

Valley Voice

Thoughts for the Journey

Whether we like it or not, change and transitions happen in life. We would like to keep things like they were from days gone by and in many cases, we fight to keep those ways. Fortunately or unfortunately, every day, every moment, every relationship, every event, moves us forward to a destination. So, change is part of life and transitions happen no matter how hard we try to keep things from the past.

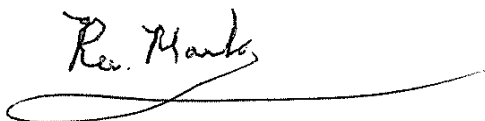
As people of faith, we are challenged daily to live the life Christ taught us. When you and I accepted him into our lives, we committed to change our ways from sinful actions, living and speaking. This conversion to the Christian life is a major transition for each of us to become more Christ-like. Yes, the Lord went to the cross for us and took all of our sins too. So, our lives are set on other ways of living and acting; the ways of Christ.

The one constant in our faith is a God who is changeless because he loves us more than many of us realize. Scripture says, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." [1 John 3:1 (NRSV)]

Remember, each of us is on a journey of faith where change, transitions and love are constants. I would encourage you to embrace them and to lean into them. On the one hand, fighting for the past will just keep us there. While on the other hand, constantly striving to become more Christ-like is a blessing for life and faith.

So, look ahead to the path that is full of change and transition and stop looking in the rearview mirror. One more item for the road, God loves you.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor

Retirement of Gay Larson begins on June 3rd. Please join us for a reception for Gay on Sunday, June 2 after worship. Many blessings to Gay and Kirby.

Staff Transitions: More information on page 3.

- **Wes Moulton** is our new Interim Accompanist as of May 5.
- **Laurie Allen** is our new Executive Secretary beginning May 20.
- **Jamie Reed** is our new Interim Music Director beginning May 28.

Transitions ahead:

- Pentecost Sunday, June 9. The gift of the Holy Spirit to the church.
- Father's Day, June 16.
- Montlure Camp, Sunday, June 30.

Grapevine on Monday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m. on "Ask the Transitional Pastor, with Rev. Medina."

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On Being a Congregation

The other day I was in a committee meeting and someone said, "In our culture today, most people choose a church because of the congregation not because of the pastor." His comment reminded me of the post Wendy Kopera placed on her Facebook page regarding her last Sunday at Valley. So before you go any further, go to page 7 in this newsletter and read Wendy's article.

Did you read it? Here is a snippet: "Joel has worked at a lot of churches and I've visited or sung at many of them. Never, ever before have I experienced the kind of love, support, and caring that both Joel and I experienced at Valley Presbyterian Church...I hope you all know how very, very special you are."

What a testimony to this congregation.

Others have seen it, too. 44 people have joined this church in our transitional time, a time when we did not have a senior pastor in place. This tells me these people joined our church not because of the pastors, but because they like us. They want to become a part of this Body of Christ because of who you are.

So first of all, thank you, congregation, for being who you are...kind, generous, caring, deep in faith, desiring to serve God and others. Second, keep working at being the best People of God, Family of God, Body of Christ, Holy Temple, Bride of Christ you can be. We have been placed on a hill in this part of Green Valley for a purpose – to let others know of God's great love for them.

But you are a chosen people,
A royal priesthood,
A holy nation,
A people belonging to God,
That you may declare the praises of him who called you out of
darkness
Into his wonderful light.
I Peter 2:9

Serving Together,



Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

Valerie St. John's new address
(published with permission):

5100 John D Ryan Blvd #2306
San Antonio, TX 78245
C: 210-441-0521

The Grapevine – an Open Congregational Forum

Monday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for the next Grapevine on June 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary as we "Ask the Transitional Pastor."

