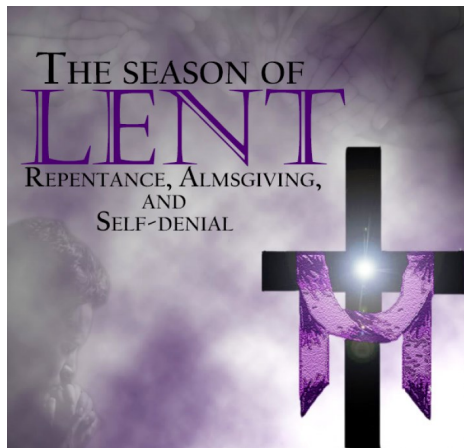


Our Valley Voice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | March 2022

Lent Begins March 2



Lent is a special time of year in the church. It is the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays), and is a time set aside for preparing and walking with Jesus to the cross.

In this church season, we reflect on our Christian lives and engage in practices that deepen our Christian experience. At VPC, we are offering a variety of ways to experience Lent. Look throughout this newsletter for details on these opportunities:

Sunday Worship
Traditional Service of Worship
9:30 a.m.
Online and in person.

Lenten Devotionals: readings for every day in Lent. Available at the Welcome Center and in the church office beginning Sunday, February 27. Pg 27

Ash Wednesday, March 2: Ashes will be offered in the parking lot between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. AND in a worship service at 5 p.m. Pg 27

Holy Solitude: a class of study and disciplines on Mondays at 10 a.m. beginning March 7. Pg 28

Lenten Taizé: a candlelit, meditative worship service, 5 p.m. Thursdays in Lent beginning March 10. Pg 28

Lines, Curves, and Colors: a unique way to celebrate Lent through coloring, music and imagination. Mondays at 1 p.m. Begins March 14. Pg 26



electronic copies are available on our website:
www.valleypresbyterian.net



OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

- Worship that glorifies God.
- Growing our faith in love, hope and the peace of Christ.
- Caring for the children of God.
- Reaching out to the community and the world.
- Seeking an attitude of servant-hood.

Valley Presbyterian Church

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

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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 27th Transfiguration Sunday "God Grew Tired of Us" 3:00 P.M. Free Film in Spiritual Life Center	Luke 9: 28-43	"Shining"	Pastor Craig
March 2nd Ash Wednesday 10:00am—2:00pm Drive by Ashes, outdoors at the Fountain Pastor Craig, Pastor Diane			
5:00 P.M. Worship Service— 2 Corinthians 5:30-6:10 "Ambassadors of Christ" Pastor Craig			
March 6	Luke 4:1-13	"Jesus' Temptations"	Pastor Craig
March 13	Genesis 12:1-2, 17-18	"Cutting a Deal"	Pastor Diane
March 20	Luke 13: 1-9	"The Fig Tree"	Pastor Craig
March 27	Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32	"The Prodigal Son"	Pastor Craig



Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor, Head of Staff

Humble Appreciation

Recently, I had occasion to receive our Church's prayers, care and ministry. Thank you.

There was a time when pastors as gifted orators, Community Leaders, as "the Ordained" were considered to be larger than life, with the prestige and authority of Court Judges, Surgeons and Elected Officials. However, I was ordained in 1984, and over these years have served on 14 different Investigative Commissions and several years on the General Assembly's Judicial Commission, each of which responding to allegations against pastors or Sessions for accusation because pastors seemingly abused that responsibility. Different from "The Emperor Has No Clothes", my point being that we are in a different time where pastors are recognized as being as human as everyone else.

One lesson I have learned in the last two months, in addition to my "Being Mortal", is how many within our congregation also live with their heart, regularly or periodically, being in Atrial Fibrillation (having an accelerated pulse and erratic rhythms). Related to this are the feelings of failure when our organs/ bodies are not immediately fixed by the first procedure.

However, by virtue of this circumstance, I have experienced first-hand the power of prayer from our Church. It was a little disconcerting when our Ministry of Presence committee, or as I like to refer to them "God's Resurrection Referral Committee" (who follow up after deaths have occurred) wanted to hold me in prayer! The person on this side of the Pulpit usually does the praying for others and rarely has the honor of being lifted in prayer before God by one's colleagues and flock. We visit people, gifting them with a Shawl that has been made and prayed over by the congregation, but to be wrapped in this is a treasure. I am sincerely humbled and thankful for your faith, your love and care.

