

Valley Voice

**“THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS...
GOD IS LIGHT; IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL.”**

As I write these words, Advent is in full bloom; Christmas is just around the corner. And in the midst of it all, evil and terror and darkness have once again made their presence known. The sadness and anger we feel about the murders of twenty little children and six adults in Connecticut has brought us to a new low. I am asked the question that I have been asked time and again, especially after such heinous acts of murderous self-will, but also in the wake of devastating acts of nature: How can a good God allow this to happen?

And once again, with all who wonder, I too am taken aback by the darkness of the world about us, and the question of God’s presence among us. I certainly do not pretend to have answers to questions such as these. However, I do know that there is an assurance that wells up within me, a trust actually, in God. I believe to the core of my being that God is good, and I believe that it is essential for us to have that as a deep and abiding certainty. One either believes that God is good, or doesn’t. I hold fast to the assurance the Apostle John gives us in John 1:5: “The Light (Jesus) shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not, nor cannot, overcome it.” And again, we read in 1 John 1:5 “...God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”

Sin is our turning away from God... our turning away from God’s ways. And sin brings with it all

kinds of selfish, willful darkness. That is not God’s way. I believe that God weeps with us over the senseless deaths in the Connecticut massacre. And I believe that we know that God is with us, that God’s tears are mingled with ours.

On that dark night of the 14th of December in Newtown, Connecticut, I understand that the townspeople turned off all the Christmas lights and decorations. What many of them also did was to gather at church together. They were drawn to the light, to the One, Jesus, who is the light of life. They were drawn to be together and to be embraced by the God of comfort, who came among us long ago, in grace and in truth, to be our comfort and our hope, no matter what the darkness hurls at us.

In the aftermath of yet another grim example of the darker side of humanity, we must remember who we are and whose we are. There is nothing wrong with thinking and asking the difficult questions of life, and in the midst let us hold fast to the relationship we have with our Lord.

Our Lord Jesus said (John 8:12): “I am the light of life; whoever follows me will not walk (will not be overcome or dwell) in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

On the journey with you and with Jesus,



Rev. John Dunham, Assoc. Pastor for Pastoral Care

In this Issue

	page
Affiliate Membership	10
Beth Moore-The Inheritance	8
Birthdays for January	17
Book Exchange	15
Calendar for January	16
Christian Education Schedule	7
Church Officers-Significance	13
Consecration Sunday Update	20
D. Christopher	6
Driver Education Class	7
Empty Bowls	19
Epiphany Activities	11
Friendship Kettle Dinner	20
Gospel of John-performance	18
Grief Recovery Workshop	3
John Dunham	1
Just Coffee	12
Larry DeLong	2
Membership/Outreach	14
Men’s Christian Conference	12
Men’s Fellowship Breakfast	12
Men’s Weekday Bible Studies	8
Military Ministry	2
Morning Prayer	20
Music Notes	15
Network of Caring	3
New Member Class	2
Nuts & Bolts of Christianity	6
Parish Nurse News	4
Per Capita	19
Power of Prayer	9
Presbyterian Choir Festival	9
Promoted to Glory	3
Retreat for Women	7
Retreats—Peace & Justice	10
Sermons for January	2
Singles	20
St. Andrews Children’s Clinic	18
Stephen Ministry	5
Sunday Coffee Fellowship	11
The Source	11
Valley Readers	15
Walk to Jerusalem	4
Women’s Ministries	8
Writing Group	13
Your God is Too Small	8

It isn't over

It isn't over, you know. "There will be wars and rumors of wars" Scripture says; many of the traditional Bible readings for the season before Christmas, Advent, are prophecies of horrific events before God sets things right. Or, to be more precise, those readings are surrounded by doom and gloom – it's always darkest before the dawn, which is why all those dark lessons lead to the joy of the Savior's birth and the proclamation of God's salvation.

Oklahoma City, Columbine, 9/11, Aurora, Newtown... and so many I've not named, even more I don't know of, because they happened in parts of the world people like us don't usually hear about. Things like these will continue to take place. But that's not the end of the story, because while we know that the ending will be spectacular and everything set right, it's hard for us humans to conceive how tragedy can be made "all right."

So, we hurt; we suffer. But God suffers, hurts with us – because God knows what it is like to be like you and me. And God has plans for each of us.

Larry



Rev. Lawrence R. DeLong, Pastor

2-Day New Member Class

Thursday, February 14, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Have you been thinking about becoming a member of Valley Presbyterian, or wanting to learn more about this church? The New Member class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership.

You will explore the wonderful reasons to join a church, and what it means to be Presbyterian. You will discover all the different service opportunities this church has to offer. You will meet the pastors and leaders, and many others who give their time and talents to serve Christ through Valley Pres.

To register or ask questions, contact Diane Christopher at the church (625-5023).

January Services of Worship

Traditional Services

Jan. 6	Epiphany Experience	<i>"Three Wise Women"</i>
Jan. 13	John Dunham	<i>"A Gift to Present" (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)</i>
Jan. 20	Larry DeLong	<i>"Had Enough Yet?" (John 2:1-11)</i>
Jan. 27	Larry DeLong	<i>"Fulfillment" (Luke 4:14-21)</i>

Military Ministry

Here is an update on the engineering unit we have been supporting with prayers, mail and stuff. Reed Olson, VPC's sponsor, shares this good news received from Captain Murray's family at Christmas.

Unit Commander, Captain Bill Murray is planning their exit from Afghanistan. "It was wonderful of your church to send everything they did over there. The mail is already backing up because of the holidays.

I would ask them not to send anything else now. Nothing will go to waste if they send it in January, but it will most likely go to the next unit.

The 42nd has been very successful in their mission in Ghazni. They have uncovered over 500 IED's. They conducted a site visit to the historical battlefield of Ghazni. Training the Afghan troops has been a priority and the Afghans are able to conduct their own missions now. They have also adopted a girls orphanage over there and have provided school supplies and clothing to the girls."

This unit has favorably impacted many lives.

The Murray family will be reunited in 2013

WHEN YOU ARE ILL...

We do our best to be there for all of our church family, but sometimes we have not been notified that you may have wanted someone to call on you.

Please be sure to have someone contact the church office to let us know when you are in the hospital or otherwise need support from the Pastors or Parish Nurse.

Pastoral Care

GRIEF RECOVERY WORKSHOP

Are you dealing with the death of a loved one? Are you questioning your reactions or feelings and wonder how others have coped or are coping? The death of a loved one disrupts our lives, often making it difficult to handle the problems of everyday life.

The Pastoral Care Committee will be sponsoring a five-week Grief Recovery Workshop in January and February. Participants will learn about grief, coping skills, and discover how to use this painful experience in a positive way for future growth.

The first session will begin at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 29, and end at noon. The sessions will continue each Tuesday through February 26.

Co-facilitators for this workshop on coping with death will be Karen Woodrow and Dorothy Barker. Karen has had 20 years of experience leading grief recovery groups, and Dorothy has a Master's Degree in Counseling as well as 10 years' experience in conducting grief recovery workshops.

The workshop is open to all who are grieving the death of a loved one. There is no charge.

To register, please call the church office at 625-5023.

Calling VPC Artists...

If you would be interested in showing your art for a month's period of time in the VPC Gallery, please contact Georgia Puttock in the office (625-5023) to discuss details.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Our Stephen Minister training class begins on Friday, January 4. Every Friday our trainees will be in class from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with homework and reading assignments. 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 which will conclude on March 8.