New Faces (Staff) at Valley Presbyterian Church



Our new, Interim Director of Music: Jamie Reed - Jamie was born and raised into a musical ministry in Farmington Hills, Michigan. A third generation choral director, she began accompanying her mother's church choirs at the age of 12. From there she continued her growth as a Christian, musician and educator, completing her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. After graduation, Jamie music-directed every show she could, played for national tours, worked for Holland America Cruise Lines, and made music for many different religious denominations. About 20 years later, Jamie eventually made her way back to Farmington Hills, MI to raise her little boy and plant seeds as an adult in her childhood town. It was at this time that she became the Director of Music at Orchard United Methodist Church, where her grandma and mom both served as Director of Music starting in the 1960's. She was responsible for anything related to music: traditional service, contemporary service, handbells, kids and teenagers, and all piano playing. Approximately four years later she took a leap of faith and accepted a position in the Musical Theatre Department at University of Arizona, moving her family, as well as her mom, to Arizona. Now that Arizona is her home, she is so happy to be able to share her love for music with Valley Presbyterian. When Jamie is not making music, she continues to raise her energetic, feisty, and very musical six-year-old son, Anjelo.



Our new, Interim Accompanist: Wes Moulton - Wes was raised by his grandparents on a working farm 30 miles south of Abilene, TX. He became interested in church music at an early age, a curiosity that was encouraged by the pianist at the church where he grew up. After piano studies in the studios of Susan Conner and Lynda Sandlin, he studied organ with Dr. Laura Ellis and organ and choir conducting with Dr. Wes Gomer, both at McMurry University in Abilene, Tx. After studying Biology and Chemistry at university, he began a career in pharmaceutical compounding, supervising the compounding lab of a drugstore in Abilene before moving to Tucson in 2015 and becoming the Director of Compounding/Innovation at Prescription Lab Compounding Pharmacy. When not working on either music or pharmacy, Wes enjoys gardening, acrylic painting, and spending time with friends and family.

He most recently was the Organist/Choirmaster at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sierra Vista, and before moving to Arizona, was the Organist/Choir Director at First Christian Church in Breckenridge, Texas for five years. He has deep roots in sacred music and the worship experience and is eager to be part of Valley's dynamic music ministry. He is grateful to be able to serve at Valley Pres and looks forward to meeting you (he will be near wherever coffee is being served!).



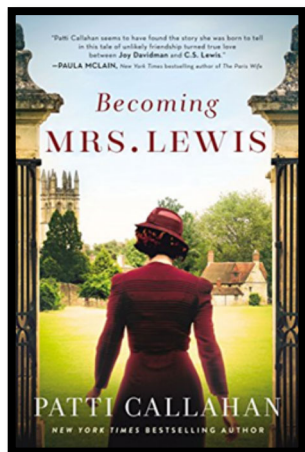
Our new Executive Secretary: Laurie Allen - Laurie comes to Valley Presbyterian as an accomplished Administration professional with expertise in operations, project management and strategic planning. She has had incredible opportunities in her career in various office settings and developed strong relationships with others from all walks of life. Laurie has a diverse professional background that spans from a medical office to a design center and several years of experience in the mining industry.

Laurie was born in Iowa and lived in Wyoming for thirty years. She spent two years in the Phoenix area and has lived in Green Valley for the past thirteen years. She has a daughter and five wonderful grandchildren - two adults and one graduating this year and attending U of A for Environmental Engineering. She has a six-year-old Yorkie, who is her pride and joy.

Laurie looks forward to starting this wonderful collaboration with Valley Presbyterian and building long, lasting relationships with its members and staff.

Valley Readers

Monday, June 24
2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1
(rescheduled from May)



An American woman of Jewish descent and an English academic and Christian writer seemed on the surface to have little in common. Joy Davidman first met C. S. Lewis through letters when she wrote seeking spiritual guidance, but on a trip to England they met in person and became friends. Joy was soon in love but Lewis was content with a platonic friendship until the shadow of tragedy fell over Joy and he realized how much he cared for her. This biographical novel of Joy Davidman's life has been described as persuasive, penetrating and luminous. Join us for a discussion of this work led by Rev. Diane Christopher. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

Women's Ministries

Submitted by Carol Peeler, Moderator

We have finished the 2018 Bible Study "God Is Always with You." Thanks to all the leaders for studying and giving the lessons, and thank to Pastor Diane Christopher for teaching the leaders. Also, thanks to all the ladies who joined the studies. We always have room for new members and pray you will join us. Look at our booklet (available soon at the Women's Ministries table on Sundays) for a time and day that fits your schedule, and join that Circle.

