Thoughts for the Journey

Dear Friends,

Christmastide began after the 24th of December, Christmas Eve to January 5 (which is the eve of Epiphany).

The joy of Christmas day always leans into the Christmastide season. We joined together in celebrating the birth of Jesus, much like the Wise Men came together in that little stable. Now the darkness of winter gives way to the light of Christ on **Epiphany on January 6**, which is also the end of Christmastide.

A new year, a new day, and a new time for us to live with a variety of opportunities. You know, every day we are given a chance to enter the day with the refreshment of rest. Even in the dead of winter, we can embrace the day and the gift of each person we meet. May we remember the Light of the Christ child as we live out faithful lives. In other words, may the Lord shine through us as we move about this world that God has created.

One way for us to bring the Light of Christ to others is to invite them into a closer walk with the Lord, so they too can be illuminated with love.

John 1:4-5 reveals that "in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Items for January:

January 6: Epiphany, the end of Christmastide. Communion.

January 13: Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Ruling Elders.

January 20: Mission Sunday.

January 27: Congregational Care Sunday.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor

Rea. Marks

New Email Address

If you have an announcement/article/event for the Sunday bulletin, E-blast, Valley Voice, or church calendar, you no longer need to remember which person on staff does which publication.

We have created a new email address, <u>notices@valleypres.net</u> that will get the information to all the right people.

When using this email address, please be sure to let us know which publication(s) you want the information put into.

This address is effective immediately and we ask that you begin using it instead of emailing individual staff members with these types of items. Thank you!

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Eagle Cams

It's that time of the year, where I begin to watch eagle cams on the internet. Right now, there is a camera on a bald eagle's nest in Southwest Florida. As I write this (mid-December), there are two eggs. One egg is predicted to hatch on Christmas Eve. How wonderful is that?

Every day, I will check in on this nest and watch as the eaglets eat, grow and learn. It takes 80 days from hatching to grow to adult size. Before they can leave the nest, they must to learn to stand and walk. It is great fun to watch them take a few steps, begin to wobble and fall down, so reminiscent of a human toddler learning to walk.

As they learn to stand and walk, the eaglets begin to test their wings. At first, they are awkward with their wings, not sure what to do with them, dragging them on the ground. I am reminded of an awkward teenager who grows too fast, and becomes uncoordinated with their legs and arms.

As time goes on, the eaglets continue exercising their wings, and as the wings get stronger, they begin to get lift underneath that remarkable wingspan of eight feet. They begin to hop from branch to branch, gaining confidence in those wings that will allow them to cruise at 60 miles per hour. The day finally comes when that eaglet takes its first leap into space — my favorite part of the whole eaglet experience. It is breathtaking to watch that leap of faith, trusting in those wings to carry them into the world.

During this whole process, the parents are there watching, nurturing, protecting, feeding, demonstrating, teaching, rarely leaving the side of their eaglets.

I am amazed at God's creation. God tells us to be amazed: "Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom and spread his wings toward the south? Does the eagle soar at your command and build his nest on high?" (Job 39:26-27)

In other words, God says, "Yep, I made it. Be amazed."

And so I am. Breathtakingly so.

King Solomon was amazed. In his wisdom poetry in Proverbs, the King said he was amazed at three things, one of them was "the way of an eagle in the sky."

Take time to notice, my friends, and be reminded of the beauty of our Creator, and the inspiration we can find there. What more beautiful inspiration can we find than in Isaiah 40: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles..."

Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

Mission Sunday

January 20, 2019



Each Sunday's worship is special because it is an opportunity to meet with God, give praise to our Creator, and offer ourselves in service. Mission Sunday, on January 20, 2019, is no exception, with the added focus of outreach to others. Whether our mission field is under our own two feet, or in one of the many programs locally, regionally, or globally, we are answering Christ's directive to serve. Without missions our church is just a club with friendly people and fellowship. To heighten our understanding of missions, we are blessed to have Dave L, our missionary from Operation Mobilisation, preaching from the pulpit Acts 1:4-8, "Discovering God's Destiny for Your Life." Dave and his lovely wife, Pam, will also bless us with their fellowship at the Mission Breakfast on January 19, 2019. This will be their third visit to Valley Presbyterian Church and promises to be fruitful and inspiring as

they display their Christian walk in missions. Join us in worshiping our God and sharing with them at our "Meet and Greet" in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Mission Breakfast PAM and DAVE are coming! They're coming!

January 19 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Submitted by Doug Clark

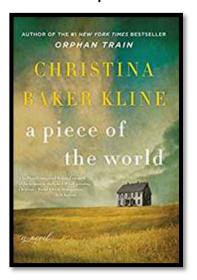
We are excited to feature Pam and Dave L (last name confidential - see their photo in the article above), Operation Mobilisation missionaries to Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Iran, at our upcoming mission events. This will be their third visit to Valley Presbyterian Church. Remember Pam praying over our old stove to make it work, their story of a cockroach kiss on their honeymoon, or God's amazing success through them to many, many, unreached souls? What were your favorite memories of Pam and Dave L during their 2016 visit to Valley Presbyterian Church? Was the memory formed during the Mission Breakfast, when you learned of 4-6 year-old Bangladesh Muslim children rolling cigarettes to survive, unable to go to school and trapped in poverty for their lifetime? Or, perhaps it was the image of child brides injured in childbirth, disowned and outcast, being given an education in sewing that moved your heart? Was it the Pakistan relief that was delivered to victims of the terrorist bombing where 71 Christian and Muslims were killed in a children's park on Easter afternoon? These were just a few of the many examples of Christian love Pam and Dave were able to give to Muslim and Christian people in need through Operation Mobilisation. Did you know that the monies given during their visit in 2014 was used for home churches in Iran and helped a pastor escape from persecution in Iran?