In January the trainees will be studying:

- ◆ The Person of the Caregiver - an introduction to the 50 hours of training which explores the Christ-centered foundation of Stephen Ministry.
- ◆ Confidentiality—Our Stephen Ministers take an in-depth look at an essential principle of quality Christian care. Everything a care receiver tells a Stephen Minister and *even the identity of the care receiver* remain strictly confidential. It is in this safe environment of trust and acceptance that God can bring hope and healing to a care receiver.
- ◆ The Art of Listening—Listening is an essential part of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers use active listening skills to help people recognize and accept the feelings they are experiencing. In this session Stephen Ministers learn and practice the skill of reflecting as a valuable listening tool.
- ◆ Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours—Feelings are a gift from God. In this session our Stephen Minister trainees learn to help people recognize, accept, and express their feelings, and invite them to trust God to bring them healing and wholeness. They explore the benefits of expressing feelings and the harm that can come when feelings remain unexpressed.

Network of Caring Special Event Planned for February 12

An Appreciation Coffee will be held for all NOC Area Leaders and Neighborhood Contacts on February 12 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Plan to join your fellow volunteers for a moment of inspiration, fellowship, special treats, and NOC updates. We promise you a pleasant morning. Details



PROMOTED TO GLORY



- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| November 14 | Frederick Powell | |
| November 16 | Richard Knox | |
| November 25 | Hugh Copeland | survived by Parkie Copeland |
| November 27 | Edra Powell | |
| December 3 | Donald Conner | survived by Lodema Conner |
| December 10 | Myles "Bud" Pember | survived by Judith Pember |
| December 13 | Janet Paulsen | |
| December 15 | Pearl Eaton | |
| December 20 | James Hammel | survived by Margaret Hammel |
| December 21 | Paul Himes | |

Pastoral Care

Parish Nurse News

◆ Something new is happening now in January!

“Walk to Jerusalem”.... our first meeting and kick-off to an exciting new year with Bible reflection, prayer and exercise will be January 5. This program’s purpose is to increase physical, spiritual, and emotional health

◆ Want to improve your balance? Try Chair Exercise Class.

VPC chair exercise classes are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10 -11 AM. Fee: \$25/month if attending three times a week, \$20/month if attending twice a week. Contact Mia Cooper for further information or to register at 204- 5264.

◆ **Tai Chi** has been recognized to improve balance, flexibility, and muscle strength. It is recognized by several organizations for an exercise program that is included in fall prevention. Fee: \$2.00 per class to instructor. Tai Chi classes are on Mondays at 2:30 p.m., and Wednesdays at 1:30 and 2:45 p.m. Contact Roger Ederle at 399-0166 for more information.

◆ **Blood pressure screening** will be on **Sunday, January 27**, in the Sweet Family Room, between the Worship services, at 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. You may also have your blood pressure taken on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 -10:30 AM in the Parish Nurse’s office.

◆ **Alzheimer’s Support and Education** program continues on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, from 1 – 2:30PM. For more information/registration, contact Debra Anderson at the Alzheimer’s

Association at 520-322-6601.

◆ **Healing Meals.** This ministry is a soup and cracker meal that can be brought to those coming home from the hospital or other facilities, those ill, or those who may need a small meal. Please contact the church or Chris Erickson if you know of someone who may need this meal.

◆ **Parkinson’s exercise group** meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m.

◆ **Men’s Prostate Wellness Group** begins the new year with its monthly meeting set for its usual time: the second Friday of January (that is the 11th) at 10 a.m. at Desert Hills Lutheran Church, 2150 S. Camino del Sol, in Fellowship Hall. Coffee and goodies are available and the format will be questions and discussion. For more information please contact Dave Schmidt at 399-0154. All men are invited to join the group.

◆ **Renewal Centers.** VPC has agreed to allow therapists from Renewal Centers Counseling Services, Tucson, to occasionally use our office space. Holly Brown-Sisson and Rhonda Porro will schedule appointments here for counseling local residents who may have difficulty traveling to Tucson. For more information, contact Renewal Centers at 791-9974.

Note: Holly will join Chris Erickson to speak about “Dealing with Depression” at February 8 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed session.

Medical Minute

They say, “don’t forget to eat your vegetables!” Yes, it is true that Southwest Arizona (Yuma) is one producer with the most winter vegetables, especially lettuce.

Start the New Year with an Exciting New Program at Valley Presbyterian Church!

“Walk to Jerusalem”

It is 7,532 miles from Green Valley, AZ, to Jerusalem. We will be “walking” as a Community of Faith with Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior and Desert Hills Lutheran Church. The “Walk to Jerusalem” will begin Saturday, January 5, with the goal of accumulating enough miles to reach Jerusalem by Easter.

“Walk to Jerusalem” is a 12-week walking program designed to increase physical, spiritual, and emotional health of participants. This imaginary trip to Jerusalem is accomplished by individuals within the church recording their own miles each week. Any 20 minutes of physical activity (cycling, swimming, golf, walking, exercise, etc.), equals one mile.

Once a month we will be meeting and walking as a group.

For those who can’t participate in physical activity - 20 minutes of devotional prayer also qualifies as one mile “walked.”

SIGN UP NOW!

If you were unable to register for “Walking to Jerusalem” at our table in Fellowship Hall in December, you may do so now by emailing the parish nurse at

parishnurse@valleypres.net

or by calling the church office at 625 -5023, before January 5. Please include your name, number and email.

You will be receiving weekly emails with devotions and questions

continued from page 4

Stephen Ministry

to reflect upon. If you do not have email, you will still be able to pick up the printed devotions and questions for the week at the church.

There will be weekly account sheets available for pick up in the church office or at the table in Fellowship Hall each Sunday. These weekly sheets can be dropped off in the "Walk to Jerusalem" basket in the church office during the week or at the "Walk to Jerusalem" table each Sunday.

A world map will be displayed where we will be able to see where we are as a Church and as a Faith Community. As we travel across the continents and the ocean, our plan is to shrink our waists, expand our knowledge, increase our understanding of neighbors on this planet, and become a "culturally fit" congregation.

Remember: Our goal is to reach Jerusalem by Easter. While walking or exercising, take time to meditate/pray about the weekly reflections and deepen your relationship with God.

What better New Year's resolution could there be than strengthening your spiritual, emotional, and physical health?



This month Stephen Ministry highlights our first father/daughter team of Stephen Ministers. Cliff and Gayle Scott have the privilege of serving together on our SM team. Gayle relates their story:

Dad and I became Stephen Ministers at different times in our lives; however, we were introduced to the ministry at the same time. We can pinpoint it to May 1998 when mother was diagnosed with cancer. As she battled this disease, our scattered family would travel to see her whenever we could.

I was traveling from Texas and at each visit my dad and I would attend VPC. When I returned home from one of my trips, I had been so moved by the spirit of the service that I wrote a letter to the church asking if someone would pray and possibly send someone to support my parents. I had no knowledge of the Stephen Ministry at that time. The letter landed in Joe Carroll's hands. Days later a Stephen Minister showed up at my parents' home; that was our first introduction. When mother later was in the hospital, Joe Carroll was there to support my father. This was the first time he had met Joe. After mother passed in January of 1999, we were embraced with love and gentleness as Joe Carroll conducted her memorial.

My family developed a relationship with Joe who encouraged dad to become a Stephen Minister, and in time, he did just that. In 2002, he went

through training and went on to have a number of care receivers throughout the years. He retired last year and participates in the share group every meeting.

I moved from Texas to Tempe, Arizona, in the summer of 1999 and would drive to Green Valley to visit dad whenever I had the opportunity. I witnessed how the Stephen Ministry blessed my dad and, in turn, blessed my life. Not only in the circumstances with my mother, but also when my sister and I had a house fire in 2002, and I called the church looking for my dad who was in a class. Joe Carroll happened to answer the phone, and I shared with him how we had lost everything in a fire. We prayed together, and he relayed the message to dad who called me later—another example of how God puts feet to our prayers.