We had our Salad Potluck on May 21 and this was the last gathering until September 2019. The installation of new officers was held at the meeting and the new officers took over. They are Janice Potter - Moderator, Anne Morrison - Vice-Moderator, Gee-Gee Smith - Treasurer, Liz Haynes - Secretary, and Carol Peeler and Gee-Gee Smith - nomination committee.

We will be working on updating our booklet to give out to the congregation over the summer. This has a list of all Women's Ministries members with phone numbers and emails. It lists times and places of meetings, and also the programs to be presented. If anyone has a topic they would like to hear about, or a program they would like to present, talk to one of the officers. Bring your ideas to us.

We have cookbooks at the Women's Ministries table on Sundays, \$15 each or two for \$25. The cookbook was used throughout the year for our gathering luncheons. The recipes are excellent. You know we always put our best recipes in because they are tried and true.

Thank you all for a wonderful year of being the moderator of Women's Ministries.

Thank You from Joel

Thank you all for the many cards I received, and for your monetary gifts. I also appreciate the warm clothes and ice scrapers! Your outpouring of love and support means the world to me, and I carry it with me to Maine and beyond. It was an honor to serve and share my music with you. I formed so many valuable friendships during my time there, and I'm grateful for the various technologies (email, social media, blogs and websites) that allows me to remain close to the wonderful people at Valley Presbyterian. I will keep you all in my prayers.

God Bless,
 Joel

Annual Fourth of July Picnic at VPC

Sunday, July 7 in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship

What would July 4th be without our annual picnic at VPC?

On Sunday, July 7 we will again celebrate a picnic/brunch immediately following our worship service with hotdogs, baked beans, and potato chips in Fellowship Hall. And as always, you can even make your own ice cream sundae for dessert!

The Fellowship Committee is hosting this event again at no cost to you! All we ask is everyone to be in the spirit of the holiday, honoring our country.



Wear something patriotic; red, white and blue. Enjoy a hotdog or hamburger and build your sundae. Have some fun! Enjoy the fireworks! Most of all, enjoy the fellowship!

Plan on coming to our annual picnic/brunch in Fellowship Hall immediately after church on July 7 and having fun!!!



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has received 36 applications for the position of Head Pastor and more are coming in.

Exciting News Alert - Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA Missionaries)

Submitted by Doug Clark



Bob and Kristi Rice are missionaries assigned to South Sudan. Bob is also an instructor in Theology, Biblical Studies and Ethics at the Nile Theological College in Juba, South Sudan. Kristi serves as an economic and development advisor for the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.

They will be spending some time this year on furlough and are planning to spend the weekend of November 1-3 in Green Valley, visiting Valley Presbyterian Church. **They will be featured at our Mission Breakfast on Saturday, November 2 and will preach on Sunday, November 3.** Their hope is

for the members of VPC to have the opportunity to learn more about the work of the church in South Sudan. They also look forward to getting to know us better as a church and hearing the unique ways that we are ministering to those in the church and community.

Noisy Offering in June - The Food Bank: It's Peanut Butter Time Again!

Submitted by Betty Kiesle-Yoder,

The kids will be on summer break again so it's time for us to raise money so they can eat that all-time favorite food. Let's try to beat last years total of \$600. Vicki at the Food Bank said we could never buy too much peanut butter. It is one of the most asked for food items. It is also one of the foods they can't buy, so they are very appreciative of any donations.

Last year the Food Bank served 18,099 people - approximately 100 individuals per day - of which 33% were children. That's a total of 1,800,000 lbs. of food. With our help, the Food Bank is leading the way to a healthy, hunger-free community.