During their last visit, Dave spoke from the pulpit, where he reminded us of our mission to share love as ordinary men and women, powered by an extraordinary God. He revealed that the Bible doesn't say that age or retirement is a barrier to serve as Christ's hands and feet. On January 20, 2019, Dave will once again bring to our congregation a thought-provoking and inspiring message for Mission Sunday.

Mission Breakfast will be another opportunity to interact with Pam and Dave during their visit. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be on sale January 6 and 13 in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars; you will not want to miss these events. You will be blessed.

Valley Readers

Monday, January 28 2:00 p.m.



A Piece of the World, by Christina Baker Kline, gives the story of the woman behind the iconic painting by Andrew Wyeth, "Christina's World." Kline's novel tells of a woman born and raised on a remote rural farm who had complicated relationship with her family and her Burdened by ill health and poor mobility. she nevertheless served as a model and inspiration for Wyeth. Please join us for a discussion led by Cynthia Krantz of how one woman's life intersected with arguably the most famous painting of the 20th century. additional information please contact Anne Morrison at 520-399-0762.

US Immigration – The Basics

by Alyson Ball

Monday, January 28 1:30 – 2:30 (refreshments afterwards)

All are Welcome!

Sponsor: Peace and Justice Committee

Join us for a non-political presentation that explains the history of US immigration, and our current laws and procedures.

Alyson Ball, a snowbird from Charlottesville, Virginia, sings alto in the VPC choir. She volunteers for the International Rescue Committee and makes presentations about refugees throughout Virginia. Having studied the broader topic of US immigration, Alyson is eager to provide the inquisitive public with an overview of this topic.

Friendship Kettle Dinner

Sunday, January 20 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Saguaro Sunset Trio

<u>Dinner:</u> A delicious meal of pot roast with all the fixings and dessert will be served promptly at 5:00 p.m.

<u>Program:</u> At 6:00 p.m., join us in the sanctuary to enjoy the combined vocals of the Saguaro Sunset Trio singing old favorites, pop, and some of today's popular hits.

<u>Tickets:</u> (\$13) will be on sale in Fellowship Hall prior to, and following, the services on Sunday, January 6 and 13.

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

Join us for Taizé Worship

First Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center
The next Taizé is January 2

If you have not experienced Taizé worship, please come for a service of beautiful music, candlelight, prayer and scripture. If all that isn't beautiful enough, these services will often feature guest musicians as well.



Empty Bowls at Valley Presbyterian Church 13 years of filling bowls that have become empty

Saturday, February 16. Three seatings beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The original Empty Bowls event started in 1990 with a high school art teacher in Michigan and his students, who were searching for a way to raise money. Guests were served a simple meal of soup and bread. They were asked to keep the bowl as a reminder of those who could not have one. This became known as "Empty Bowls."

Now, thirteen years after the first Empty Bowls event by Valley Assistance in 2006, many bowls remain empty in our area. The number of those needing assistance keeps growing each year. This year, Valley Assistance celebrates thirteen years of holding the Empty Bowls event at Valley Presbyterian Church. This year the overwhelming needs have grown to over 5,000. Families and seniors are choosing between rent and health, food or prescriptions.

Thanks to the creativity of local potters (Green Valley Ceramics Studio, Quail Creek Clay Studio and the Quail Creek Ceramics Club), local restaurants, businesses who donate to this popular event, Valley Presbyterian Church, and so many wonderful volunteers, participants can select a handmade bowl (a new selection is available at each seating) and enjoy soup from one of 16 local restaurants. As you sample donated soup from local chefs, please take the bowl home as a reminder... that someone's bowl is always empty and you have helped fill some of that bowl.

Tickets are available for \$20 in advance and will be sold in Charter Hall after Sunday worship services January 6 through February 10. At the door, the tickets will be \$25. There will be three seatings beginning at 11 a.m. Join us and participate in Empty Bowls, Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Valley Presbyterian Church. Call Valley Assistance Services at 625-5966 for more information, or if you would like to volunteer during Empty Bowls.



HAPPINESS IS... COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13



On Sunday, January 13, The Fellowship Committee invites you to a special coffee hour after church to RING IN the NEW YEAR, 2019!! Join us for the FUN! Our theme is HAPPINESS IS... and there are sure to be lots of SMILES!! Come enjoy a Happiness Is... video/song on the big screen, share the little things that make you happy, send a smile postcard to a friend or shut-in, do a happiness word search, color a happy picture, and take home a special SMILE bookmark.

Please feel free to bring a treat or snack that makes you HAPPY!! Let's share HAPPINESS together as we ring in the new year!!



Casa Vida Nueva para Niños, A.C. Home for Children (Orphanage)

To the world you may be one person, but to a child, you are the world.

December 8 Christmas Trip to the Home for Children

Submitted by Reed Olson - Mission Committee



End of the visit - group photo

Wow! What trip best а I wanted to share with everyone the joy and blessings the children and guests received during this Christmas trip. After arriving, we received an overview of the home; Reed talked briefly about RISE Scholastic Achievements. Then, all 42 children were introduced, with the girls performing three dance routines. Next we took a tour of the facility, followed by lunch. Then, everyone went back into the Hall where they waited patiently for the surprise guest: "Santa Claus!" Imagine the

surprise of these children (most have been abused and abandoned) - seeing Santa for the first time and then sitting on his lap as he gave them their presents. Tears of joy were everywhere. A big hit was the personalized Christmas Cards many of you signed. Our trip back home only had a 25 minute wait at the border - fastest crossing ever. It was a great day to share the love of Jesus Christ with these children. Thank you all for the love and generosity you gave for these deserving children.