When I moved to Green Valley, the call from God became very strong to become a Stephen Minister and acting on that call, I went through training and have had the opportunity to be an instrument of peace for God as a Stephen Minister. Sharing this experience with my dad has been a blessing for both of us; not only has it deepened our relationship as father and daughter but also as brother and sister in Christ.

Gayle has also been called to leadership in Stephen Ministry and will be in training soon.

We are all blessed with these faithful Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

Friday, January 11 (9 a.m.) —Stephen Ministry gets off to a great start for the new year with Patty Smith leading a discussion about visiting those in the hospital... do's and don'ts about caring for people in this special circumstance. This program is open to anyone who may be involved in this type of caring ministry.

Friday, January 25 (9 a.m.) —John Dunham will discuss one of the most important problems facing many Green Valley residents—loneliness—and how to minister to someone who is lonely. The congregation is invited to attend.

A Path of Spiritual Growth

I encountered Jesus when I was 17. I remember shortly after that encounter laying on my bed, reading the Bible, the words leaping out as if they were on fire. I couldn't get enough for I wanted to learn everything I could about God. Several people introduced me to a discipleship group that taught the basics of the Christian faith.

Thus, I began my lifelong journey of spiritual growth. From then on, I took every Bible study, read Christian books, joined a church, worshipped and served, and eventually found my way into seminary. I considered it a blessing to "sit at the feet" of the seminary professors who loved the Lord and passed on their depth of knowledge to those of us who were hungry for it.

My journey of spiritual growth continues to this day. It is a joyous, life-long journey that will continue until God calls me to our everlasting home.

It is our task as a church to encourage, challenge, nurture and strengthen your spiritual growth and life in the Lord. It is never too late to learn and grow closer to the One we follow. One of the ways (and my favorite) is through the classes we offer through Christian Education.

I am excited to tell you about our offerings for the winter of 2013. Take a look:

◆ **The Inheritance:** Beth Moore is back on DVD with a 9-week course on the Christian's great spiritual inheritance. Begins Wednesday, January 9, at 9:00 a.m.

◆ **Nuts and Bolts of Christianity:** This is where I started so long ago. If you have never had the basics of our faith, or need a refresher course, start here. I will teach this 4-week class on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. beginning January 28.

◆ **Women's Retreat:** Popular teacher, Jan DeWitt, is back. This retreat, called "Rooted & Grounded in God's Love," will be held at Grill on the Green, January 31, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (see info in this issue)

◆ **Fridays with Larry:** Beginning February 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center, every Friday Larry DeLong will host a variety of topics too numerous to list here!

◆ **Your God is Too Small:** We introduce a new teacher, Grant Stitt. Based on the book by J.B. Phillips, Grant will challenge our small view of God in a world that is expanding in many directions. Check it out: 5 weeks on Thursdays beginning February 7, 2 p.m.

◆ **Sharing Your Faith in Everyday Conversation:** Back by

popular demand, Jan DeWitt and I will reprise this 2-week class beginning Monday, February 25, at 10 a.m.

◆ **Reading the Bible for Life:** Many of us know the individual stories of the Bible, but did you know that together they tell a larger story: the story of God. We will look at the whole story of the Bible, taking 9 weeks beginning March 18 (Mondays at 10:00 a.m.).

Now, add into the above mix those groups who meet on a regular basis: men's and women's Bible studies, the Sunday morning Bible study, and other small groups. You are bound to find something encouraging and challenging on your path of spiritual growth.

Hear it from scripture: "And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, *growing* in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10)

Growing in the Lord is right up there with living a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing God, and good works. So be it.

Growing together,



Rev. Diane Christopher, Associate
Pastor for Education & Outreach

Nuts and Bolts of Christianity

A 4-week class beginning January 28—Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

It is fairly easy to join a Christian church and then get involved with all the church has to offer. Yet, many do not know the basics of the Christian faith. Some find it difficult to articulate the faith they believe. Often, people join with their own ideas of God, Jesus, sin, the cross. Yet, everything we do at Valley Presbyterian Church is based on the essential tenets... the fundamentals... the nuts and bolts of Christianity.

If you have never learned the basics of our faith, have many questions, desire a refresher course, or you just want to put into words the faith that is in your heart, we invite you to this class taught by Pastor Diane Christopher.

Christian Education Schedule

Take a closer look at our educational opportunities by visiting our VPC website and clicking on the [blue](#) Christian Education Schedules box on the left side of the Home Page.

2nd step of Discipleship: GROW



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- ◆ **Mondays at 10:00** – Starting January 28 for 4 weeks, learn the “nuts and bolts” of the Christian Faith from Pastor Diane.
- ◆ **Sunday mornings at 9:45 in Classroom 5 - *Jesus Is Lord***
Be drawn into a deeper understanding of who Christ is and what it might mean to imitate Christ in everyday life. A Study Book is provided.
- ◆ **Men's Studies** – Men from the community and congregation are invited to join in these continuing studies at any time.
 - Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. at Old Chicago Deli
 - Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom 5
- ◆ **Women's Circle Studies, various times and places:**
The Great Epistles — Join with other ladies of the church in the once-a-month study of the great letters which help form the foundation of our Christian Faith.
- ◆ **The Inheritance** — Starting January 9, Wednesdays at 9 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. Join others in this DVD Beth Moore class about the inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade.

LIVING YOUR FAITH

- ◆ **Valley Writing Group**, 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5.
Explore feelings, reactions, descriptions during this time of writing and sharing
- ◆ **Valley Readers**, 1:30 p.m. on Monday, December 10. Share the joy of reading with others during a festive *Holiday Book Exchange*.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat: Rooted & Grounded in God's Love** January 31, 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Registration begins Sunday, January 13.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Please join other adults for the Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study. They are using materials from “The Present Word.” All adults are welcome to join any or all of our classes.

The class meets in Classroom 5 approximately 10 to 15 minutes after the close of the worship service (for about 45 minutes).

Please join the class as they discuss these passages and how to apply the Biblical truths to each of our lives.

Driver Safety Class

Would you like to refresh your driving skills or renew an insurance discount? The AARP Driver Safety Class is offered on January 24, starting at 8:30 a.m. Classes are 4 hours long and training will be completed in one session. Fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Class size is limited to 25. If you have questions about the class, call instructor Dale Kimes at 520-648-1647. To register, call the church office (625-5023).



Retreat for Women: “Rooted & Grounded in God's Love”



January 31, 9 AM – 3 PM

Leader: Jan DeWitt, assisted by Carol Collins

Jan has lead retreats for Christian women at churches and conference centers for more than 20 years. Carol is a seminary-trained chaplain who works with hospice, and she has also lead many retreats. Both are active in our church.

This Retreat will provide for you...

- ◆ A New Way to Understand the Love of God
- ◆ Ways to Recognize the Voice of God
- ◆ An experience of personal and spiritual growth and at the same time give an opportunity for you to become better acquainted with other women in our church.

This Retreat will be held on January 31 at the Grill on the Green, where we met last year. It will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Coffee will be available from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and we will enjoy a lovely lunch served at noon.

Registrations can be made starting Sunday, January 13, at the Christian Ed Kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$20 and is payable when you register. Our number is limited so it is important to register early.

Men's Weekday Bible Studies

There are two church-sponsored men's groups that meet during the week that would be glad for you to join them.

The first one meets on Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m. They are studying the book, *The Applause of Heaven*, by Max Lucado. A group of six to ten men meet at the Old Chicago Deli in the Green Valley Mall for one hour. The group meets for fellowship, food, and study. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

The second group, with about four to eight men, meets Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. in Classroom 5, EXCEPT for the second Wednesday of the month when we meet in Classroom 1. This group meets at the church for one hour. The group is self-led but Larry Phillips (777-8027) is the facilitator. They have just begun a study of the book of Hebrews using the NavPress study guide. Lessons are self-contained so feel free to join the group at any time. (No Meeting January 2; please join us as we resume meeting January 9 in Classroom 1.)

