future!

"People who pursue their passions inevitably create beacons that attract others who share their vision."

We need to be beacons of passion for the future of VPC!

Crosses for the Art Gallery

Our theme for Lent this year are the final words of Jesus from the cross. To go with this Lenten theme, we are hanging crosses in our art gallery. Do you have a cross to hang in our Art Gallery? A cross that has a story? A cross that is meaningful to you? A cross that is special in some other way? A cross that you want to share with our church?

Your cross should not be longer than 3 feet. Contact Pastor Diane (625-5023), or bring her your cross along with a written paragraph why it is meaningful to you. Deadline to turn in your crosses is February 22.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<h2>February 2017</h2>			<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's 9:00 New Member Class 10:00 Chair Exercise 11:00 Santa Cruz Valley 12:30 Santa Cruz Valley 1:00 Grief Recovery 2:00 Into The 5:00 The Source Taize</p> <p> Florence Gilbert, Ron Row</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Communion Food Bank Collection 8:15 Choir Rehearsal 8:45 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship at LaJoya 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Adult Education Class</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Library Committee 9:00 Mission Quilting & Pot Luck 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 AAUW Board Meeting 1:30 The Heart Of God's Story 2:30 Tai Chi Arthritis & Fall Prevention</p> <p> Cathy Egender, Judson Richardson</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Old Chicago Deli) 8:30 WM Coordinating Team 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 WM Bible Study Leaders 11:00 NOC Meeting 2:30 Cardio-Drumming 3:30 Orff Angels 4:00 Kettle Dinner Committee</p> <p> Marlene Farver, Jane Hamby</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's 9:00 New Member Class 9:30 Lois Circle 10:00 Chair Exercise 1:00 Miriam Circle 1:00 Grief Recovery 2:00 Into The 5:00 The Source - 6:00 Deacons Meeting</p> <p> James Coberly, Heather Macleod,</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Just Coffee 8:15 Choir Rehearsal 8:45 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 9:45 Children's Sunday School 10:45 Adult Education Class</p> <p> Diana Montgomery, Joyce Wasson</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Style Show Models Rehearsal 1:30 The Heart Of God's Story 2:30 Tai Chi Arthritis & Fall Prevention</p> <p> Ann Erickson, Marlys Riessen</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Old Chicago Deli) 8:45 Mission Committee 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Style Show Models Rehearsal 2:00 Stewardship AIM Meeting 2:30 Cardio-Drumming 3:30 Orff Angels</p> <p> John Pavlick</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 1:00 Grief Recovery 2:00 Into The 5:00 The Source - Hope 6:00 Session Meeting</p> <p> Eloise Fredrickson</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:15 Choir Rehearsal 8:45 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 9:45 Children's Sunday School 5:00 Friendship Kettle Dinner</p> <p> Molly Andrews</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRESIDENTS' DAY - Office Open 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Mission Quilting 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:30 Tai Chi Arthritis & Fall Prevention 5:00 Ruth Circle</p> <p> Peg Fite</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Old Chicago Deli) 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 9:30 Prayer Ministry 11:30 WM Gathering Luncheon 12:00 Styling Show 2:30 Cardio-Drumming 3:30 Orff Angels</p> <p> Gerry Wigent</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 11:00 Peace & Justice 1:00 Grief Recovery 2:00 Into The 5:00 The Source - Old</p> <p> Connie Bacon,</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Just Coffee 8:15 Choir Rehearsal 8:45 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 9:45 Children's Sunday School</p> <p> Betty Clapp, Marian Fjare Bill Karbowsky, Glenn Lundell</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Mission Quilting 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Final Words 1:30 Valley Readers 2:30 Tai Chi Arthritis & Fall Prevention 7:00 Music In The Valley (Favorite Anthems)</p> <p> June Broviak, Pam Hopper,</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Old Chicago Deli) 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 9:00 Creative Hands Sewing & Knitting 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 WM Coordinating Team 1:30 Final Words 2:00 Music In The Valley (Fav. Anthems) 2:30 Cardio-Drumming 4:00 Personnel Committee</p> <p> Rachel Cox</p>	