Santa calls up each child to give them their gift



First, opening Christmas Cards



Next, opening gifts



Carolyn Sittnick meets the child she sponsored



JOIN US FOR INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING!!

Wednesday, January 23 at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 5

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

Come join in the creative fun as we make cards to be included with stipend checks which are given to Youth On Their Own Students each month. We will meet for an hour to an hour and a half on the fourth Wednesday of the month, January 23 at 2 p.m. in Classroom 5.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!









Grief Recovery Workshop

Begins Monday, January 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for five weeks

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

Volunteer Church Grounds Clean-up

January 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.



A work session is scheduled to clean up the grounds around Valley Presbyterian Church. This will involve some bush and hedge trimming, weed pulling, raking, and other tasks that need to be done. If you are able, and can spare a couple of hours to help beautify our church grounds, it will be greatly appreciated.

Bring some work gloves and your favorite tools, such as lawn rakes and hedge clippers. We will assemble in the back parking lot. Your assistance will be a great help to our hard working custodians. Thank you in advance for your help on this project.

Your Building and Grounds Committee

Men's Weekday Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

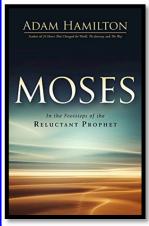
Two church-sponsored men's groups meet during the week, and they would be glad to have you join them!

The first group meets on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. They are now reviewing Warren Wiersbe's commentary "Be Loyal" on the Gospel of Matthew. A group of six men meet in the Media Room of the Silver Springs Retirement Community for fellowship and study and an all-around lively discussion. Anyone interested may join. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

This group, with about six to thirteen men attending each week, meets Wednesday mornings at 9:00 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 use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying the gospel of Matthew. 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. **NOTE: This group will resume meeting on January 9.**

A New Class on Moses

Thursday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. beginning January 17



Please join us as we begin a six-week study on Moses, the reluctant prophet and one of the most important figures in the Old Testament. This study by Adam Hamilton covers the life and the journey of Moses and the Israelites as they leave the bondage of Egypt and spend 40 years in the wilderness. Adam Hamilton retraces this journey through the book and the accompanying DVD and, in doing so, raises important questions for our faith journey today. Join us at 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays, starting January 17 and running for six weeks. The class will be co-facilitated by Marcia MacDonald and Liz Haynes. Books will go on sale beginning in late December at the Faith Formation kiosk after Sunday morning worship. The cost will be \$12.00.

Forming Your Faith: An Adult Sunday School Class

8:30 a.m. in Classroom 5

Start your Sunday mornings with study and conversation. The class discusses the sermon scriptures being read during the worship service that day. Be enriched as you hear how God speaks to others through the scriptures, and then hear the thoughts of the preacher of the day. This class is open to all, so please join us.

The Inquisitors The History of Christianity: From the Disciples through the Dawn of the Reformation

Fridays from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. in Classroom 1

The Inquisitors explores and attempts to understand "The History of Christianity from the Disciples through the Dawn of The Reformation," with Professor Luke Timothy Johnson. We have enjoyed a number of Professor Johnson's courses in the past. This course will examine how Christianity has interacted within different political and cultural contexts. The course will address what are usually regarded as the more "religious" aspects of Christianity: its experiences and convictions, its beliefs and practices, its mode of worship and its manner of life. These lectures will provide us with a new understanding of how Christianity has evolved and definitely enrich our background in our faith.

Christianity and World Religions

Wednesdays (January 9-February 13) at 11:00 a.m.



Pastor/Author Adam Hamilton offers an opportunity to grow in the understanding of our Christian faith as we seek to learn the similarities and differences with other religions. In this divided world, "how should Christians relate to their Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Jewish neighbors?" Part of this journey is learning to love our neighbors, and working toward building bridges to better understanding. Come and join this study adventure. Books (\$12) are available after worship on January 6 at the Faith Formation Kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

Exploring Membership Class

Tuesdays, February 5, 12, and 19 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Classroom 5

Do you want to learn more about Valley Pres? Are you wondering how you can be more involved? Perhaps you are thinking about becoming a member. The Exploring Membership Class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership.

In this class, 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.

If you decide to join, you will meet with the Session on Thursday, February 28 at 8 a.m. You can become an affiliate member (whereby you keep your main membership with your church back "home") or an active member (full membership here at Valley).

Contact Pastor Diane Christopher to register (625-5023).

More Blog Readers Wanted (12 and Counting)

Submitted by Doug Clark

A blog reader is anyone with access to a computer who can type in "bobandkristi.blogspot.com." Have you ever wanted to read a missionary's diary? Consider reading the real-life story of Bob and Kristi Rice, who share, on a weekly basis, the story of God working in their lives.

We made it to graduation!

"Today the playground is transformed," said Honorable Rebecca Joshua, government Minister of Roads and Bridges, "adorned with flowers and the presence of many dignitaries." It was true – the outdoor basketball stadium in Juba did not look like the same place where we had watched basketball practice the night before. The bold colors of the women's dresses reflected in the bright sun highlighted an atmosphere of celebration. Families of the graduates brought buckets of home-made sweets from home that they passed out to everyone around them. Government ministers arrived with their security detail and television cameras poised to broadcast the event. But it was clear throughout the program that the 'stars' of the show were the 15 graduates of NTC proudly receiving their diplomas.