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

As we start a new year, Women's Ministries is looking forward to a wonderful January Gathering. Join us for a luncheon called "Souper Bowl" on January 15 at 11:30. Guess what we'll be having for lunch! Our program called "The Secret Garden" will be led by Jan DeWitt. We can always count on Jan to provide us with a thought-provoking and fun time. You can make your reservations on Jan. 6 or 13 at the Women's Ministries Table. The cost will be \$9.00. In keeping with our luncheon theme...

PRESBY GIFT FOR JANUARY: Cans of Soup for the Food Bank

NEW BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 9

by Caryl Thomas

"The Inheritance"

Beth Moore says, "God picked you out for a great spiritual inheritance." What does the term "a great spiritual inheritance" mean? Join us and find out for yourself!

The Inheritance, a DVD-based Bible study, begins Wednesday, January 9 from 9:00 to 11:15 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center, and will continue for 9 weeks, concluding March 6. Class time will include participating in discussions and watching a Beth Moore teaching DVD.

Begin your journey by pre-registering and obtaining study materials at the CE kiosk in Fellowship Hall by January 6 (or by calling Caryl Thomas 520-777-8326). Materials include one-page take-home questions to be discussed in class each week as well as DVD Viewing Guides. Registration cost is \$10 per person. If you can't pre-register, just come to one of the Wednesday classes. If you are unable to attend all nine sessions, join us whenever you can.

"The lines have fallen for her in pleasant places; indeed, she has a beautiful inheritance." Psalm 16:6 (ESV)

Your God is Too Small

Beginning Thursday, February 7, at 2:00 p.m.

In *Your God Is Too Small*, J. B. Phillips explains that the trouble facing many of us today is that we have not found a God big enough for our modern needs. In a world where our experience of life has grown in myriad directions, and our mental horizons have been expanded to the point of bewilderment by world events and scientific discoveries, our ideas of God have remained largely static. This book explores ways in which we can find a truly meaningful and constructive God for ourselves, big enough to account for our current experience of life and big enough to command our highest admiration and respect.

You are invited to attend this 5-week class taught by Grant Stitt.

"Your God is Too Small" Class

Leader: Dr. Grant Stitt, is Professor Emeritus of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nevada and a new member of Valley Presbyterian Church.

He has led numerous classes examining spiritual growth at First Presbyterian Church in Flint, Michigan, and St. John's Presbyterian Church in Reno, Nevada.

from the mission committee by Dr. Doug Clark...

Power of Prayer

At Valley Presbyterian Church our ministry is often service to believers; however, our mission is to bring people into the kingdom of God. Prayer is the power we must use to be effective in God's will. While our personal mission field is under our own two feet, our mission field is also the 19 specific persons and agencies which Valley Presbyterian Church supports by finances locally, nationally, and internationally.

When you ask any missionary what is his or her greatest need, the answer is not money but is always prayer. A servant of God understands the impossible task given them and that only God can make the impossible possible. The Power of Prayer project in the Valley Voice will focus on one missionary or agency each month to raise up specific prayer requests, not only for the mission's work to evangelize by sharing their faith, but also specific prayers for the individual missionaries. God loves specific prayers and prayer changes us.



This month's prayer focus and prayer request is from Reverend Bob and Kristi Rice, living in middle Congo. They will visit VPC in 2013. Bob's priorities include development of new churches, training of rural pastors, production of print and radio, and much, much more. Kristi supplements Bob's work and contributes to microfinance efforts and other projects related to communities developments. Their blog at <http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com> will inspire and amaze you.

Here are a couple of prayer request from the Rice's:

*"*Peace in the Congo! After a contentious national election, the conflict in Eastern Congo has intensified in the last two months. Please pray for peace and stability so that we are able to go home to Kananga as planned in January. (they are currently in Nairobi, Kenya)*

**One synod in our province of West Kasai has expressed a desire to hold a training program in Evangelism for some of the leaders and members. We are praying that the resources will be found and logistics worked out to be able to hold the seminar next year before we leave to return to the U.S.*

Thank you for asking for our needs in prayer! We are very grateful to know that you are praying with us for God's work in the Congo. It is essential! May God's peace be full in you this Christmas season! Kristi and Bob"

Presbyterian Choir Festival

Mark your calendar for this 2nd Annual event! Presbyterian Choir Festival will be held on Sunday, February 10, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Tucson.

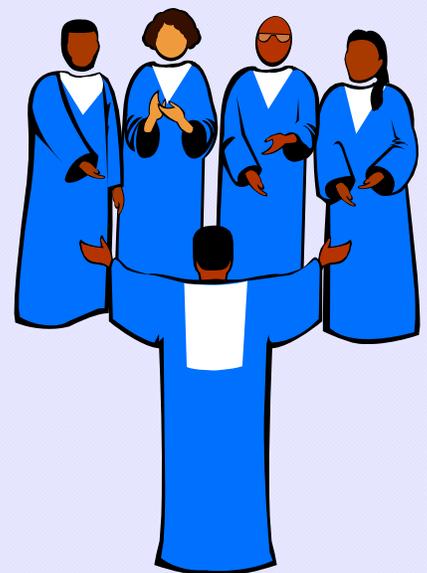
Come join together for an afternoon of glorious music.

This is a unique opportunity to hear a large choir made up of musicians from all these churches, under the direction of local choir directors and organists.

Tickets will not be sold for this event, but a love offering will be taken to help support the work of this ministry to students at the University of Arizona and Pima Community College.

There are no reserved seats; seating is on a first come, first served basis.

The Festival is a major fundraising event to benefit Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM), a mission and ministry of Presbytery de Cristo, and is presented through the joint efforts of the music programs of Tucson Presbyterian churches and PCM.



Peace & Justice Retreats

Tuesday, February 5 – 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 5 – 8:30 a.m.

Imagine our Valley Presbyterian Church as a **place where God's people gather together to actively "discern the meaning of peace."** Then, let's make it happen! On Tuesday, February 5, **from 8:30 to noon in the Spiritual Life Center, your Peace & Justice Committee will hold a retreat. Lance Barker will be our facilitator** using the workbook "Resurrection Living," which provides the opportunity for people to explore several understandings of peace.

This event promises to spur your creativity as we write our experiences and share what we want of them. It includes note taking and reflection. Most of us have sometimes thought of ourselves as peacemakers. Please join us as we take this opportunity to share with others the meaning and practice of peace.

On Tuesday, March 5, in Classroom 5 from 8:30 to noon you will have the chance to **communicate directly to Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly** what each of us at Valley Presbyterian Church feels about being a "Peace Church."

We need all points of view as we each strive to be "in the body of Christ," SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER. **All results** will be passed on in the feedback forms requested by PC(USA). PC(USA) wants to have us all – each of us - represented. Please come and enjoy everyone's point of view. Cara Bissell will facilitate the process.

Valley Presbyterian Church's Peace & Justice Resource Committee is planning these events. S

Seek Peace and Pursue it. (Psalm 34)

Affiliate Memberships

For the New Member Committee by Carol Bowley

What is an Affiliate Member? My husband and I are, and we are so glad that Valley Presbyterian Church has that category for part-time residents.

We feel fortunate to have a "divided life." Half of the time we are in Green Bay and half in Green Valley, and we are particularly blessed to have Valley Presbyterian Church in our lives when we are here. We started attending regularly and then discovered the affiliate category of membership. That meant we weren't forced to choose between our "home" church and VPC, and now we feel like we really BELONG.