	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Group Exercise Class SM Meeting SM Potluck Workshop Wilderness</p> <p>Nancy Gray,</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 Pastoral Care 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 1:00 Alzheimer's Assn Early Stage Group 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 2:30 Bells Practice 3:00 Communion at Silver Springs 3:45 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p> Dick Ernsting, Joyce Thompson</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON 8:00 Ministry Of Presence 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Training 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:00 Inquisitors Class (Jesus and the Gospel) 3:00 Annual Meeting & Meal</p> <p> Phil Conklin, John Pyburn, David Rude</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 GV Genealogical Society 8:00 Holy Way Presbyterian Retreat</p> <p> Doug Crosby, Hank Huber, Jo Hudson, Barb Olson</p>
<p>Lunch Prep Group Exercise Class Workshop Wilderness AWAKEN!</p> <p>Betty Everett, Donna Page</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Faith & Health Committee 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 2:30 Bells Practice 3:45 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p> April Bondy, Judith Roberts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 SM Continuing Education 9:00 Stephen Ministers Training 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 11:00 SM Leaders Meeting 1:00 Inquisitors Class (Jesus and the Gospel)</p> <p> Gil LeClair</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 Empty Bowls</p> <p> Vern Feil, Darlene Herrick, Gayle Scott</p>
<p>Lunch Prep Group Exercise Class Workshop Wilderness & Healing</p> <p> Nancy Moses, Bobbie Richards, Jessie Setterlund, Valerie St. John, Jerry Wilhems</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 Patio Sale Sorting & Marking 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 1:00 Alzheimer's Assn Early Stage Group 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 2:30 Bells Practice 3:45 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p> Nancy Moses, Bobbie Richards, Jessie Setterlund, Valerie St. John, Jerry Wilhems</p>	<p>17</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Training 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Support Board 1:00 Inquisitors Class (Jesus and the Gospel)</p> <p> Carl Amstrup, Nancy Schweigert</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Library Book Exchange</p> <p> Judy Alkire</p>
<p>Group Exercise Class Committee Workshop Wilderness Time Hymn Sing</p> <p>Louise Martin</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 AARP Smart Driver Course 9:00 Parish Nurse In Office 2:30 Bells Practice 3:45 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p> Carol Blumer</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 SM Continuing Education 9:00 Stephen Ministers Training 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 11:00 SM Leaders Meeting 1:00 Inquisitors Class (Jesus and the Gospel) 7:00 True Concord Voices & Orchestra</p> <p> Susie Kaylor, Lila Plattner</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 Mission Fellowship Breakfast</p> <p> Connie Ackerman, Bill Isbell, Linda Landon, Kathie Rusk</p>

Women's Ministries

Submitted by Gee-Gee Smith, WM Moderator



The February 21 Women's Gathering luncheon will feature our annual Patio Sale Style Show. It is a time of great fun and great bargains. Several racks of clothing and accessories will be available for sale after the style show. You MUST have a ticket in order to attend both the luncheon and the fashion show. It is our best-attended gathering every year, and we really need to make sure we are prepared for everyone who attends. Tickets will be available after worship on Sundays February 12 and February 19 at the Women's Ministries table in Fellowship Hall for \$10.

The women who plan the style show, select clothing in all sizes, so we need 15 volunteers to model the crème de la crème of the clothing donations. Please contact Cheryl Stepp (805- 551-3512) or Pat Nau (417-830-2599) if you are willing to help out.

There are a number of mission projects displayed on the Women's Ministries table every Sunday, as well as an information board announcing the Presby gift for that month's collection. Baby gowns and knit items go to places with kids such as Youth On Their Own and the Nogales orphanage, CASA de Los Niños Para Nueva Vida. Toiletries (samples from hotels) go to the area food banks, YOTO, Genesis House, and CASA de Los Niños Para Nueva Vida.



If you want to help, please join any of our creative hands groups (knitting, sewing walker bags, etc.), pick up a knitting kit at the Women's Ministries table to work on at home, sign up to help the quilt group with cutting, sewing or knotting, or bring stamps or soda can tabs to the Women's Ministries table.



Please mark your calendars! On March 21 we will have the all-day Women's Ministries Retreat, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., "Journeying Together", with retreat leaders Neta Jackson, author of the Yada Yada Prayer Group series, and Pam Sullivan Harvey, Neta's retreat leader partner. Registration forms will be available at the Women's Ministries Table for \$15.