Please give freely to the Noisy Offering in June for peanut butter.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Submitted by Ben Coppock, Mission Committee

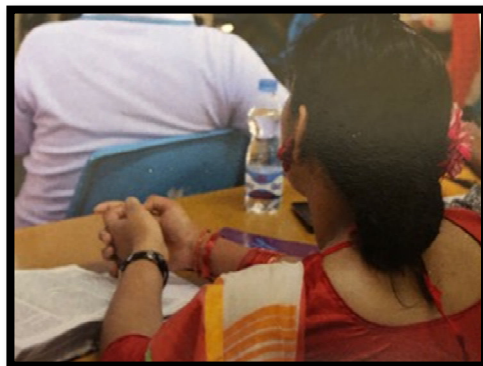
One Great Hour of Sharing (OGH) was supported by VPC during a four-week period over Lent. Each week during the "Minute for Missions" portion of the Sunday service, we had committee members speak to the congregation about the program. The goal of OGH is to raise funds for victims of disasters, as well as the disadvantaged in the U.S. and foreign countries. As of this date, the congregation has donated a total of \$6,282 to OGH. That's over \$1000 more than in 2018.

Operation Mobilisation - Dave and Pam L.

Submitted by Doug Clark

Pam and Dave thank us for standing with them in their mission work with our financial help and our prayers. They advised that they will be heading to Germany for training to develop their skills in mentoring to their staff in the field.

Training Strengthens Everyone



Most of the OM Bangladesh team is composed of local believers, most of who come from a Muslim background. One of the key priorities is strengthening local leaders. At a recent general meeting, the entire team received training on cultural intelligence, edifying their teams, spiritual growth, and solidifying marriage.

When learning more about forgiveness, one member noted that this teaching has already moved him to mend a broken relationship with a tailor in his area.

"Commitment" was picked as a guiding principle for the team. Team members felt committed by this training to share their faith, to work together as a team, and to allow forgiveness to work even in their marriages. "We learned we needed to push ourselves to bring people to Christ. If we fail the first time, we should not back out; we need to keep trying to reach them."



Before I get to my article, I want to share something I posted on my Facebook page shortly after our final Sunday at VPC because I know most of you did not see it there:

Sunday was one of the most emotional days I've experienced in a very long time. Joel has worked at a lot of churches and I've visited or sung at many of them. Never, ever before have I experienced the kind of love, support, and caring that both Joel and I experienced at Valley Presbyterian Church. As I stood in the empty sanctuary early that morning, surveying the room as I always do to make sure everything is as it should be, it suddenly hit me - this would be the last time. From that moment on, I cherished every "good morning," "hello," and exchanged smile as the people I've greeted, laughed with, shared a love of music with, mourned with, worked with, and sometimes griped with every Sunday morning for the past six years arrived to celebrate a very special worship service. Joel made it all harder by bringing in guest musicians and arranging much of the music, which always means it will be beautiful and heart-wrenching, but was particularly difficult to try to get through without tears on this day (especially when he sang a duet with one of our very best friends, Todd). The sermon, and the reception afterward, brought even more expressions of love (as well as Joel's demonstration of his trick roping skills!). The whole service and surrounding time at the church that day was perfect, and although worship is meant for God, not any of us, I was so moved (and overcome) by the long, standing ovation given to Joel at the conclusion of the service. The next day, when we finally had a moment to sit and open the stack of cards and gifts we both received, the generosity and love shared by the people of VPC again washed over us. I can't imagine how to properly express the gratitude I feel for the time I spent there, the people I came to know, and the friendships I formed. I hope you all know how very, very special you are.

For the record, Joel was overcome by the extended applause at the end of the service as well. He told me those of you standing close to the front saw him "ugly crying."

Joel and I are settled into an extended stay hotel in Maine and waiting to close on our new house on June 17. It hasn't been an easy transition for me, and while your love and support made it infinitely harder to leave, it also helped me survive some of the challenges we've faced during the early stages of this process.

Thank you.

Not a lot of space left for tech info, but here's a little something that I personally find very helpful. There is an app for your phone called Pill Reminder by Medisafe (ranked number one by pharmacists and physicians). As the name implies, the app's purpose is to remind you to take medications on time. You are probably aware that taking the wrong pills too close together can render them ineffective if not dangerous. In my case, I take three batches of pills/vitamins throughout the day and I am TERRIBLE about remembering, so I finally set up my phone to remind me. The app includes an interaction checker, built in discount coupons, and can generate reports to send to your doctor or nurse. You can even have it remind you to refill your prescriptions. Give it a try and let me know what you think.