Rev. Santino, principal of NTC, recounted the history of the school in his remarks. Started in Khartoum in 1991, NTC opened a branch in Southern Sudan in 2011 in the city of Malakal. But devastating conflict in 2013 took the lives of four students and caused them to temporarily close the school. They reopened in Juba in 2014 with only five students, but gradually some who had interrupted their studies and fled the conflict were able to resume their studies. On Monday, the first graduation for NTC in Juba was held, with graduates from 'batch 11' (finishing this year) and also 'batch 10' (who finished two years ago). Of the students in batch 10, 26 started the program in 2011, only to be interrupted by the conflict in 2013. Only five were able to complete their studies and only three were present for graduation. Gideon, one of those three, having moved his family to Ethiopia for security reasons where his wife is currently in school, made the long journey to Juba just for graduation. Several of the graduates have not seen their families in more than a year or even longer, sacrificing and persevering to finish their studies....

With the low rates of education in South Sudan and the struggle that it takes to complete school, graduation is truly something to celebrate at any level. Relatives, church members, and friends all came to join in acknowledging the rare distinction of completing a bachelors-level program. The culture of graduation in Juba is to adorn the graduate with a 'wreath' of tinsel when they receive their diploma, along with sometimes spraying with powder, wrapping a traditional embroidered sheet around the graduate to wear, or giving them flowers....





Rev. Michael Aban, NTC Registrar, read the names and a short bio of each of the graduates as they came forward to receive their diploma and congratulations from the leadership of NTC and the government representatives. Each graduate even had their picture taken with the First Vice President of South Sudan, General Taban Deng Gai. As they returned to their seats, fanfare and jubilation erupted from their families and friends waiting on the side. Each one was joyfully wreathed with tinsel, sometimes piled so high that the graduate could not even see. Cheers and ululations broke out, along with

continued next page

jostling for hugs and selfies with the graduate.... Gen. Taban Deng Gai appreciated the long history of the Presbyterian Churches in Sudan and South Sudan, and the emphasis on providing education that will promote peace and stability in South Sudan. Bishop Isaiah, General Overseer of the Pentecostal Church of Sudan, offered a challenge and a charge to go and make disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit and the assurance that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18-20)

The past blogs read like a real-life novel, chronicling God in action through the writings of Bob and Kristi Rice. Please join me in following our missionaries, and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by telling me, or emailing me (douglasclark68@me.com).



Update from Operation Mobilisation (Pam and Dave L.)

Submitted by Doug Clark, from the Pakistan Partnership Update

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us to You!

Jesus is our True Peace—Prince of Peace He is for sure!!

This past year we have traveled to many countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Germany and others, to encourage, train. and serve over 400 co-workers in 14 countries. We are grateful that we have the opportunity to serve the church and reach out to 500 million of the least reached peoples in Central Asia/South Asia. We are doing this through many projects that help transform the lives of men, women, and children. For example, about half of the women in Pakistan and Bangladesh cannot read or write, staff teach them how to read and write today.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer concerning our family members too.

Justin and Koheun are spending a month here in the States and will be celebrating Christmas with Rachel's family and us. We cherish these days with them. Please continue to pray for guidance and clarity for their walk with Jesus.

Please pray for us, for continued health, strength, and for His power as we serve and help oversee ministry and staff in 14 countries.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer and financial support! May God bless you richly! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Every blessing,

Pam and Dave L

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
January 2019		1 NEW YEARS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	8:00 Ministry Of 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 1:00 Worship 5:00 Taizé Worship Kylene Joplin
6 Communion Food Bank Collection 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship & Communion at LaJoya 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Confirmation Class	9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Mission Quilting 9:30 Grief Recovery Workshop 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 AAUW Meeting 1:00 Adult Confirmation Class 1:30 Officer Training Quentin Gessner, Bill McKinley, Dorothy Sauder	8 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 8:30 WM Coordinating Team 8:45 Mission Committee 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Personnel Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble 4:00 Kettle Dinner Committee	9 8:15 Crossroads 9:00 Men's Bible 9:00 Parkinson's 9:00 Deacons 9:00 Volunteer 10:00 Chair Exercise 10:30 Lois Circle 11:00 Christianity & 1:00 Miriam Circle
Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour - Happiness Is 10:45 Confirmation Class Charles Anderson	9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Peace & Justice Committee 9:30 Grief Recovery Workshop 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Faith Formation Committee 1:00 Adult Confirmation Class 1:30 Officer Training George Pike, Billie Youngblut	8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 11:30 Women's Gathering 1:30 Finance Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	8:15 Crossroads 9:00 Men's Bible 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 11:00 Christianity &
20 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Confirmation Class 10:45 Blood Pressure Screening 5:00 Kettle Dinner	21 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Mission Quilting & Pot Luck Salad Lunch 9:30 Grief Recovery Workshop 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:00 Adult Confirmation Class 4:00 Ruth Circle Vicki Chvala, Lee Neuman, Jennie Yanamura	22 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:00 Creative Hands 9:00 Prayer Shawls in Classroom 1 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 Publicity Committee 1:30 VPC Foundation Quarterly Meeting 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	9:00 Men's Bible 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 11:00 Christianity & 2:00 YOTO Note
27 Congregational Care Fair Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Confirmation Class Gerry Appleton, Carol LeClair, Barbara Platte	9:00 Library Committee 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:30 Grief Recovery Workshop 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:00 Adult Confirmation Class 1:30 US Immigration Presentation - The Basics 2:00 Valley Readers Nancy Thies	8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	9:00 Men's Bible 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair Exercise 11:00 Christianity & Judy Christensen, Cheryl Stepp