All are welcome to all Women's Ministries events, whether members of Valley Presbyterian Church or not. Please consider joining us for fellowship, Bible study, ministry and/or prayer.

Letter from Casa Community Services

From Casa Community Services to the Mission Committee and Congregation of Valley Presbyterian Church:

Your tax-deductible gift of \$2,500 to Casa Community Services for Los Niño's del Valle's Outdoor Classroom was received on December 22, 2016. Throughout the year, Casa will recognize your gift in Casa's publications, public venues and the La Posada annual report. The art table and paint station will be a wonderful way for the children to express themselves for years to come.

We are grateful that your organization is among the *Partners that Care* in our extended Green Valley service area. I would enjoy showing you the impact that your gift has.

Sincerely,

William T. McCreery, Director

Session Notes - January 18

At their January meeting, Session took a number of important actions:

Music in the Valley Concert Series – Joel Pierce, our Director of Music, attended Session and shared with members his proposal for a monthly concert series beginning in October 2017. The series will typically feature musical talent from the University of Arizona, where Joel has many connections. This new name - Music in the Valley - will also be used for what was known as the Favorite Anthems in previous years. The Session enthusiastically and unanimously approved Joel's proposal.

Re-institution of a Finance Committee – At the recommendation of the Stewardship AIM and with the support of the Administrative Commission from Presbytery, the Session approved re-establishing a Finance Committee. The current Congregational Financial Review Team (CFRT) was empowered to develop a charter for the new Finance Committee, to be reviewed and approved by Session. Upon establishment of the Finance Committee, the CFRT will be dissolved. The recreation of a Finance Committee will ensure that lay leadership of the church is directly involved in the development of the annual budget, as well as in monitoring expenditures, on a monthly basis.

Transitional Pastor Search Committee – The team has begun to receive and review resumes from interested candidates. (In Presbyterian polity, these are known as Personnel Information Forms or PIFs.) The team is soliciting candidates from across the PCUSA and will begin screening and interviewing candidates as soon as a pool of well qualified candidates has been identified. During this past month Committee Chairperson, Tommy Calhoun, also met with the staff to hear their ideas and concerns, and to brainstorm with them helpful questions to include in the interview process. Tommy will continue to keep the staff apprised of the progress of the Search Committee. The members of the Search Committee are:

Tommy Calhoun – Chair
 Tom Dierken – Clerk
 Mary Lou Browne
 Mary Horn
 John Ireland
 Marie Valade

Ray and Robin Thomas represent the Presbytery Administrative Commission. They advise and guide us through the process. Updates will be provided as developments take place.

Administrative Commission – Rev. Ray Thomas, chair of the Administrative Commission, reported that Jasper Melton has resigned from the AC due to health reasons and has been replaced by Bill Ricker, an Elder from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucson. Ray also expressed appreciation for the healthy, positive bond that has developed between the leadership of VPC and the AC over the past several months.

Just a reminder: Session meetings are open to members who would like to attend. With prior notice and planning, guests may be given "privilege of the floor." This is your church and we are open to your ideas, input, and feedback. If you have questions, feel free to contact any member of Session or one of the pastors.



SPECIAL JANUARY MILESTONES!

Special birthday greetings to Gil LeClair and Lila Plattner
 as they celebrate their **90th birthdays** this month!



Pray for Stephen Ministry Trainees

Our Stephen Minister training class began January 6 with three new trainees: Bob Kern, Steve Larson, and Jan Panhuis. We ask you to keep our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ's love and care to hurting people on behalf of our congregation. Also pray for our Stephen Leaders who will guide them through their training. The new class will graduate March 24.



“What I needed the most was her unconditional love—to know that no matter what I shared with her, no matter what I’d done, she cared for me. Her care showed God’s love for me.”

Are you trying to cope with changes in your life? Perhaps new health issues? Loss of a friend or loved one? Would you like someone to listen to you as you sort out emotional and spiritual concerns? VPC has a terrific team of Stephen Ministers trained to walk with people going through a difficult time. It can either be short term or a long term relationship. Contact the church office or a pastor to receive confidential care.

What Kind of Man Would Receive the Care of a Stephen Minister?