Montlure Traveling Day Camp Returns!

June 24 - 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Montlure is our denomination's church camp, and they are bringing their Traveling Day Camp back to VPC this summer. Last year, the kids loved the camp so much that we decided to bring it back for an encore!

You can help by sponsoring a child to attend camp. It costs \$75 to send a child to camp, but any monetary gift will be helpful. Look for our table on Sundays in Fellowship Hall. You can register your children online at Montlure.CampbrainRegistration.com.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Diane (625-5023) or Pam Karbowsky (648-4281).

More Blog Readers Wanted (13 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.

An Outside Perspective

An outside perspective always helps. Within the last two weeks I have been able to sit and share with a couple of visitors who have come to Juba, this being their first visit here to South Sudan.

Antoine Rutayisire is an Anglican pastor, Christian leader, and preacher/teacher extraordinaire from Rwanda. Some of you reading this post will know his name quickly, others will not. I lived with Antoine in Rwanda for one year and served alongside him for two and a half years with the organization he led, African Evangelistic Enterprise, Rwanda. Antoine has always been known as an original thinker and a man of deep understanding and abiding faith. I still refer to him as my "spiritual father." I could sit and listen to Antoine for hours; his life and his story and the story of his people are the primary reasons I was drawn to this great continent. A couple of weeks ago Antoine and three colleagues came to South Sudan on an exploratory trip, listening and learning to church leaders, discerning how they can come alongside them and promote a way of "being church" that will better serve the peoples of South Sudan. During our evening meal and fellowship during his visit, I asked Antoine, "What are your impressions now at the end of your trip?" Antoine's ready response came with one word, "Potential." In the midst of so much trauma and dysfunction which seem to define this young country, the word that Antoine reached for was 'potential'. He described how South Sudan feels like it is just waiting for the right environment so that it can take off. Antoine also shared his observations regarding the "weariness and tiredness of the people." He says that he does not feel a sense of urgency amongst the people. "People have been living in an environment that is so troubling and difficult for so long, they have no idea what normalcy might even look like," he said. Yes, there is potential, but there is the tragic history and the dysfunctional present which keep people down.

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



Faith Formation

Sea Change: A Story About Realizing Your Dreams in Retirement

Thursday, July 11 at 10:00 a.m. in Classroom 5

On July 11, we welcome Byron Thompson to VPC. During his career as a Dale Carnegie franchisee, Byron trained over 25,000 people in the skills needed for successful living. And it doesn't have to stop with retirement, he says.

Based on his book *Sea Change: a story about realizing your dreams in retirement*, Byron will help us uncover the keys to living a richer, fuller next chapter of life. Please invite your neighbors and friends to this entertaining hour. There will be a free-will offering.



Faith Formation

The Inquisitors

The Inquisitors will be on break for the summer, and will resume on September 20

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 "Be Diligent," Warren Wiersbe's commentary on the Gospel of Mark. 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 will not meet June thru August.**

The second group, with about six to thirteen men attending each week, meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. They meet at the church for one hour in classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (777-8027), but focuses on group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying John's Epistles 1, 2, and 3. 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. **This group will not meet from May 29 thru September 4.**

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.

What the Heck Do I Believe?????











**Mondays, June 3, 10, and 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Recreation Building at La Posada
- and -**

Mondays, July 8, 15, and 22 at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5 at the church

When I (Diane) went through the ordination process, one of the things I had to do was write a one-page Statement of Faith. It was hard! I knew in my heart what I believed, but to articulate it is a different matter. Yet, the Bible says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