	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Presence Exercise Class Committee	9:30 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Minister New Training Class 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 11:00 SM Trainees & Leaders Luncheon 1:30 Inquisitors: The History of Christianity	5 7:30 Communion Prep Marya Dalrymple, Glenn Steinacker, DeWayne Triplett	
Mission Lunch Prep Study Exercise Meeting Grounds Clean Up Class World Religions	8:00 Patio Sale Sorting & Marking 9:00 Faith & Health Committee 10:30 Fellowship Committee 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed. 9:00 Stephen Minister New Training Class 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Stephen Ministry Peer Group 11:00 Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting 1:30 Inquisitors: The History of Christianity	12	
		Diana Dougherty	Bruce Nylund	
Mission Lunch Prep Study Exercise Class World Religions	17 1:00 Moses 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 1:00 GV Genealogical Society 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	18 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Minister New Training Class 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting 1:30 Inquisitors: The History of Christianity	19 8:30 Mission Fellowship Breakfast	
	Martha Ashton	Terry Hopper	Connie Snow	
Study Exercise Class World Religions Writing	8:00 Session Meeting 1:00 Moses 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed. 9:00 Stephen Minister New Training Class 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 11:00 Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting 12:00 Congregational Care Fair Set Up 1:30 Inquisitors: The History of Christianity 6:00 Music in the Valley: Nino Bakeadze Piano	26	
	Helen Fuller, Dian Jansma, LucilleLee, Gordon Page	Carolyn Blomeke, Tom Dierken, Linda Freeman, Mark Horton, Mary Ann Root, Marie Valade		
Study Exercise Class World Religions	31 1:00 Moses 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	***NOTE: Although our church OFFICE is closed on Fridays (in other words, the office staff is not present), the CHURCH is still open, and many activities are going on. The custodial staff is on hand to assist if needed.		

Thank You

The Valley Galley and the Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone who had a part in our first Community Christmas Caroling event. The many who baked cookies, printed our song sheets, sang with us, served cocoa and cookies, and joined us in spending a <u>Saturday afternoon</u> bringing the love of Christ to our Green Valley friends were appreciated. Many Thanks.



















From the Peace & Justice Committee HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!

Submitted by Cara Bissell

May each of us be able to communicate with the love of Our Savior in our hearts.

There are currently three projects, one just finished and two coming up.

- 1. We hosted a series of five Monday sessions dealing with controversy using Brad Munroe's book *Waging Peace*.
- 2. Alyson Ball, who is in the VPC choir, is presenting two "just the facts please" nonpartisan presentation on immigration laws and statistics.
 - a. A Veterans For Peace (VFP) meeting in Tucson, January 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 - b. The same presentation at Valley Presbyterian Church on Monday, January 28 from 1:30 2:30 p.m.
- 1. The third project is the sixth annual Peace Essay Contest for Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools. The first and second place winners will enjoy double the prize money awarded in previous years.

We welcome speakers to our meetings to increase perspectives towards further nonviolent work. For example, in November, guest speakers Alyson Ball, VPC congregant and choir member, informed us of her presentation on immigration from a statistical and historical point of view. Gerry Condon, President of the VFP Board, International, and Maurice Martin, also a member of the VFP International Board, spoke of the similarities between veterans and the general population even though only 1% of the U.S. Public has served in the armed forces.

The Peace & Justice Committee of Valley Presbyterian Church seeks nonviolent ways to progress, personally through internationally, by reducing the military industrial congressional complex. We strive to continue the work started with the "Presbyterian Peace Church" movement done earlier this decade and in step with our Presbyterian Peace Fellowship currently moderated by Rev. Emily Brewer. Come join us monthly. The next meeting will be on January 14, 2019 at 9 a.m.

Sincerely submitted - Peace & Justice Committee, Valley Presbyterian Church

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Mary Horn, Mission Committee liaison to YOTO

On behalf of **YOUTH ON THEIR OWN**, I would like to thank our congregation for their generous support of the CHRISTMAS SPREAD THE WARMTH CAMPAIGN to give each student a plush throw and a gift certificate. THANK YOU, TOO, for the needed food and cash donations to their mini-mall. Your TLC is greatly appreciated.

Some Words and Thoughts from Amigo Steve Setterlund

I've been involved in the Patio Sale for several years now. I've really enjoyed being part of the truck crew. There is nothing better than getting a bunch of guys together for some good old back breaking work. One thing I have noticed being part of the Patio Sale is that there seems to be some confusion over what can be donated for resale. I hope to clarify what can and cannot be donated, as well as provide some information where you can dispose of those unwanted items. For the most part, we accept just about everything with a few exceptions. One thing to keep in mind when donating, what you donate to the Patio Sale must be in good enough condition to be sold. Broken and poor condition furniture, and non-functioning electronics must be disposed of by the church. Patio Sale must pay to dispose of these donations, which means there is less money for our missions. Following is a list of items we cannot accept as donations. Reasons for this include federal and state law as well as salability.

Items that cannot be donated:

Hazardous waste (paints, batteries, cleaning solutions & etc.)

Mattresses, blinds, curtains

Older picture tube TVs

Built-in dishwashers, microwaves, ovens

Kitchen cabinets and sinks

Organs

Outside screens for windows

Non-working electronics (computers, printers, stereo equip & etc.)

Non-working electrical items (vacuums, coffee makers, hair dryers, & etc.)

If any item is in question, ask someone.

Now, for the good info. Here is a list of locations where you can drop off items that cannot be donated to the church. They have a websites where you can get a complete list of what you can drop off, as well as any costs. You can do a Google search to find the websites.

Sahuarita Transfer Station

16605 S. La Canada Rd. Sahuarita, AZ 520-623-7300 (Pima County Waste) Will accept most household waste including appliances (drop off fee) and furniture

Non-hazardous waste. Call if items in question. \$20.00 per vehicle up to 1 ton.