When you join as an Affiliate, you get to go through the regular membership process of two informational sessions where you also get to know other new members such as yourself. You are accepted into membership during a service and you have nearly all the same opportunities as someone in the regular membership category.

If you are a "part timer" and want to have an even closer connection with Valley Presbyterian Church, I urge you to contact the church office and indicate your interest in attending the new member classes that will be held in February. I feel certain you'll be glad you did.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES:

February 14: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

February 20: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

To sign up, please contact Diane Christopher in the office.

Children's (& adults') activities for Epiphany

After-Christmas Workshop

On Wednesday, Jan. 2nd, Thursday the 3rd, and Friday the 4th an intergenerational after-Christmas workshop will be held for fun, crafts, and lessons from 9 to 11 a.m.

To register for this holiday camp, please sign up in the church office by December 31.

THREE WISE WOMEN

Three Wise Women is an Epiphany Story that will be enacted during our two services on Epiphany Sunday, January 6. There are no speaking parts other than the Narrator's voice heard off stage. The scene begins where Hoshmakaka, last year's Epiphany Story, left off, and turns to the story of three women who are struck by the brightness of the Star of Bethlehem and meet along the road to see this new thing that has occurred. The women bring gifts that will impact the baby Jesus and His Story in remarkable ways.

You won't want to miss this!

Sign up for a part in *Three Wise Women* by calling Gail at 398-6738. We are hoping the same people who enacted the Hoshmakaka Story (about the camel and the Three Wise Men) last year will sign up for their same roles for this story, too.

Rehearsal for this play will be on Saturday, January 5, in the Sanctuary from 9 a.m. till Noon.

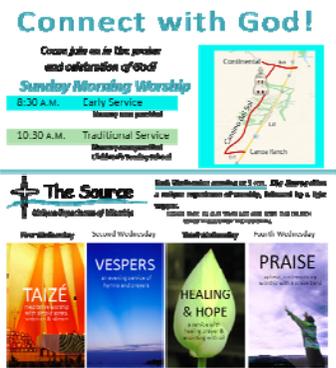
The Source

Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.
 Spiritual Life Center

A unique experience of worship followed by a light supper (suggested donation \$5).

- 1st Wednesday **Taize**
 Meditative worship with songs, scripture, and silent prayer
- 2nd Wednesday **Vespers**
 A service of evening prayer
- 3rd Wednesday **Healing and Hope**
 A service of comfort and hope offering an anointing with oil
- 4th Wednesday **Praise**
 An upbeat contemporary service featuring a praise band
- 5th Wednesday **Surprise**
 Join us on January 30th for "The Gospel of John" at 6:30 p.m. (more information on page 18)

During mid-January you will find an insert resembling this in your copy of the Green Valley News, Sahuarita Sun and Santa Cruz Valley Sun.



Sunday Coffee Fellowship

The Sunday coffee fellowship hour is changing!

Beginning January 6, the coffee pots, pitchers of juice, and cups will be on our kitchen counters to enable you to help yourself, just as we do at the church dinners. (If you need assistance, there will be someone to help you.) The cream and sugar table will remain in the middle of the room, and the cookie tables will continue on both sides of the room. (You may see fewer homemade cookies as we are getting fewer donations, and the cheese and fruit will be phased out by the end of December.)

With these changes the Fellowship Committee will not need as many Sunday kitchen volunteers to help them. We look forward to this change, and hope that it will work out for the good of all.

JUST COFFEE

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month following church services we sell Just Coffee in Fellowship Hall. We carry ground and bean, all the coffee is Arabica, and comes in regular and dark roast for all kinds that we carry, caffeinated and decaffeinated.

The church does not make any profit from the sale of Just Coffee; all the proceeds go back to the growers and processors in Mexico.

If you have had coffee here at Fellowship time, you already know how good this Mexican coffee tastes. We hope that you will continue to purchase Just Coffee, and if you haven't yet tried it at home, that you will purchase some the next time we sell.

Do try some Just Coffee soon. We believe you will feel it is worth the price (still only \$9 per pound) to support the independence of these poor coffee growers.

If you would like to help us sell coffee, please give Lee Ann Calhoun a call at 520-203-8497.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

from Casa Community Services

Located in Continental Shopping Plaza next to CVS Pharmacy, Community Connect is planning to help "navigate" the many community wellness, health, and social services that are available from many Green Valley organizations, such as Valley Assistance Services, the Community Food Bank or Friends in Deed. Community Connect is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Their phone number is 393-6700.

Stop in to see how they can help you.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 19, 8:00 a.m.



Speaker: **Bob Hibschman**
Habitat for Humanity

Join us for breakfast and fellowship. Bob will share with us his calling and some of his extensive involvement with Habitat for Humanity. Bob was a close friend of Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller, traveled with construction crews for 15 years and helped build more than 50 homes. A natural story teller, you'll enjoy hearing Bob's experiences. Tickets are still only \$5 and will be available Sundays, January 6 and 13 in Fellowship Hall.

TICKETS (\$5) WILL BE AVAILABLE

in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 6 & 13

MEN'S CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

Valley Presbyterian Church is encouraging active men's ministries. In February we are supporting an ecumenical men's conference for all men in the Valley to gather together to hear a well-known Christian speaker. Plan ahead! If you have questions or wish to purchase tickets, contact Dave Tompkins 520-399-3500 or Ron Campbell 1-509-535-3484.

Santa Cruz Valley Men's Conference

TWO DAYS! Friday, February 15, 5:30-9:30 pm

AND Saturday, February 16, 8:00 am-Noon

Sahuarita District Auditorium
(Sahuarita Rd., half mile east of I-19 at exit 75)

Speaker: Dr. Del Tackett

**"Preparing Men to Live for Christ
in a Hostile World"**

Sponsored by the Santa Cruz Valley Christian Men's Ministry
Purchase **Tickets** in Advance: only \$30

Excerpt from the writings of Fred Morrison's *From Pulpit to Pew* (page 4)

What Is the Significance of Electing Officers of the Church?

"We have just elected new elders and deacons at Valley Church, so this is a good time to talk about respect for those whom God has called.

In the Presbyterian Church we believe that God calls people to serve as ministers of the Word and Sacrament, elders and deacons. The congregation elects to office those whom God has called. Service as a minister, elder, or deacon is not simply a matter of serving on a committee or board, or belonging to an elite group. It is a calling of God, and it brings with it the responsibility to seek first the kingdom of God for God's people.

Once elected and installed, officers of the church often encounter criticism. They should listen to the people and be sensitive to their concerns. But the people must also listen to their leaders, for God has called them to lead us. When elders and deacons are installed, the congregation must give affirmative answer to this question: 'Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?'

When a pastor is installed the church must give affirmative answers to these questions: (1) 'Do we agree to encourage him/her, to respect his/her decisions, and to follow him/her as he/she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? And (2) '...Will we listen to the word she/he preaches, welcome her/his pastoral care, and honor her/his authority as she/he seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?'

The church as a human institution is as likely to have complainers and dissenters as any other human institution. But we need to remember that that is not what we are called to be and do. We are called to follow Jesus Christ and to encourage and follow those whom God has called to lead us. The genius of the Presbyterian system of government lies in its foundation of trust. We trust God and we trust our elders, deacons and ministers. When we elect them to office we acknowledge that theirs is a holy task. We pray for them and with them and we follow where they lead us, trusting the Spirit of God to be at work among us."

Writing Group Meets Jan. 2nd

VPC writing group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 2 from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Sweet Family Room. The topic will be "**Conformity.**" Write anything you would like on this topic. First timers are always welcome. We marvel at the growth of each member's writing, and at the gift we receive as we listen to each other read and receive positive feedback and support.