As a Church we are entering into that most reverent and reflective of liturgical seasons (No, not Patio Sale) Lent. Forty Days (not counting Sundays) from Ash Wednesday until Easter, during which we focus on Jesus' humanity.

Funding Sources, Craig Lindsey, Administrator

Periodically persons have named concern: "Funding for the Missions portion of the Operating Budget is dependent upon the Patio Sale". Over the years 2013-2021, our Church endured having an Administrative Commission, imposition of an Austerity Budget, significant Loss of Membership, and Staff and Pastoral Transition. Recently, Amigo Dick Christiansen completed an enormous task in researching reality from actual statistics, which I will attempt to make sense of here. Prior to 2012, it appears the Patio Sale Amigos decided which special project needed the most assistance that year. Beginning in 2013, the Patio Sale leadership and the Session decided, that the Patio Sale would annually contribute from that income to support the Mission Giving of the Operating Budget.

Semantics here are important, because the Patio Sale is not a Committee which supplements Missions. If the Patio Sale generated no money at all, this would still be an essential ministry. Persons who have no relationship to our Church or being Presbyterian, are able to call our Church and our Church supports our community by helping when they are downsizing or when there has been a death, by collecting their unwanted quality items. Also, the many volunteers who contribute every 2nd Thursday morning sorting, Fridays picking up items, and the better part of two weeks in sales each year, have "worked" to earn this contribution.

Similar to the Patio Sale annually contributing to the funding of our Mission Giving; our VPC Foundation annually accrues \$40,000 to \$50,000 in investment income, which the Foundation Board make available to our Session for Capital Improvements. In 2021 painting the exterior of the Church cost \$45,000; and in 2022 we anticipate a \$40,000 cost for repaving our Parking Lots all funded by the Foundation's support.

Annually (2013-2021) the Patio Sale has generated (all numbers here are rounded) roughly \$30,000 to \$60,000 to support our Total Mission Giving of \$110,000 to \$180,000 with the lowest figure being in 2016. That \$180,000 to \$110,000 for Missions, represents one portion of our Church's Annual Operating Revenues of \$1,225,000 in 2013, to \$940,000 for 2020. Those are the raw dollar numbers. The effect of the Patio Sale has been that from 2013 through the present, 2.0% to 6.3% of the Operating Budget Revenues have come from the Patio Sale (the last five of those years, at or above 5%); while, Missions have represented 12.0% to 14.6% of Annual Total Operating Expenses of our Church all years except 2016.

One other set of numbers is really significant. In 2013 our Church had 751 Members, in 2021 we had 419 Members. Once again, in 2013 our Church's Total Mission Giving was \$180,000 and our 2021 Mission Giving was 136,000 so in raw numbers \$44,000 less. However, dividing the Annual Operating Revenues, as well as our Mission Giving, by our Number of Members (supported by the Patio Sale and Foundation), means that while in 2013 our average was \$240 per Member for Missions and \$1,630 per Member to support the Budget; in 2021 on average every member gave \$325 to Missions, and \$2,322 per Member to support our Operating Budget.

Rev. Diane Christopher Pastor of Discipleship



Did you know that the church has seasons? Everyone is familiar with the seasons of Christmas and Easter, but there are other seasons around them. Christmas is preceded by the season of Advent: the four weeks before Christmas. Easter is preceded by Lent, which is the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays). We are entering into this season of Lent which starts March 2. I hope you are reading in this newsletter all that we are offering to help you enter this favorite season of mine.

I want to draw your attention to one particular Lenten opportunity: Taizé worship. Taizé worship is completely different from our Sunday worship. The Taizé worship style comes out of a little village in France called Taizé, whereby monks developed this style of worship. Throughout the year, thousands of young people from around the world stay with the monks, worship with them, study with them, work with them. From these encounters, Taizé worship has spread all over the world.

Have you experienced our Taizé worship? It is a mediative service whereby we fill the Spiritual Life Center with candles, music and prayer. It even has its own choir.

Our theme for Lenten Taizé this year is rather unusual for us. It is a theme I have never talked about, preached on, nor studied in scripture. And when I mention it, you may decide it is too much for you. But hear me out. The theme is blood.

Now keep reading...