Rise Electronic Recycling

1134 S. Park Ave. Tucson 520-623-7162

Most anything electronic, medical equipment, carpet cleaners, office chairs, file cabinets, vacuums, flat screen TVs, (no large tube TVs). Call if any items in question. There is no fee for dropping off recycling.

Los Reales Landfill

5300 E. Los Reales Rd., Tucson, AZ. (off Craycroft & I10) 520-791-4183

Most anything can be delivered, including hazardous waste and big tube TV's

Call if you have any questions.

\$15.00 drop off fee up to 2000 lbs.

Best Buy retail stores will recycle big tube TV's for a \$25.00 fee for each TV.

Will accept up to two TV's per person per day.

Women's Ministries

January 15 at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Carol Peeler, Moderator

The Women's Ministries have been busy with our programs. In November, we had a very good explanation of where our Thank Offering goes and how it has helped so many. We heard how it benefited the D.I.A.P.E.R. Project, which was Janice Potter's presentation.

For December, we had a Christmas Basket Making Time. We have 10 people that will be receiving the baskets. We want to show we are thinking, and loving, of the people who are home-bound. We bought the things to put in the baskets and we put them together at the meeting.

In January, we will be hearing about the trips to Louisville from Kay Davison, Martha Ashton and Carol Peeler.

Tickets (\$11) for the next Gathering will be available after worship on January 6 and 13 at the Women's Ministry Table. And, remember to get your Cook Book. They make a great present. We have been using recipes from the book for the luncheon menus and everyone loves the food.

You may still sign up for our Bible Study if you are just getting here or haven't been able to get signed up yet. Stop by and talk to us at the table and ask questions or give suggestions for what you would be interested in. This is your Ministry and we need you to carry it out to the fullest.

We are wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Patio Sale News

First, a big "Thank you" to all the people who came to help at our December sort. We had one of the biggest sorts ever, but we got one of the biggest numbers of people ever to help us. We were worried that we would be there right through noon, but we finished at about 11. So again, thanks to everyone who came.

We could use your help

We are in need of more help. We could use people who are experienced in driving a truck, and others who can lift and load furniture when we pick it up from homes and then unload it at the storage place. We are often asked to clean out houses or apartments, which takes a crew of people. Imagine what it would take to pack up everything in your own home, and then you have an idea of what the task is. We need people who are willing to help out with this job.

We are asking for people who are willing to put in some effort, but along with the work comes a good time together. One of the major reason people volunteer with us is for the camaraderie with the other workers.

From now until the Patio Sale in March, we will have a table in the Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour where you can talk to some of the Amigos. It will be your opportunity to ask questions and get information about volunteer opportunities. Stop by and say hello.

Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

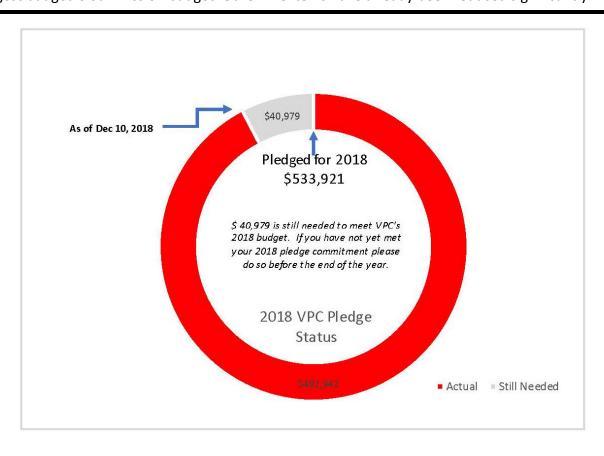
The Finance Committee met on December 18 to review the November year-to-date financial statements. The financials as of November 30, 2018 show that the deficit has grown again. It now stands at \$109,524 compared to an anticipated deficit of \$91,232.

The revenues are down. Year-to-date revenues are \$25,364 below our projected revenues. The giving levels have not risen as anticipated. When we look at budget to actual, the revenues are down 3.7% from the year -to-date budget and expenses are down approximately .9% (again, that is a good thing!!). This gives us a negative net income variance as shown below:

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue	\$705,932	\$731,296	(\$25,364)
Expense	<u>\$815,456</u>	\$822,52 <u>8</u>	<u>(\$ 7,072)</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>(\$109,524)</u>	<u>(\$ 91,232)</u>	<u>\$ 18,292</u>

The Finance Committee presented the proposed 2019 balanced budget to Session in November. We tried to develop a budget that is both realistic and representative of each committee's programs and projects for 2019. As of December 18, we have received 190 pledges, but the goal set for the 2019 Generosity Campaign is still short by \$106,477. This compares to 250 pledges received at this time last year for 2018. If you have already sent in your pledge card, we say "THANK YOU!!" If you have not, please let us know if you will participate this year with your best estimate.

We will continue to work on the best assumptions available to ensure a balanced budget for 2019. This means we may have to consider reductions in our ministries to balance with income estimates and/or continue to deplete our reserves. Our two largest investments are personnel costs and building costs; the next largest budget is our mission budget. Other line items have already been reduced significantly.





News of Note

By Joel Pierce



Music in the Valley Scholarship

Three recipients of the newly formed Music in the Valley Scholarship have been chosen. We look forward to hearing these musicians during our Sunday morning worship services, and at the final concert of the season on April 5, 2019.

Jeremy Meeker-Hackett is an undergraduate at the University of Arizona and is studying music education and voice.

Todd Wachsman, who directed our choir while I was on vacation, will also receive one of the awards. He is a DMA candidate in choral conducting, and he directs the Green Valley Community Chorus.

Jacob Fernandez, a master's student in Bassoon performance, will receive the third award. Jacob has participated in our Taizé services, and Music Ministry Sunday service.