- A man like Adam who was cut off from all that gave meaning to life and needed someone to remind him of God's promise.
- A man like Job who lost everything and needed someone to silently endure his pain with him.
- A man like David who grieved the death of a wayward child and needed a shepherd's care.
- A man like Peter who found himself in over his head and needed the strong hand of a faithful friend.
- A man like JESUS who knew intense disappointment, sorrow, grief, rejection and loneliness and needed an angel of God to minister to him.

Sometimes men of our generation are hesitant to ask for help, but it is OK. We have many caring men trained as Stephen Ministers ready to walk beside you. If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please call the church office or Pastor Paul.



Promoted to Glory



December 26	Joyce Boerman
December 26	Lew Denny
December 31	Ruth Hofferth
January 13	Willie Tackett

Pictures from our Christmas Eve Services



Narration of the Wisemen



The Narrator's Conclusion



We Heard it at The Grapevine on January 12

Are Pastors Diane and Paul Open to Serving as Head of Staff or as Co-Pastors?

Pastor Paul indicated that his gift set was better geared to his current position than to that of lead pastor. Pastor Diane stated that she loves her current role, but that it is too early in the process to address how their roles as pastors might be reshaped in the future.

What is our Current Financial Situation?

Annie Stitt and Pastor David addressed these questions. Although we finished the year strongly, Annie reported, we did run a deficit of roughly \$20,000 for the year. (This number was later adjusted to a deficit closer to \$13,000 as Annie finalized accounts for 2016.) This is a remarkable achievement, given all the church family has experienced in this past year!

What do our Finances look like for 2017?

The Session has approved a budget for 2017 with a projected deficit of about \$114,000. The decision was made to allow a deficit in this coming year because of all the church has gone through in the past year and our need to stabilize and “find a new normal” as we move forward. Fortunately, we currently have reserves of over \$300,000 which allow us to transition to a balanced budget over the course of the next year. The church leadership recognizes, however, that being in deficit is not a long-term option. Additionally, the Presbytery has directed us to present to them a balanced budget by June of 2017 for 2018.

Have Members met their Pledges for 2016?

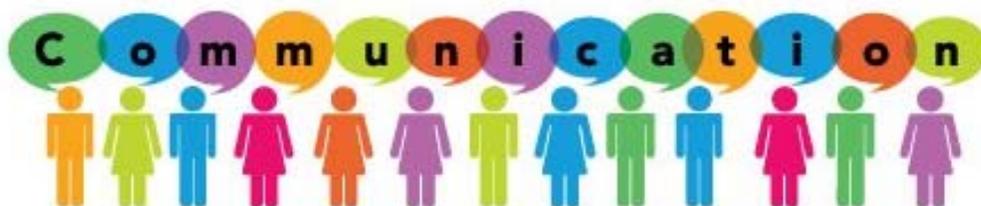
Yes, the money received from pledges was very close to the amount pledged for 2016, and additional money was given beyond what was pledged. The importance of knowing what people plan to give (through pledging) is really helpful in the budget building process.

Are we asking Joel, our Director of Music, to do too much?

Concern was expressed for Joel doing all of the music ministry jobs by himself. Joel addressed this by stating his love for his work here just as it is. This is what he went to school to learn to do. Also, his schedule will be much lighter after he completes his graduate degree in May. He said as long as the congregation is happy with his work, he is happy to continue doing it without additional help.

Thanks!

Thanks was given to Session for all of their hard work, as well as to Pastor David for what he has done, and continues to do, for us during this time. One attendee observed that even though the church suffered this past year, he felt we have risen up to being even better now than we were before. He also shared his belief that Pastors Paul and Diane have “come into their own,” and their sermons are “better than they’ve ever been!”





Casa Vida Nueva para Niños (New Life Home for Children)

*To the world you may be one person,
but to an orphan, you are the world.*

**If you want to know more about the Orphanage...
... then you're in luck!**



VPC Mission Committee is hosting Casa Vida Nueva para Niños (orphanage) at a Mission Breakfast on Saturday February 25 in Fellowship Hall. Reed Olson will provide an update on the orphanage, then the directors and some of the children will speak. Yes! they are coming up here to see you! You don't want to miss this. Breakfast tickets are \$5 each and will be sold in Fellowship Hall on Sunday February 12 & 19, and at the door (if needed). Questions: Contact Reed Olson (269-7829; olsonr1@cox.net).