In the Bible, blood is the symbol of life. Think about how often we encounter it in the story of God. Our Jewish friends celebrate Passover every year about the same time we celebrate Easter. Yes, Passover is about how God rescued the Israelites from slavery, but the story involves blood. The Jews were instructed to take the blood of a lamb and paint it over the door of their homes. When the angel of death came through Egypt, if it saw the blood over the door, the angel would pass over that house. The blood of the lamb saved the people.

The sacrificial system in the Old Testament used blood. The life of an animal was sacrificed, and its blood covered the sins of the people. God used this visual to show the seriousness of sin and God's willingness to forgive.

Continued from page 4 (Pastor Diane)

Then there is the blood of Jesus. One of my favorite Easter movies, *The Robe*, is about the Roman soldier who crucifies Jesus. A memorable scene is the centurion standing at the foot of Jesus' cross and watching the approaching storm. As he places his hand on the beam of Jesus' cross to steady himself, the blood of Jesus begins to drip on his hand. The Roman soldier is startled, immediately withdraws his hand and tries to wipe it off. From then on, he is haunted by what he did to Jesus.

The blood of Jesus is an important part of Christianity. The blood of Jesus takes the place of the sacrificial system. It is Jesus' blood that covers our sins. It is Jesus' blood that restores our relationship with God. It is Jesus' blood that we remember in the cup at communion. This element (blood) that is so crucial to our bodies is crucial to our spiritual soul. So come to Taizé worship as we contemplate and meditate on the gift of blood.

"There was a great multitude that no one could count....wearing white robes...made white in the blood of the lamb." (Revelation 7)

Taizé Worship
Thursdays in Lent beginning March 10
5 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center
(Due to patio sale, March 10 will be in the sanctuary)

Celebrating Women Composers

March is Women's History Month. In honor of this occasion, a recital of works written or arranged by women organists and composers will be offered to the community by six local organists, including Wes Moulton, on Sunday, March 13, at 3:00PM at St. Michael's and All Angels' Episcopal Church, located at 602 N. Wilmot Road, Tucson, AZ. Admission is free-of-charge. Please mark your calendar and bring a friend. Help the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists honor the incredible body of work composed for the organ by women of the last 100 years.

January, 2022 Session Highlights

Your Session met on January 27, 2022 and the following motions were passed.

- ♦ Motion to receive new elders, class of 2024: Judy Christensen, George Curtis, Jim Luhring, Ed Storey.
- ♦ Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Jim Nelson from the Session.
- ♦ Motion to adopt 2022 budget as presented by the Finance Committee.
- ♦ Motion to move the 2021 budget surplus of \$52, 830.22 into Operating Reserve.
- ♦ Motion to move balance of \$90,000 from PPP loan to Capital Reserve.
- ♦ Motion to receive \$44,690.00 from Foundation interest earned for Capital Projects.
- ♦ Motion to approve Joyce Gay as a member of the Personnel Committee.

Session members will serve on the following Committees and/or assignments:

Buildings & Grounds – Don Brooks

Faith Formation – Liz Haynes, April Boysen

Finance – Ed Storey, Don Brooks, Judy Aguayo

Foundation – Jim, Rusk Judy Christensen, Don Brooks

Generosity

Gifts & memorials – April Boysen, George Curtis

Membership – Jim Rusk, Judy Christensen

Missions – George Curtis, Ed Storey, Judy Aguayo

Nominating – Rudy Sweisfurth, April Boysen

Personnel – Frank Coggins, Judy Christensen

Worship – Rudy Sweisfurth

Clerk of Session – Liz Haynes

Treasurer of the Church – Don Brooks

Children in Worship!

Starting March 6, our children will be with us in worship up through the children's message. We hope you will enjoy their presence as they take a greater part in our worship services.



Faith Works
Tuesdays, 4 p.m.
Via Zoom
Your teacher: Chuck Ramsay



Please come and join us. Yes, come and join our class because we need each other to grow stronger in *The Faith*.

The Faith Works class is a class seeking to further how our Sunday faith experience during worship translates to “works” outside of the church. What does our faith look and feel like on any given day? How do we respond to war, bridge collapses, human injustice to one another or other topics and events? How do we ‘shore’ up our faith against the ‘rust’ the world puts on our faith supports? One way to do this is to share with other believers about how we fight off depression, doubt and learn new things about the way others think. Romans 12: 2 says:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

So, in our class we seek to renew your mind, soothe your soul and bolster your spirit with The Spirit.