Consider Volunteering at Valley Assistance Services

Nourish your faith. Green Valley Interfaith Volunteer Corps, a part of Valley Assistance Services, provides volunteers from local churches to help isolated seniors stay involved in church activities.

Connect with life. Compassionate volunteers help older adults "stay connected" in life so that they can remain in their own homes and live their lives with independence and purpose.

Make new friends. Volunteering leads to new discoveries and new friends—helps you live longer and promotes a positive outlook on life.

Valley Assistance Services continues to respond to the ever-growing needs in our communities.

Another Success Story from VAS

For the Mission Committee by Judy Clark

Last year, Helen, a grandmother, came to Valley Assistance Services for rental help. She had used her savings to travel to Maine to pick up her 3 grandchildren. Sarah, her daughter, is a single mom who could no longer care for her children due to a lengthy hospitalization. Helen had a care-giving job and wanted to help raise her 3 grandchildren. Last month, Sarah, moved to Sahuarita. She found a home and job close to her mother. Again Sarah was hospitalized. When she lost her job, Sarah came to Valley Assistance Services.

During the last mandatory financial literacy class, Sarah stated, "I have enrolled in advanced education to obtain a license to open a care-giving agency with my mother. Our dream is to serve moderate income seniors who needed help in the home. In this way we can give back to our community that has been so generous to us."

From Membership & Outreach

Planting a seed in the New Year!

This is a story about a successful business man growing old and time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. So he called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One young executive received a seed went home, got a pot and planted the seed. Every day, it would be watered, fertilized and cared for. Nothing grew. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow, but nothing ever grew in this executive's flower pot.

Four weeks, five weeks, six weeks went by, still nothing. Months went by -- still nothing grew in the pot. A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. The young executive took an empty pot to the board room and placed it next to several beautiful plants in all shapes and sizes. Colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for their associate.

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" He spotted the empty pot and asked who owned it to step forward.

The associate thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

Approaching, the CEO asked what had happened to his seed and was told the story that the plant never grew.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except the executive with the empty pot. He turned, and then announced, "This is your next Chief Executive Officer!"

"How could that be?" the others said. "His seed did not even grow!"

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead; it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except one, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you.

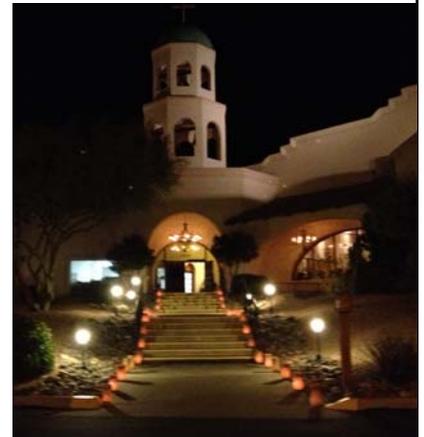
This person was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it; therefore, the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

Plant your seed in the new year.

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust!

If you plant goodness, you will reap friends!

If you plant humility, you will reap greatness!



Christmas eve at
Valley Presbyterian Church

Outreach
Question

**How can you make
your prayer times
worshipful?**

Outreach
Question

Book Exchange is COMING SOON...

It is time to sort through your books, your CDs, and your DVDs. The VPC Library Committee is sponsoring their annual **BOOK EXCHANGE** on Saturday, February 9, at 10:00 a.m.

Book Exchange is not exactly the way it sounds... because you may or may not really exchange books. If you have books, CD's or DVD's to donate to the exchange, please bring them to the **church library** during the week of February 3 marked for the Book Exchange.

The books and other items will be sorted and arranged by genres and will be available for selection on February 9. A number of fine items have already been given to the committee so mark this date on your calendar and don't miss the chance to pick up some treasures and expand your reading materials.

ALL are invited to come to the Book Exchange on February 9 and take away - FREE - as many books (etc.) as you would like.

You really can't beat this idea!



News of Note

by Kay Albrecht



As we journey together into a New Year, perhaps we all need a reminder as to why we are here. Most likely each of us could use some redirection in our calling, and a renewal of our vow to share our talents, whatever they might be.

Max Lucado wrote the following inspirational thought, and it spoke to me.

PLAY SUBLIMELY

*“Antonio Stradivari was a seventeenth-century violin maker whose name in its Latin form, **Stradivarius**, had become synonymous with excellence. He once said that to make a violin less than his best would be to rob God, who could not make Antonio Stradivari’s violins without Antonio.*

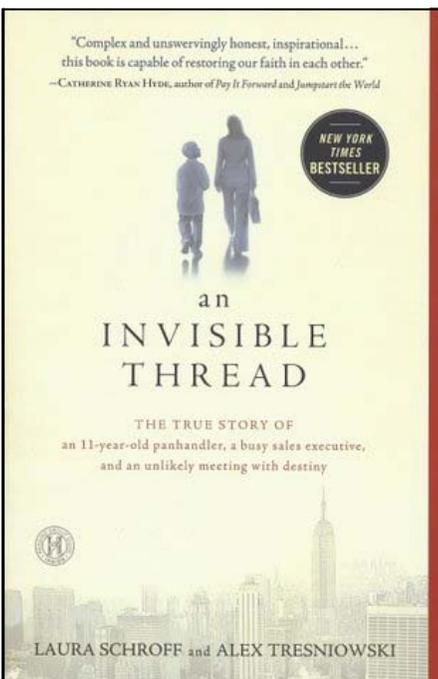
He was right. ... Certain gifts were given to that craftsman that no other violin maker possessed.

In the same vein, there are certain things you can do that no one else can. Perhaps it is parenting, or constructing houses, or encouraging the discouraged.

*There are things that **only** you can do, and you are alive to do them. In the great orchestra we call life, you have an instrument and a song, and you owe it to God to play them both sublimely.”*



In this New Year let us join together in sharing our gifts to the glory of God!!



Valley Readers

“Stopping was never part of the plan...”

She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades.

We will discuss the book, *AN INVISIBLE THREAD*, by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski.

Please join us on Monday, January 28, at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 5. Our discussion leader will be Mary Lee Haas.