This summer, Linda Freeman and Pastor Diane will lead classes on how you can find words to describe what you believe. The class will be offered twice in two separate locations: one at La Posada in June (you don't have to be a resident of La Posada to participate), and a class at the church in July. We guarantee this class will be fun and practical!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
June 2019			
2 Communion Food Bank Collection 9:00 Worship & Communion at LaJoya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Jan Stracke	3 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Peace & Justice Resource 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:00 What The Heck Do I Believe?  Peggy Preston, Georgia Puttock	4 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 8:30 WM Coordinating Te 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee  Diane Garnett, Annie Stitt	5 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class
9 Just Coffee 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Jim Eberhardt, Mike Wigent	10 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Grapevine 1:00 What The Heck Do I Believe?  Grant Stitt	11 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:00 WM Planning Meeting 2019-2020 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee  Edwin Kroon, Bill Sauder	12 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Dave Tompkins
16 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Janet Landis	17 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Fellowship Committee 1:00 What The Heck Do I Believe?  Gee-Gee Smith	18 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 2:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Steve Ball, Gretchen Pyburn	19 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:30 Finance Committee 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Yvonne Frash, Bob Kern
23 Just Coffee 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship 4:00 Montlure Traveling Day Camp SET UP  Richard Luce, Bill Smith	24 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Montlure Traveling Day Camp 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:00 Valley Readers  Peggy Babcock	25 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:00 Montlure Traveling Day Camp 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:00 Pastor Nominating Committee 2:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Lana Adrian	26 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Montlure Traveling 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:00 Card Making for YOTO  Pat Nau
30 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Laurel Erickson	31		

Thu		Fri	Sat
			1 8:30 Communion Prep
	6 9:30 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers  John Bentley, Lee Ann Calhoun, Beverly Carey, Jean Heap, Donna Reimer, LaVern Schroeder	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Ruth Ann Pelmear	8  Steve Setterlund
Lunch Prep	13 9:00 Faith & Health Committee 1:00 Personnel Committee	14 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Wayne Brumm, Joe Hawkins	15  Leona Aardema
Lunch Prep	20 8:00 Patio Sale Sorting 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers  Jeanie Cochran	21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting  Judith Richards, Ed Smith	22  Alan Lee, Ruth Lund, Dave Stepp
Day Camp	27 8:00 Session Meeting 9:00 Montlure Traveling Day Camp  Mike Cochran, Jim Rusk	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Montlure Traveling Day Camp 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Dick Barney, Melvin Mounts	29  Tommy Calhoun, George Gibson, Bernie Tameling

Session Notes from April

Submitted by Charlie Ashton, Clerk of Session

- Confirmed Sophia Szabo as a member of the church.
- Accepted with regret and gratitude the resignation of Gay Larson as Executive Secretary.
- Accepted the resignation of Bob Kern as Deacon.
- Accepted the report of the Nominating Committee and scheduled a congregational meeting for May 5, 2019.
- Recommend the following to the congregation at the May 5, 2019 meeting: change the Terms of Call for Pastor Diane to increase her effective salary and housing to \$60,000.00 for 2019.
- Approved a policy for Parish Associates.
- Engaged the Rev. Dr. Mark Horton and the Rev. Barbara Streng as Parish Associates.
- Scheduled the next Grapevine for Monday, June 10, 2019 at 10 a.m. with the main topic: Ask the Transitional Pastor.

Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

(Based on financial data through April 2019)

The Finance Committee met on May 15 to review the year-to-date financial status as of April 30, 2019. The financials show that we are remaining in a positive position as we indicated last month. Lent and Easter kept many of our winter residents here through the end of the month. There was much discussion at the meeting regarding the reporting of the budget in this financial report and the budget reported in the bulletin. I think we have resolved this issue with a new presentation below:

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenues	\$ 311,353	\$ 315,380	(\$ 4,027)
Patio Sale transfers	\$ 11,500	\$ 11,500	-0-
Expense	<u>\$ 265,242</u>	<u>\$ 260,892</u>	<u>(\$ 4,350)</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>\$ 57,611</u>	<u>\$ 65,988</u>	<u>(\$ 8,378)</u>

The Finance Committee is watching the results closely each month. When we look at budget-to-actual, the revenues are down less than 2% from the year-to-date budget and expenses are up about 2%. We will probably see the bottom line start dropping in May as we see the town grow quieter. We hope that as people travel this summer they will remember their pledge commitments to keep the operations of the church moving along.