Each class is completely self-contained. There is no book to buy or read. Each Tuesday you are as caught up as everybody else. A synopsis or outline of the class is sent to you on Friday or Saturday, and you can prepare as much or as little as you wish. So far, we have discussed what pronouns should be used when we refer to God, our favorite scriptures, how recent deaths caused an atheist to reconsider her faith and what New Year’s Resolutions we made and why. Future topics will include racism, Creeds and baptism. Yes, we are a different type of class for sure. (Please email Pastor Diane for a reusable Zoom link address good for several weeks.)

Give us try. You might like our intimate group where sharing, wisdom, love and support abound. We need you and you just might need us! I look forward to seeing you soon.

Please join us next Tuesday at 4pm.

Peace be with you,
—Chuck Ramsay—

Please email Pastor Diane Christopher at dianechristopher@valleypres.net. to be added to the Zoom Class.

PATIO SALE NEWS 2022

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

41ST ANNUAL PATIO SALE

Thursday
March 10
8:00 – 2:00
\$5.00 Admission

Friday
March 11
8:00 – 2:00

Saturday
March 12
8:00 – Noon
Bargain Day

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

The 2022 Patio Sale is just around the corner. Department Heads are ready! Volunteers are getting prepared. The off-site storage units are bursting at the seams and donations continue to come in. It is an exciting and busy time.

It takes more than 200 volunteers to set-up, price thousands of items for sale, help during the sale, and clean-up. It's not too late to be a part of the action. We will be setting up Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, March 7, 8 & 9. Just come to the church and we will put you to work. And, if you are not able to volunteer, you can always come and shop.

This sale would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and we cannot thank you enough!!!

*All net proceeds go to the area mission project
supported by Valley Presbyterian Church.*

Food donations are appreciated for all the Patio Sale volunteers.
You may drop them off at the VPC office or in the kitchen.

Friendship Kettle Dinner:

The March 20, 2022 Kettle Dinner will be the third and final dinner of the current snowbird season. It just follows St Patrick's Day and the event will reflect the timing. Dinner will be at 5:00pm with entertainment to follow.

The highlight will be a performance by Celtic Steps, an Irish Dance Group. Sophia St. John who is active at our church, helping with the youth Sunday School Class, is a part of the dance group.

Come support these fine young people



Tickets will cost \$15 and will be available Sunday March 6 and 13 in Fellowship Hall.

Valley Presbyterian Church's Music In the Valley Concert Series Presents!

**Sunday, April 3, at 3:00 P.M.
Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus**

**Dr. Julian Ackerley, Director
Elena Miraztchiyska, Accompanist
The chorus consists of five groups of
singers in first grade through college.**

**Tickets are \$20 available at the Valley
Presbyterian office
Monday –Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm**



VPC Music Department

There is so much power in a lyric, melody, instrumentation, style, tempo, song. This past month, Darnell T. Rouhlac sang a beautiful program for our Music in the Valley Concert Series. There was a moment in the concert when he dedicated "The Way We Were" to a mentor of his that had just passed. It was so emotional that even Darnell had to step away for a moment and compose himself before his next song. After the concert, an audience member came up to Darnell, thanking him for singing that song and sharing that moment. She said she had just lost someone and had her copy of "Life after Loss: A practical guide to renewing your life after experiencing major loss" by Bob Deits in her hands. She then proceeded to give Darnell her copy to help him through his time of loss. It was such a powerful moment.

Here's to many more musically-filled life moments.

Submitted by: Jamie Reed

Valley Presbyterian Church's Music In the Valley Concert Series Presents!

Caleb Collins

Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 3:00PM

Tickets are \$20
available at the Valley
Presbyterian office
Monday –Friday
8:00am to 4:00pm



Grammy Award Nominee Caleb Collins brings his piano stylings and velvety vocals together in a concert of jazz standards and treasured hymns that is sure to have you singing along. Caleb is the grandson of Fred Collins, a long-time member and bass singer in the choir at Valley Presbyterian, and Valley Presbyterian holds many fond memories for Caleb and his family whenever they came to visit from Idaho. This concert will be dedicated to Fred Collins and the appreciation of music and service that he left behind.

Parish Nurse: Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Caring for those in our congregation

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News March 2022



Cardio-drumming has just a few more openings. This class begins at 9 am on Tuesdays and is a once a week 30 minute exercise program for health, stress, and balance. Please email parishnurse@valleypres.net for more information and/or for registration.

Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy.



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment



Connections, during this time, are essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care. Keep communications with friends, neighbors, and family during this time.

Masks are available in the Narthex and church office for your health and safety

**New Office Hours: Parish Nurse's office hours are
Tuesday mornings, 9 am – Noon & Thursday afternoons Noon – 3 pm.**

When is it Depression? Part One of Two

There has been many changes in the last few years due to COVID. There has been many visible emotional changes across the nation.

Everyone feels sad or low sometimes, but these feelings usually pass with time. Depression is different. It can cause severe symptoms that can affect how you think, feel, and how you perform or enjoy those daily activities like working, eating, sleeping, etc. Depression is an illness that can affect anyone, regardless of age, income, race, culture, or education. Depression may occur with other mental disorders and other illnesses. Depression can make these conditions/illnesses worse, and vice versa. Sometimes medications taken for these illnesses cause side effects that contribute to depression symptoms.

Continued on page 12

By Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Continued from page 11:



There is no one cause of depression. For some people, a single event can bring on the illness. Depression often strikes people who felt fine but who suddenly find they are dealing with a death in the family of a serious illness. For some people, changes in the brain can affect mood and cause depression. Sometimes, those under a lot of stress, like caregivers, can feel depressed. Others become depressed for no clear reason. People with serious illnesses sometimes become depressed. They may worry about how their illness will change their lives. They might be tired and not able to deal with something that makes them sad.

Treatment for depression can help them manage their depressive symptoms and improve their quality of life. Genetics, too, can play a role.

After a period of feeling sad, older people usually adjust and regain their emotional balance. But, if you are suffering from clinical depression and don't get help, your depression might last for weeks, months, or even years.

Common symptoms of depression may include:

- An "empty" mood feeling, ongoing/persistent sadness, or anxiety
- Decreased energy, fatigue, lack of energy
- Loss of interest or pleasure in everyday activities or hobbies
- Sleep difficulties, including trouble getting to sleep, very early morning waking, and sleeping too much
- Changes in appetite, eating more or less than usual
- Difficulty concentrating, making decisions, or remembering
- Crying too often or too much
- Aches or pains, headaches, digestive difficulties that do not ease with treatment
- A hard time focusing, remembering, or making decisions
- Feeling guilty, helplessness, worthlessness, or hopelessness
- Feelings of irritability, frustration, or restlessness
- Thoughts of death or suicide, a suicide attempt

Don't ignore the warning signs. A person may really be asking for help.

Take comments about suicide seriously. If they are in immediate distress or thinking about hurting themselves, call 911 and ask for the MAC (mobile crisis team in Pima County). The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK.

Information obtained from National Institute on Aging

Article submitted by : Liz Haynes



The speaker for our March Gathering lunch will be Nancy Kirk, representing the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson. Ms. Kirk was originally scheduled in January but had to cancel, so we are glad to welcome her to our March program. The Presby gift will go to Ronald McDonald House.



Nancy Kirk, Director
Of Philanthropy

Please join us for faith and fellowship at 11:30 am on March 15th. Reservations can be made on Sunday, March 6th and March 13th, at the Women's Ministries table before and after Worship. The cost is \$11. You can also make reservations at the Church office through March 11th.

Just a reminder that we are still collecting the aluminum pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House.



We are always glad to receive prayer shawls and other knitted and crocheted projects that can go to our mission organizations.





Book Discussion Group

JUSTICE AND PEACE



DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM

• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!



DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH

• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.



RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING

• Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.

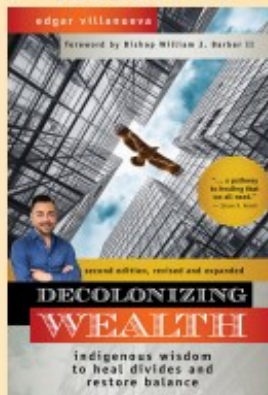


To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice

2022 Reading Selections

(6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)