April 11, 2015 Visit from Casa Vida Nueva para Niños



News of Note



By Joel Pierce

**Music Ministry Sunday
Sunday, February 26 (9:30am worship)**

**Music In The Valley (formerly Favorite Anthems)
Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m., and Tuesday, February 28 at 2:30 p.m.**

In October's Valley Voice, I invited those who were thinking about joining the choir to take a leap of faith and just do it! I'm so grateful that so many of you felt called to sing with the sanctuary choir. I would like to acknowledge the new members of the music ministry:

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Alyson Ball | Sharane English | Nickie Goss | Mary Lillie |
| Blenda Bewley | Marlys Fiterman | John Green | Marlys Rechkemmer |
| Rex Bewley | Eloise Fredrickson | Sandy Green | |

I also want to acknowledge all members of the Sanctuary Choir and Valley Ringers, who dedicate so much of their time to making the music ministry at Valley Presbyterian the best that it can be. Their passion and desire for offering music to God week after week is truly a blessing for us, and an instrumental component of healing and renewal for this church.

The invitation for those wanting to sing with the choir is always extended to you! Never hesitate to approach me after worship, or send me an email: jpierce@valleypres.net.

Should we be Independent or Interdependent?

By Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson

What was your answer? For most people, this should be easy to answer. Or is it? Let us first take a look at the person. We now know that by looking at your health, you look at everything that is causing health issues. As a nurse, I look at what is causing health issues holistically: physical, emotional, and spiritually. For healing purposes, the mind, body and spirit complete health and life. One affects the other. Picture them arranged in a triangle around you. If one is affected, you are not in the middle of the three anymore.

We associate being on our own with being independent. In other words, we can manage on our own. In some cases, this is a good thing. We have been told this is what we need to be. Now according to national organizations, like the American Society on Aging, we need to be interdependent. If we are not social and supported by family, friends, church and neighbors, we are not aging healthily, and not holistically.

Imagine being in the hospital and having been just diagnosed with an illness. You will need quite a few lab tests, imaging tests, and some special procedures. During this time, is it better to be independent or interdependent? If we are independent with these, we might be confident but lack the support of family, friends, church, and neighbors. What would happen if the lack of support continues into a short-term stay or rehabilitation? Our physical state will be affected by our emotional state, which is affected by our faith/spiritual needs. If we are at least partially, or somewhat, interdependent at a time of emergency or crisis, we maintain positivity and better health. Nourishing body, mind and spirit is a sense of being interdependent, and keeping these three things balanced is a goal to better health and life.

Financial Update

Dick Christensen, Chair of the Congregational Financial Review Team

The Congregational Financial Review Team met on January 24 and reviewed the year-end financial reports for 2016. Overall, it was very good news.

We ended the year with a "surplus" of \$49,569 as a result of expenses coming in \$48,155 under budget and revenues exceeding plan by \$62,722. These positive numbers are primarily a result of:

- Personnel costs coming in under budget because of staffing changes/reductions
- Increased congregational giving
- A carryover of funds from prior years
- Some bequest income

When we compare only income for 2016 with expenditures for the year without considering carryover funds from prior years, we ran an actual deficit of \$15,981 for 2016. While deficits are seldom good news, this deficit was dramatically smaller than anticipated and to be celebrated, given the challenges Valley Presbyterian Church faced in 2016. Thanks to each of you for your generous, sometimes sacrificial, giving! And thanks to staff and lay leaders alike for being very good stewards of the church's resources!

As noted in prior communications and as specifically addressed by Pastor David at the January Grapevine meeting, Session has approved a budget for 2017 with a structural deficit of \$114,000. However, Session and the Administrative Commission have committed to building a balanced budget for 2018 and will spend significant time and energy in 2017 making changes that will make that balanced budget possible.

As we move into our future together, we thank the congregation for their extraordinary giving in 2016 and trust that together we will be able to once again exceed expectations in 2017!

Faith & Health

Cardio Drumming at VPC, Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m.:

We have the drums and music and are having a fun exercise class once a week. This class works on stress, cardio, and just may improve your balance. It will surely get your toes tapping in 30 minutes. Class size is limited. Please register with the parish nurse, parishnurse@valleypres.net.