Questions? Please call Anne Morrison at 399-0762.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>6</p> <p>7:45a Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>8:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>8:30a Service of Worship</p> <p>9:45a Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>10:30a Service of Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00a Library Committee</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a Mission Quilts</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>2:30p Tai Chi class</p> <p>3:30p Adult Offr class</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30a WM Coordinating team</p> <p>9:00a Men's Bible Study grp</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a Parish Life committee</p> <p>9:00a After-Christmas camp</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>10:00a Circle Bible Study Ldrs</p> <p>10:00a Stewardship Comm</p> <p>10:00a Valley Writers</p> <p>1:30p Membership/Outreach</p> <p>1:30p & 2:45p Tai Chi class</p> <p>5:00p The Source—Taize</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30a Pastoral Care</p> <p>9:00a After-Christmas camp</p> <p>1:00p Alzheimer's support</p> <p>1:00p Valley Ringers</p> <p>2:00p Communion La Joya</p> <p>3:00p Communion Silver Spgs</p> <p>3:45p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00a Ministry of Presence</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a After-Christmas camp</p> <p>9:00a Stephen Min. training</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>11:30a SM Training luncheon</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00a 3 Wise Women rehearsal</p> <p>2:00p Memorial & Reception: Ella Jackson</p>
<p>13</p> <p>7:45a Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>8:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>8:30a Service of Worship</p> <p>9:45a Adult Bible Study</p> <p>9:45a Welcomers meeting</p> <p>10:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>10:30a Service of Worship</p> <p>10:45a Children's program</p> <p>11:45a Welcomers meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>1:00p Chair exercise</p> <p>2:30p Elizabeth Circle</p> <p>3:30p Tai Chi class</p> <p>Adult Offr class</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>8:00a Men's Study group</p> <p>9:00a Mission Committee</p> <p>9:00a NOC Leadership team</p> <p>9:15a Julia Circle</p> <p>9:30a Prayer group</p> <p>1:30p La Posada Circle</p> <p>2:00p Open Your Heart</p> <p>2:30p Workshop Committee</p> <p>4:00p Kettle Dinner committee</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>8:00a Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00a Christian Ed planning</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a Christian Ed committee</p> <p>9:00a The Inheritance</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise class</p> <p>10:00a Finance committee</p> <p>10:30a Peace & Justice comm</p> <p>1:00p Miriam Circle</p> <p>1:15p Lois Circle</p> <p>1:30 & 2:45p Tai Chi class</p> <p>5:00p The Source-Vespers</p> <p>7:00p Deacons</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00a Faith & Health comm</p> <p>1:00p Valley Ringers</p> <p>3:45p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a SM Continuing Ed</p> <p>9:00a Stephen Min. training</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>10:00a SM Peer Review</p> <p>11:00a Stephen Leaders</p> <p>3:00p Memorial: Pearl Eaton</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>20</p> <p>7:45a Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>8:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>8:30a Service of Worship</p> <p>9:45a Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>10:30a Service of Worship</p> <p>10:45a Children's program</p> <p>5:00p Kettle w/ Sierra Brass</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a Mission Quilts</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>2:30p Tai Chi class</p> <p>3:30p Adult Offr class</p> <p>6:30p Ruth Circle</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>8:00a Men's Study group</p> <p>9:30a Prayer group</p> <p>11:30a WM Gathering "Soupier Bowl"</p> <p>2:00p Open Your Heart</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>8:15a Crossroads Mission</p> <p>9:00a Men's Bible study</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a Session Council comm</p> <p>9:00a The Inheritance</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>1:30 & 2:45p Tai Chi class</p> <p>5:00p The Source-Healing/Hope</p> <p>7:00p Session</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>8:00a Pato Sale sort/markng</p> <p>1:00p Alzheimer's support</p> <p>1:00p Valley Ringers</p> <p>3:45p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a Stephen Min. training</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>12:30p VPC Foundation</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00a Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>27</p> <p>7:45a Sanctuary Choir</p> <p>8:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>8:30a Service of Worship</p> <p>9:45a Adult Bible Study</p> <p>9:45a Blood Pressure screen</p> <p>10:15a Childcare-Nursery</p> <p>10:30a Service of Worship</p> <p>10:45a Children's program</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>10:00a Nuts & Bolts of Christianity</p> <p>1:30p Valley Readers</p> <p>2:30p Tai Chi class</p> <p>3:30p Adult Offr class</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>8:00a Men's Study group</p> <p>9:30a Prayer group</p> <p>10:00a Grief Recovery Workshop</p> <p>2:00p Open Your Heart</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00a Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a The Inheritance</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>6:30p The Gospel of John</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00a Women's Retreat: "Rooted & Grounded in God's Love"</p> <p>1:00p Valley Ringers</p> <p>3:45p Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00a Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:00a Parkinson's exercise</p> <p>9:00a SM Continuing Ed</p> <p>9:00a Stephen Min. training</p> <p>10:00a Chair exercise</p> <p>10:00a SM Peer Review</p> <p>11:00a Stephen Leaders</p>	<p>26</p>

January Birthdays

1

Rick Irvin
Tom West
Bob Williams

2

Milton Gilchrist
Kylene Joplin

3

Doris Jarvis

5

Marya Dalrymple
William Hawkins
Marian Hinkley
Glenn Steinacker
DeWayne Triplett

7

Quentin Gessner
Dorothy Sauder

8

Mona Brock
Tesh Hanson

9

Natalie Brown
Kathy Vishner

11

Ray DeNagel
Diana Dougherty
Bob Joling
Maisie Oldendorph
Lester Schantz

12

Bruce Nylund

13

Charles Anderson
Merle Speer

14

Robert Dahm
George Pike
Betty Taylor
Billie Youngblut

15

Bob Fleischmann
Olive Heller

16

Margaret Moore
Phyllis Richardson

17

Martha Ashton
Liz Diedrich
Ronald Pegg
Roger Stubbs

25

Carolyn Sue Blomeke
Tom Dierken
Sharane English
Linda Freeman
Marie Valade

26

Edie Beall
Jim Cowie

30

Dorothy Huff

31

Rosalie Kooistra



18

Jane Bryant
Earl Ellerbrake

19

Grant Cedarleaf
Connie Snow
Dick Witham

21

Bill Willy
Jennie Yanamura

23

Judy Clark
Hazel Jones

24

Helen Fuller
Jack Hardey
Lucille Lee
Robert Lindley
Gordon Page
Dian Welsh

27

Gerry Appleton
Ken Campbell
Roger Hooper
Carol LeClair
Susan Ochs
Barbara Platte
Sherry Royer

28

Richard English
Frederick Stoll
Nancy Thies

29

Arlene Burkdoll
Victoria Gordon
Kay Huggins
Margaret (Grete) Miles
Marge Murphy

Food Banks in Need

The Community Food Bank is able to purchase **\$9.00** worth of food for every \$1 you donate. If you prefer to donate with other VPC members, please make your check payable to VPC (memo field: Food Bank), and the amount will be shown on your annual church giving statement.

Community Food Bank assists people in 23,106 square miles of Southern Arizona and distributes enough food for 62,800 meals a day.

Donating food items gives receivers more choices. In addition to staples (like peanut butter) and personal care items that are always needed, our community is asked to donate holiday items such as: frozen turkeys, canned or frozen hams, boxed potatoes, gravy mixes, stuffing mixes, bisquick, nuts, cranberry sauce, pie filling, canned yams, baking products, jello, muffin mixes, and grocery store gift cards. (For distribution, the Food Banks can accept canned food up to 1 year past date on cans and up to 6 months past date on packages.)

VPC monthly donation day for the Green Valley Community Food Bank is the first Sunday of every month, but you may drop off food items directly at the Green Valley Food Bank at 250 East Continental Road, #101, Green Valley (M-F, 7 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) You can drop off at warehouse/ring bell.

You can also drop off food items at the Amado Food Bank at 28720 S Nogales Hwy, Arivaca Junction (M-F, 7 a.m.—Noon).

Next collection at VPC: January 6

VPC Awarded Plaque of Recognition

The Amado Community Food Bank has chosen Valley Presbyterian Church as their 2012 Organization of the Year. This is “in recognition of your commitment to end hunger in our community.”

The Gospel of John

**live off-Broadway performance
to be sponsored by Worship Committee at VPC
Wednesday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.**

It took nearly five months for actor Brad Sherrill to memorize all 20,000 words of *The Gospel of John*. He had planned to perform it just once at his home church in Atlanta, but has now presented John's Gospel over 600 times since 2001 in professional theaters and churches across the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and Ireland.

On Wednesday, **January 30**, Sherrill will bring his celebrated touring performance to **Valley Presbyterian Church**.

Over the past decade *The Gospel of John's* 600 performances have included a six-week run off-Broadway at New York City's historic Lamb's Theatre and at professional theaters in Chicago, Washington D.C., Toronto and Atlanta (2001-2010.) The Gospel of John's European Cathedral tours (2007-2009) brought the performance to large, historic cathedrals of the U.K., Ireland and Northern Ireland, including Westminster Cathedral (London), Lincoln, Litchfield and Gloucester Cathedrals (U.K.), Christ Church Cathedral (Dublin), St. Fin Barre's Cathedral (Cork) and St. Peter's Cathedral (Belfast.)