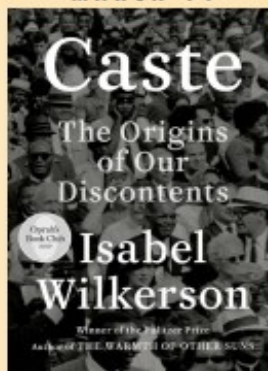
JANUARY 10



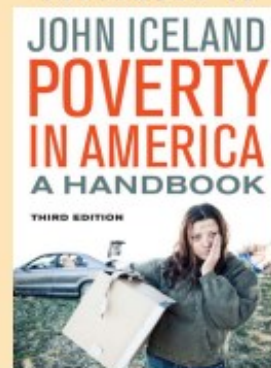
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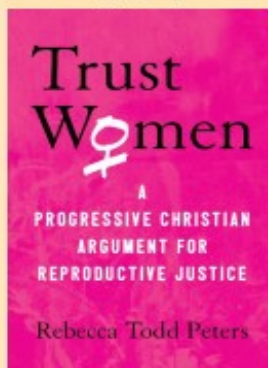
MARCH 14



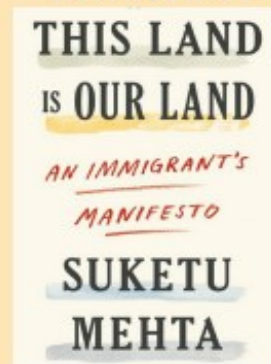
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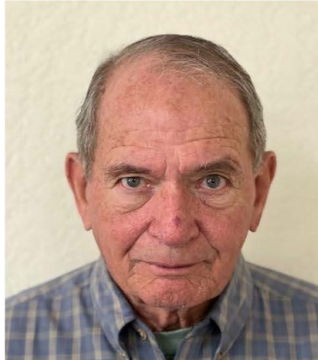
MAY 9



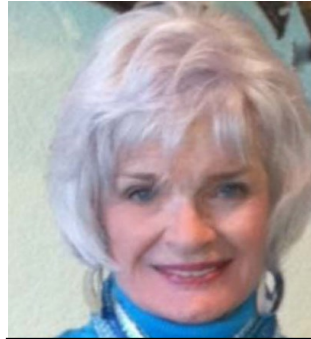
NOVEMBER 14



Selections are recommended reading by the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.



Don Marshall



Carol Marshall



Bob McDowell



Carol McDowell



Liane Graessle



Don Howell



Clair Howell



Debbie VanHyfte



Randy VanHyfte



Steve Ginader



Julie Genader



Sharon Vollsteadt



Paul Stumpfig



Sue Stuempfig

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

17 Bloggers Wanted!

Bob and Kristi Rice are our supported missionaries to South Sudan. Their communication tool to our congregation is through their blog- bobandkristiblog-spot.com- which they write twice per month. Only a portion of their inspiring story can be shared in the Valley Voice. Join the 17 VPC members who promise to pray and follow the blogs.

Teaching One Another...

For the Church History IV (Sudanese/South Sudanese) course which I taught this semester, students gave presentation on the final day of class on notable figures and events from the last two hundred years in southern Sudan church history. Students created dramas, they sung and created songs in various languages, and they solidified in our hearts and minds many of the things we learned together over the semester, also teaching us things we did not know before. One of the final stages in the learning process is teaching, so I am so pleased to see my students as our teachers. The photos and descriptions below paint a picture of our time together.



Students dramatize the burial and funeral of Father Angelo Vinco, Catholic Missionary to the Sudan in the 19th Century. Chief Jubek of the Bari people, a rainmaker, far left, presides over the funeral which attracts 4,000 Bari people and lasts for eight days. The royal type burial for Father Vinco signifies the love the Bari people have for Father Vinco, a dedicated missionary who learned the Bari language, provided reconciliation between warring clans and tribes, and killed a lion which was terrorizing the people. The students highlight the extraordinary self-denial of Vinco and his total surrender to Jesus, quoting the words of our Lord,

"... unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12: 24).

With the legacy of Arab slavers from the North, the Moru people had good reason to be suspicious of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Fraser when they arrived in Moruland. Yet, after winning the confidence and trust of one of the local chiefs who became their staunch advocate. Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Eileen Fraser were able to conduct a holistic ministry far and wide of physical healing, teaching, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Moreover, they brought unity to a scattered Moru people who had been living in fear of one another and of outsiders due to Arab invaders. Because of Dr. and Mrs. Fraser, the Moru people have developed a reputation even to this day as healers (practicing medicine) and as self-starters and initiators of development projects in their region. As Roger Sharland writes in the book "Gateway to the Heart of Africa," it is almost universally understood among the Moru peoples themselves that it was "the love and dedication of Dr. Fraser and his wife Eileen that made the Morus become Christians."