The next Music in the Valley Concert features: Nino Bakradze (award winning pianist) Friday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m.

From a very early age, Ms. Bakradze has presented piano recitals worldwide, including Finland, Poland, Armenia, Georgia, China, Spain, Brazil, and the USA. Most recently, she won the Gold Medal and First Prize at the Louisiana International Piano Competition (USA, 2015) and the Silver Medal at the Cincinnati World Piano Competition (USA, 2015). She was a winner of the Lois Trester Piano Competition (USA, 2015), winner of the President's Concerto Competition at the University of Arizona, and a prize winner of USASU Bosendorfer International Piano Competition (Phoenix, AZ, 2015). In 2014, she was a prizewinner in Spain's Maria Canals International Piano Competition and in 2012, she was awarded Third Place at the BNDS International Piano Competition of Rio de Janeiro. She won both New England Conservatory's Concerto Competition and the Piano Honors Competition. Ms. Bakradze is a doctoral student at the University of Arizona where she studies with Professor Tannis Gibson.

Flower Ministry

Submitted by Linda Freeman

Even the trees will clap their hands! When we have flowers in the chancel area on Sunday mornings we are reminded that all living things praise our Creator. After the service, the flowers are broken into smaller bouquets and distributed to people who may have missed the service or need a special lift.

Each one of us can participate in this caring ministry. Due to financial constraints, we will now have one larger bouquet for a cost of \$45, rather than two smaller ones. Please consider sponsoring a bouquet as a remembrance of someone dear to you, or as a celebration of a special occasion. You can sign up for flowers at the Information Table on Sunday mornings, or call the church office. Remember, if you would like to sponsor a bouquet, please do it several weeks in advance. Become part of this caring ministry.



Joel has alerted me to a new piece of tech aimed at seniors. It's called the Grandpad, and it's basically a very scaled down tablet. However, it is scaled down so it can do what it does well, and a very user-friendly interface. The Grandpad (sold by Consumer Cellular for \$200 plus a \$40 monthly fee - no contract) allows the user to

tap a photo to make a call (including video call), send and receive emails, take and share photos, see the weather for themselves and family members, play music, and even play a few games. Perhaps best of all, it has a flashlight and magnifying glass (haha)! Wireless is built in, just like a cell phone has (using T-Mobile), so you don't have to have a WiFi connection like you would with most tablets. Its focus is family and simplicity, so there is an app that family members can use on phones, tablets, and computers to communicate with the Grandpad. The family members can update their contact info in the app and everyone in the family will have it. And, of course, family members can initiate calls, etc. from their apps. The Grandpad does not allow the user to add any apps that don't come preinstalled. Again, the aim is simplicity. This is geared toward those who are completely unfamiliar with, and intimidated by, technology. If a person has even a limited comfort level, this device is probably not ideal because everything it can do can easily be done on a regular tablet or a smart phone.

Joel's family bought one for his grandfather. The family member who bought it set everyone else up with a profile, so all Joel had to do was download the app onto his phone, and now he's connected to the whole family. It's very recent so he hasn't used it much yet, but he thinks it seems like a good idea on the surface.

One review I read said, "The GrandPad isn't the kind of thing that people buy for themselves; it's something their relatives buy for them." Just as with Joel's family, that seems to often be the case. The reviews I read were almost all exactly that, and they were also very consistently flattering. Even the most technophobic person was said to find it easy to use and fun. So, if you have an anti-tech relative who would benefit from being a bit more connected to the family, this might be a great product.



Join our Mission Trip to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

On March 7, 2019

Submitted by Kay Brouwer - Mission Committee Liaison to St. Andrews Children's Clinic

On March 7, 2019, we will be taking about 20 people to see, firsthand, the glorious mission happening in Nogales, Arizona at the St. Andrew's Children's Clinic. Learn about St. Andrew's Children's Clinic by visiting the church website, www.valleypresbyterian.net, and clicking on the Mission tab. Or, go to the clinic website, www.standrewsclinic.org. Videos on both these sites show how St. Andrew's Children's Clinic helps suffering children and families receive God's blessings. Contact Kay Brouwer, 573-552-2313 or kkbrouwer1942@gmail.com, to indicate your interest in joining us on this Mission Trip.

St. Andrew's Clinic Cleft Palate Mission



Ana, before cleft lip surgery, and at age 1 year, 2 months





Congregational Care

Each month in the Valley Voice a few of the ministries under Congregational Care will be highlighted.

Congregational Care cares for the congregation in many ways. We are many parts, but all one body. The Board of Deacons provides oversight over these ministries (with exception of the Parish Nurse).

Sunday Fellowship Communion, Communion Prep & Extended Communion Grief & Bereavement Ministry Network of Caring, Rideshare & Homebound Communication of Care to the Congregants Stephen Ministry
Prayer Ministry & Prayer Shawls
Facility Visitation
Ushers, Owl Express, & Safety
QAPI



Congregational Care

Network of Caring (NOC)

Looking for a Few Special People

Did you know that Network of Caring contacts the members of our church family each month? Our purpose is to share news with you and listen to any news you would like to share with us. God provides for his people through his people. We need a few more special people who care about others, because every household does not currently have someone to contact them. Please notify Linda Jorn at ljorn1@cox.net or 520-648-1542 to discuss neighborhoods where your caring talents could make a difference to someone. The rewards of participating in this ministry will bring you much joy — I guarantee it!