With perhaps a dozen very simple props used in a variety of ways, Sherrill transforms the gospel into a captivating drama, presenting the entire story of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

An estimated 180,000 people worldwide have now experienced a rare opportunity to see and hear an entire gospel presented live in this dramatic way. Response to *The Gospel of John* has been overwhelmingly positive from clergy, lay members and the press.

"An amazing achievement!" writes Kathy Janich in her review for the *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. "The overriding question here is whether the word of God can work as a drama. Sherrill proves that it most certainly and successfully can," said Janich. "You need only watch him as John the Baptist, testifying to his first sighting of Jesus Christ, to become a believer. And this moment comes less than 10 minutes into the show."

The Washington Post adds: "*The Gospel of John* is a sweaty, gritty tale of a miracle-working idealist who runs afoul of the law. Passion, longing, envy, greed, ambition, intrigue and betrayal -- it's all here, and it is riveting!"

Seating begins at **6:00 p.m.** for the 6:30 performance at Valley Presbyterian Church.

Be ready to enjoy 2 ½ hours (including intermission) of excitement you may never have experienced before while reading The Gospel of John.

A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, please contact the church at 520-625-5023.

Tickets for The Gospel of John are free but will be required for admission. Starting January 6, they may be picked up the Worship Committee table on Sundays in Fellowship Hall, in the church office, or at the Chamber of Commerce.

Be a part of it....CWCC

**(Create a
Welcoming Climate
at Church)**

Ask yourself...

- Do you enjoy meeting people?
- Would you like to help visitors (and members) feel really welcome and at home at Valley Pres?
- Would you prefer a short-term project instead of serving on a committee?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, you are invited (and urged to attend) a fun and informative 20-minute meeting with Pastor Diane Christopher and Carol Bowley after church services on January 13 at either 9:44 or 11:44 in Classroom 5.

If you just can't wait until then to get some details or you can't make either meeting and are really interested, please call Carol Bowley at 648-0960.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic is a Mission Ministry VPC supports with time, talent and funds. Two men who have worked closely with the Clinic for over two decades held a fund-raising event at their home in Nogales on December 2nd. Dave Horton and Cal Judson from our Mission Committee attended their 23rd Annual Wine & Cheese Among the Trees festival. The donation is \$25 per adult and every penny goes to the Clinic. They decorate at least thirty Christmas trees and display Manger scenes throughout the house, and each one is a special item unto itself. The event is special, and we highly recommend it to you as a start to the spirit of giving next Christmas.



Valley Presbyterian Church

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

Pastoral Staff

- Rev. Lawrence R. DeLong, Pastor
- Rev. John Dunham, Associate Pastor
for Pastoral Care
- Rev. Diane Christopher, Associate
Pastor for Education and Outreach
- Rev. Ellen Dawson, Visitation Pastor
- Rev. Joe Hawkins, Pastor Emeritus

Mission Statement

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

Join Us In Worship!

Traditional Worship Service

Childcare Provided

Sundays

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

The Source Worship Service

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion Celebrated
1st Sunday & Wednesday each month

The Valley Voice newsletter is published the first day of each month for the members and friends of Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 S Camino del Sol, Green Valley AZ 85622.

Articles may be submitted for consideration to Georgia Puttock in the church office in writing before the 15th of the month by US mail, in print or by email to gputtock@valleypres.net.

It is helpful to have articles as email. Submitted articles may be edited for style and length.

Empty Bowls at VPC

The 7th Annual Empty Bowls will be hosted by Valley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 16, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This event is a major fundraiser for Valley Assistance Services.

Empty Bowls attendees choose a bowl donated by area artisans and then fill it with delicious soup provided by area restaurants. Bread and homemade cookies are donated by area merchants and local churches. The soup bowl is taken home as a reminder of the plight of the hungry. VAS motto is "A helping hand forward for those in need."

Many members, staff, and friends of our church are involved in this annual event. Beth Ann Coughanour, Eloise Fredrickson, Linda Freeman, Martha Jump, Anne Morrison, and Andy Wagner are just a few who participate. Jan Howard is a member of the VAS Board of Directors, and she is co-coordinating this event.

Please join us on February 16th as we help the hungry. Advance Tickets are \$12 and will be for sale between worship services at VPC and other area churches beginning January 13 through February 10.

Per Capita

Presbyterians are connected in many ways, including our church government. We believe we discern best what God is calling us to do when we gather as governing bodies and "seek together to find and represent the will of Christ" (Book of Order G-4.0301).

Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to undergird our governance system. Our Constitution provides a moral and theological compass that builds community and calls us to Christian faithfulness in gratitude to God.

Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ.

The \$31.00 per year per member "per capita" funds our General Assembly, our Synod of the Southwest, and our own Presbytery de Cristo's staff and ministries allowing us to remain in ministry and community with the Presbytery's 28 other churches (plus the Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship and a new church development in Maricopa).

Regular VPC Members: By paying your "per capita" over and above your regular offering to VPC's work, you not only enable the many ministries of the PC (USA), you also help our operating budget's bottom line as we annually budget for this expense. The method for members (not affiliates) to pay the per capita fee is to use the special giving envelope (marked "2013 Per Capita") in the packet you have received in the mail.

Individual members who do not have this envelope may simply write a check payable to VPC in the amount of \$31.00, indicate your giving number on your check and mail it in or place it in the collection plate on Sunday.

Thank you for including per capita in your 2013 giving.

Valley Presbyterian Church
2800 S Camino del Sol
Green Valley AZ 85622
(520) 625-5023

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Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net
Website: www.valleypresbyterian.net

Sunday
Services of Worship
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Please Join Us!

Deacon's Food Bank Score Card Dec. '12

Cash (at Deacon's Collection point)	Year To Date	\$3,632
Groceries (Dec.) 142 pounds	Year To Date	1,645 pounds

Next Deacon's Food Bank Collection: January 6, 7:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Friendship Kettle Dinner

Sunday, January 20, at 5 p.m.



Dinner:

A delicious meal of Pork Tenderloin will be served promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Program:

At 6:00 p.m. join us in the sanctuary for the music of **Sierra Brass**.

Sierra Brass has been entertaining Green Valley audiences for almost ten years at community events, weddings, and other venues. They play a wide variety of classical, semi-classical, jazz, and popular music such as Dixieland, show music, patriotic tunes, ballads, and music from the Renaissance up through Tin Pan Alley, as well as original works.

The group consists of Mike Finkelstein on trumpet; Ray Soper on trumpet; Jim Nickerson on baritone; Eric Holm on French horn; Bob Szabo on trombone; and Ed Lippert on tuba.

Tickets:

Tickets are \$11 and will be on sale **only** in Fellowship Hall prior to and following both services on Sundays, January 6 and 13.

Volunteers

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

Singles: For Singles information please contact Judy Aguayo at 398-3106 or Beth Bowen at 625-5071.

Consecration Sunday Update

THANK YOU!

The outpouring of generosity from the Valley Presbyterian Church family is truly inspiring – and inspired! As of December 21st, 422 giving units (individuals, couples, or families) estimated their 2013 giving to VPC at \$715,744. For all of 2012, our total was 467 estimates for \$762,412, though we won't know the final result until the end of the year.

In these uncertain times, at least one thing is certain: our congregation has been blessed and is determined to remain a blessing to others. Praise God!

Morning Prayer at VPC

Are you looking for a way to start your day with God? Each Tuesday through Friday morning* at 8:00 a.m., Larry DeLong leads a brief (about 15 minutes) service of Morning Prayer in the Library. This is a liturgically-based service (meaning, in this case, responsive readings from a calendar-set book of daily prayer), with readings and commentary on Scripture and prayers for others. Please drop in and share this time with God and each other. (*Larry will be out of the office from Friday, December 28, through Monday, January 6.)