At our July 2019 meeting we will have about six months of operations reported, and we will begin the process of assessing how the revenue collections are progressing and whether there are more budget adjustments needed to get us to a balanced budget for the 2019 fiscal year.

As previously reported, for 2019, the finance committee recommended to Session that we pay the annual per capita payment only as received. To date, we have paid \$8,079 that was collected through April which covers approximately 201 of the members. Based on the membership number of 496 at December 31, 2017, we have been assessed \$19,949, so we have collected about 40.5% of our assessment. Hopefully, many more members will step up and pay the \$40.22 per member per capita (note: associate members pay their per capita through their home church).



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.

Planted Seeds Blossom

Submitted by Reed Olson - Mission Committee

This is a wonderful story about what happens when “seeds are planted” – you never know when they will sprout and flourish.

One of the groups I took down to the Home years ago included a couple from Georgia who were visiting their parents in Green Valley. They were impressed with what they witnessed at the Home, and I’ve been in email contact with them ever since. Then, last March I took a group down to the Home which included a new visitor (Sally) who is not from GV but travels the country. She really wanted to visit the Home, and a vacancy opened up to enable her to join us.

She was very impressed with what she witnessed. Both visits included a tour of the facility with a side tour of the unfinished “common area.” The goal for the common area, when finished, is to function much like a college common area where the children

can go and have some quiet time, play games, watch TV, study, and meet with the other children. During the March visit, it was announced that it would take at least \$8,000 USD to just finish off the common area (walls, floor, etc.). A few weeks ago, the couple from Georgia contacted me and said they wanted to make a difference at the Home and asked what I would recommend. Then, Sally contacted me from somewhere in California and said she talked to a good friend about her experience during the visit and that her friend wanted to help make a difference at the Home. I told both that I thought finishing off the common area was a top priority. SO WHY AM I SAYING THIS? Last month I met with Pastor Francisco Jimenez, Senior Pastor of New Life Church of God, Julio Durazo, Administrator for New Life Church of God, and Elias & Myrna Herrera, Directors of Casa Vida Nueva para Niños. The purpose of the meeting was to present Elias & Myrna with two checks - one from the Georgia couple and one from Sally’s friend – both for the dedicated purpose of not only completing the second floor common area but to furnish it with items the children want for their use. Each check was for \$10,000, and the combined \$20,000 will complete and furnish the second floor common area for the kids. This is truly a blessing from God.

Our next trip to the Home is scheduled for September 14. I would encourage you to sign up early to see the completion of this great common area. Thank you all for your continued support and love of these wonderful children.



L-R: Sr. Pastor Francisco Jimenez, Elias and Myrna Herrera, Reed Olson, Julio Durazo and little, Neizan Herrera

Patio Sale Pick-Up Summer Schedule:

June – June 7 & 21

July – July 5 & 19

August – 2, 16 and 30

In September, Friday pick-ups will resume on a weekly basis.

Patio Sale Dates for 2019

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

Sorting: June 20, July 18, August 15,
September 12, October 10, November 7,
December 19

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

Valley Galley Summer Schedule

The Valley Galley will be open this summer on Tuesdays and Thursday from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. Come by and have your coffee, iced drinks and donuts, but the best is conversation with friends. Come see us !!



Congregational Care

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Submitted by Gee-Gee Smith

Stephen Ministers are members of this church who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister meets with his or her care receiver once a week for around an hour to listen, care, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. To find out more about how someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Peggi Briggs, (520) 965-9203 or John Agner, 520-398-5107



Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News

Blood Pressure Screenings: You may have your blood pressure taken during the week by appointment with the Parish Nurse. Please make appointments through the church office. **The Sunday blood pressure screening clinics will resume in September.** Blood pressure clinics are done right after Sunday worship services in the Sweet Family Room. Watch the bulletin in September for more details.



Movement & Exercise Classes Here at VPC:



- **Parkinson's Support/Exercise** meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 - 10 a.m. For more information, contact instructor Mia Cooper at 204-5264.
- **Chair Exercise** classes are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m. There is a fee. For more information, contact instructor Mia Cooper at 204-5264.