Congregational Care

Quality Assurance, Process Improvement (QAPI)

This special ministry, under Congregational Care and the Board of Deacons, maintains policies, procedures, a manual, and the budget for Congregational Care. The policies and procedures include job descriptions and what each of these ministries do:

Sunday Fellowship

Communion, Communion Prep & Extended Communion

Grief & Bereavement Ministry

Network of Caring, Rideshare & Homebound

Communication of Care to the Congregants

Stephen Ministry

Prayer Ministry & Prayer Shawls

Facility Visitation

Ushers, Owl Express, & Safety

QAPI also maintains and oversees the budget of Congregational Care. Purchase requisition and payment authorization forms are signed and recorded by QAPI.

QAPI improves the process and procedures of Congregational Care.



Congregational Care

A Gift of Chocolates

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

Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get. This popular phrase comes from the movie *Forrest Gump*. This also reminds me of our health. You never know what you have inherited, what will come along, what will happen, especially in the New Year. So, instead of opening up the box of chocolates and trying to determine which one might be the best, just open the box and enjoy; enjoy all the possibilities of the New Year, especially caring for oneself as we care for others.

We are all caregivers of some kind to someone. We need to take care of us. No matter what the issue, no matter what the problem, each of us needs to take time to care for ourselves so we can better care for others. Caring for ourselves is often placed on the back burner. Remember to take time to take a walk or exercise, listen to music or play a musical instrument, take a nap, visit with a support group, talk with family, friends, and neighbors that may lend support, or just sit and relax and have a cup of tea with a good book, especially on these cooler winter days.

Take time, be aware of your own health and seek out a health care provider if needed. Caregiving and stress go hand in hand. Stress can lead to numerous health difficulties or problems if it is not decreased or

addressed. Our emotions and energy may also be on the lower side following the holidays. Taking the time to care for ourselves is caring for others.



In Psalm 119:50, we hear the words: "This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life." Just as our stress, emotions, our energy, and our outlook affects our health, so does our health affect our spirit. Mind, body, and spirit are related. A new year is here and a new sense of mindfulness. Next time you open a box of chocolates, maybe one you received as a gift during the holidays, remember to take time with small bites of sweetness and care for yourself, so you can care for others, and enjoy!



Congregational Care

Stephen Ministry

Submitted by Helen Phillips

Please pray for our new class of Stephen Ministers, who begin training on January 4 for 10 weeks. Marita Ramsay, Mary Lee Haas, and Bob Lillie are from VPC. We're pleased to have two guests train with us again this year: Deb Jones from the United Methodist Church of GV and Ginny Arundell from St Francis Episcopal. Pray also for the Stephen Leaders who will be leading the training classes. May His grace be sufficient for all!



Pictures from the Longest Night Service December 19, 2018 by Congregational Care

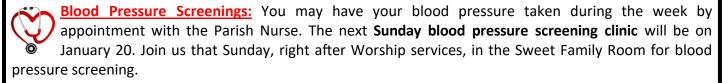




Congregational Care

Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News

Watch for many upcoming events, programs, and presentations on health starting this winter.



Movement & Exercise Classes Here at VPC:



- <u>Parkinson's Support/Exercise</u> meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 10 a.m. For more information, contact instructor Mia Cooper at 204-5264.
- <u>Chair Exercise</u> 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.

<u>Alzheimer's Support & Education at VPC:</u> The Alzheimer's support group continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Sweet Family Room. This support group helps to share feelings and concerns, and receive information. For more information, or to register, contact the Alzheimer's Association at (520) 322-6601.



The **Faith and Health Committee** will be training on the Virtual Dementia Tour® soon, and will be able to present this in the near future.



<u>Healing Soup Meal:</u> Please contact the church office or Chris Erickson, Parish Nurse, if you know of someone who may need this meal.



Congregational Care

Congregational Care Sunday and Care Fair Sunday

Sunday, January 27, 2019 after worship

Join us for Congregational Care Sunday and the Congregational Care Fair following the Worship Service in Fellowship Hall on January 27, 2019.

Meet all the ministries that are under the umbrella of Congregational Care and the Board of Deacons.



Congregational Care

Medical Minute



Ever drink a cup of hot cocoa during the winter months? A cup of cocoa may actually put us in a good mood and help us stay positive. Studies show that drinking cocoa, because of its many nutrients, may do this. Enjoy a cup.



Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol Green Valley, AZ 85622 (520) 625-5023 vpc-office@valleypres.net www.valleypresbyterian.net is a member of Presbytery de Cristo in The Synod of the Southwest, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastors

Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship Rev. Joe Hawkins, Pastor Emeritus

Staff

Joel Pierce, Director of Music Chris Erickson, Parish Nurse

Mission Statement

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

Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship

9:30 a.m. in the VPC Sanctuary

Communion served on first Sunday of each month

January 6 Epiphany Glory: It's Good For You Rev. Diane Christopher

January 13 What's In a Name? Rev. Mark A. Medina

January 20 Discovering God's Destiny for Your Life

Dave L (name confidential)

January 27 Genuine Care for Others

The Caring Ministry

La Joya at La Posada

9:00 a.m. at La Joya

Communion served on the first Sunday of each month

January 6 Rev. Mark A. Medina and Rudy Sweisfurth

January 20 Gee-Gee Smith

Taizé

Wednesday, January 2 at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

Church Giving Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the year 2019 have arrived. Please come to the office during normal office hours and pick them up.

Patio Sale Dates for 2019

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

Sorting: Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 6, Apr. 11, May 16, Jun. 20,

Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sep. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 19

Patio Sale: March 14, 15 & 16 (set-up March 11-13)

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

Reminder: Church Office Closed Fridays

The church office is open Mondays-Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Although the church <u>building</u> is open on Fridays, please remember the <u>front office</u> is closed that day of the week. If you leave a telephone message for the staff, you will not receive a response until Monday morning. In the case of an emergency, please use the Pastor On Call instruction in our phone menu. Thank you.