Blood Pressure Screenings: You may have your blood pressure taken during the week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 to 11 a.m., with the Parish Nurse.

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. The early stage Alzheimer's support group meets at the same time in classroom 1. These support groups help us to share our feelings and concerns, and receive information. For more information, or to register, contact the Alzheimer's Association at (520) 322-6601.

Movement & Exercise

- 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.
- Tai Chi – Yang 24 for Arthritis and Fall Prevention classes are on Mondays at 2:30 p.m. There is a fee. For more information, contact instructor Roger Ederle at 399-0166.
- Parkinson's Support/Exercise meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 - 10 a.m.

Healing Soup Meal

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

February Medical Minute

Stay positive. It can add up to 7.5 years to your life!

Empty Bowls

Saturday, February 11 at VPC starting at 11:00 a.m.

Empty Bowls, which has been held at Valley Presbyterian Church over the last 11 years, is the only fundraiser to support Valley Assistance Services. Valley Assistance Services has been in our community for over 40 years and their programs support the health, financial independence and safety of seniors and families in our communities.

Empty Bowls is an event that serves soup, with the true meaning of helping those in need. During this event, you may choose a handmade bowl from local crafters, and a delicious soup from one of 16 local restaurants. The bowl is for you to take home, remembering that others may have a bowl that remains empty.

Tickets will be \$20 each in advance (or \$25 at the door) and will be available in Charter Hall after worship services on Sundays until February 5. Come join us to eat, socialize, and even participate in the raffle baskets and a silent auction. Help other bowls remain full.

If you are interested in volunteering with this event, please contact Valley Assistance Services 625-5966.



Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
(520) 625-5023

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

Pastoral Staff

Rev. David Dethmers, Executive Pastor
Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor
of Discipleship
Rev. Paul Phillips, Pastor of Care
Rev. Joe Hawkins, Pastor Emeritus

Mission Statement

*To know Christ and
make Him known
through word and deed.*

Join Us In Worship!

Sunday Worship Services

Traditional 9:30 a.m.

(Childcare provided at 9:15 a.m.)

Holy Communion Celebrated
1st Sunday each month

The Source

Wednesday Worship Service

5:00 p.m.

La Joya - La Posada

First, third & fifth Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

The Source

Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

Spiritual Life Center

Feb 1 Taizé
Feb 8 AWAKEN!
Feb 15 Healing & Hope
Feb 22 Old-time Hymn Sing

Patio Sale News

Upcoming Meetings:

Department Heads, February 14, 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers, February 28, 9:00 a.m.

In only a little more than a month, the 38th annual Patio Sale will begin. This is a reminder that we will need many volunteers to work, both setting up for the sale and then working at the sale in various capacities. We will have a meeting for all department heads on February 14 and a meeting for all volunteers on February 28. Both meetings will be at 9:00 a.m. If anyone has questions about working at the sale, please call Sam Eidson at 393-7627 or Eloise Fredrickson at 648-7317.

We appreciate all our eager workers more than words can express, but sometimes they are a bit too eager. The doors to the church open at 8:00 a.m., so, when we have sort days, please don't come to the church before that time hoping to get in.

The Patio Sale accepts most all types of merchandise, but at the last sort we were given a large box of paint and paint cleaners. That type of material needs to be taken to a hazardous waste site, not given to us. We also don't accept bottles of shampoo or lotion or underwear. That leaves all kinds of things we are grateful to get, so please continue to bring us those things you no longer have a need for.

Women's Clothing Needed:

The Women's Ministry is in need of gently used women's clothing for their annual Patio Style Show on February 21. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the Women's Ministry table, before or after Sunday worship, before February 10, and please mark them for the Style Show. Thank you!

2017 Patio Sale Dates

Patio Sale Sorting: Thursday at 8:00 a.m., February 16

Patio Sale! March 9, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (\$5)

March 10, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (free)

March 11, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (free)

Patio Sale Sorting: Thursdays at 8:00 a.m., April 13, May 18, June 15,
July 20, August 17, September 21, October 26

Holiday Sale Set-Up: November 8-9

Holiday Sale! November 10-11

Patio Sale Sorting: Thursday at 8:00 a.m., December 14