Alzheimer's Support & Education at VPC: The Alzheimer's support group continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Sweet Family Room. 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.



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



Medical Minute

Women require 20 minutes more sleep each day than men due to the mental activity of multitasking.



Congregational Care

Won't You Be My Neighbor at Valley Presbyterian

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

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor, won't you be my neighbor?

We remember the cardigan sweaters, the songs, the place of make believe, Daniel the tiger, and the way Mr. Rogers showed kindness.

Making sure that people are loved or cared for is what this show was all about. Mr. Rogers was an ordained minister and as his wife says he "always belonged to the Presbyterian Church." His actions on the show told us that kindness is possible for anyone.

Even after his show, his message during difficult times in our country was to look for the helpers. There are so many people that want to make the world a better place, bringing joy, light, hope, faith, pardon, and love. His documentary shows these messages.

So how is this related to our church? To our ministries? To us?

Valley Presbyterian Church cares a lot for neighbors through Congregational Care, Deacons, Network of Caring, Stephen Ministry, Parish Nurse ministry, Extended Communion, Communication of Care to the Congregants, Facility Visitation, Sunday Fellowship, Prayer Ministry, and Grief and Bereavement Ministry. We quietly work behind the scenes. The work of what Mr. Rogers talked about over the years is given right here at VPC. Mr. Rogers showed and believed in joy, light, hope, faith, pardon, and love. Each one of these is given and shown in the ministries listed above, such as Network of Caring which is a ministry under Congregational Care. Neighborhood leaders, coordinators, and callers reach out to those in the neighborhoods, aka HOA's, and they have been for over 40 years.

Do we ever ask "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Our goal or challenge needs to be that all of us here at VPC should be asking "Won't You Be My Neighbor," extending invitations to those who might not be able to attend, reading the bulletin to someone who can no longer see or read it, giving extended communion to those who can no longer come to church, visiting those who have no one, and showing kindness to those in the neighborhoods.

If you are interested in the Congregational Care ministry, Network of Caring, or any of the other ministries listed, please let the church office know. Volunteering for any of the ministries not only benefits the person receiving the care, but the person giving the care. Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Try to share your feelings with others who can help you. It can help to talk about how you feel. You could talk to a Pastor, Parish Nurse, Stephen Minister, or a counselor. You also could join a support group. Take care of you so you can take care of others.

Caregiving often calls us to lean into love we didn't know possible.

~Tia Walker, from the Inspired Caregiver



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Special birthday greetings to Wayne Brumm (6/14) and Yvonne Frash (6/19) as they celebrate their **90th birthdays** this month.





Valley Presbyterian Church

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www.valleypresbyterian.net

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

Pastors

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

Mission Statement

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

Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship

9:30 a.m. in the VPC Sanctuary

Communion served on first Sunday of each month

June 2	Disruptive Information	Rev. Diane Christopher
June 9	Pentecost: We Trust in the Holy Spirit	Rev. Mark A. Medina
June 16	There is a Place For You at the Wall	Rev. Diane Christopher
June 23	Searching and Standing Before God	Rev. Mark A. Medina
June 30	Unplug to Connect	Rev. Diane Christopher

La Joya at La Posada

9:00 a.m. at La Joya

Communion served on the first Sunday of each month

June 2	Rev. John Dunham and Marti Long
June 16	Rudy Sweisfurth
June 30	Rev. Lance Barker and Gail Barker



Promoted to Glory



May 11

Tom Marshall

Farewell from Gay

What an honor, privilege and blessing it has been for me to serve this congregation over the last six years! You welcomed me with open arms and have always given me your support, your encouragement, and your love. I have appreciated your kindness more than words can express. I will miss you so much!

Change is a difficult thing for all of us. I have noticed that it gets more difficult as I age! Yes, I am admitting I am getting older! But, we must remember, change can be a very good and positive thing, too. As my husband, Kirby, and I look forward to our new adventures, I will remember you with fondness. You have been like family to me and I will carry you in my heart always.

As I close, I would like to share the following scripture:

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

May your future be abundant in joy and peace!!

Blessings to you, Valley Presbyterian Church!

Gay