Lual Ayei, represented by a student (above), was a wanderer looking for money so he could buy cows so he could marry. In his wandering, however, he found Jesus. He was the pioneer of a "people movement" amongst the Ng'ok Dinka of Upper Nile, southern Sudan, a movement marked by mature and respected men of an older age-set who became followers of Jesus and who were willing to give up their dignity and status to become followers of The Way of Jesus. Students dramatize a significant event whereby Lual Ayei goes into the Luak (barn) of Deng Ker and begins beating the infamous drum, a drum reserved only for serious occasions such as war. Because Lual Ayei did not

die after beating the drum as everyone expected, many came to faith. The students sung songs in Dinka, and shared with us the song which Lual Ayei never failed to sing when entering a luak and engaging the people which says, "Truly brother, I have something good - better than money."

What a joy to learn alongside my students! These students will begin their final year at NTC in 2022 - please say a prayer for them. Shukran!



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 and praying for our missionaries and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by emailing me douglasclark68@me.com.



St. Andrews' Children's Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

Laura Romero announced that 2021 clinics in Nogales, Arizona were canceled due to the threat of Corona Virus. She is determined to begin Clinic Services as soon as possible. The Border Patrol is now allowing vaccinated adults across the border with their children. With safety measures and strict protocols, on February 3, 2022, they will conduct a small clinic at St. Andrews' Episcopal Church in Nogales, Arizona. There is a need to limit the clinic to pediatric patients. These will be children whose families are somewhat bi-lingual so not many translators will be required. The available space has been reduced in size because the church has reserved the pre-school area for their own use on the first Thursday of the month. Laura, the staff and many volunteers are gearing up for this first clinic in almost 2 years.

On February 17 Laura and some staff, volunteers and doctors will go to Hermosillo to prepare for Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate surgeries. They will check the safety of the Hermosillo environment. They will be taking the same group of approximately 35 children who were selected last October. Most of these are babies and very young children for first-time surgery. This endeavor will be expensive because, for health safety, the families will need to be isolated in hotels for 2 days before and after scheduled surgeries which will be Sunday and Monday, February 20 and 21. Cost of hotel rooms and food will be provided by St. Andrews' Clinic.

There is a desperate need for added building space. The office in Green Valley is too small to accommodate the needs of the Clinic staff. They are doing most of their work from home. St. Andrews' Church in Nogales is sharing less space. The contributor who is financing most of the planned new building on the St. Andrews' Church property is waiting to begin construction. As soon as plans are finalized, it will not take long for the facility to be completed. It will provide office and storage space, examination and therapy rooms, all of which are greatly needed by St. Andrews' Clinic.

The St. Andrews' Children's Clinic continues to need our prayers and support. Donations can be made through our Valley Presbyterian Church. Thanks to the many people in our church who provide help to this mission.

<https://www.standrewsclinic.org/home.html>

Mission Breakfast
March 26, 2022 at 8:30AM

Guest Speaker: Laura Romero, Executive Director will be presenting information about St. Andrew's Children's Clinic. Proceeds will benefit the St. Andrew's Children's Clinic.

Hope to see you there!



SNACK BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS



**Our Mission Committee will again sponsor a church wide event:
Snack Bags for the Homeless during March and April.**

- We will be collecting 13 different items to fill each bag. Sunday, March 13 will be our INTRODUCTION SUNDAY.
- We will have a list of needed supplies ready.
- Join us in Fellowship Hall to see samples of what we will put into each bag.

Collection Sundays will include March 20, 27, April 3, and 10.

We will invite the congregation to help us pack the bags after our Mission Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 12. Filled bags will again be taken to the Hospitality House of the Salvation Army in Tucson. Bags will also be available for members and friends of our congregation to take to give to needy persons on Easter Sunday.

Thank you for your support of this Outreach!
Ann Ball, Ed Storey, Mary Horn

Posada Life Adult Day Services

Submitted by Doug Clark



We pride ourselves on a holistic approach to care for those with physical challenges, impaired memory, or emotional needs. As Adult Day Care is not covered by Medicare; a modest daily fee is how we sustain this integral piece of the continuum of care needed for Green Valley's population of older adults. For those struggling financially and who qualify, we provide fee assistance. We work with the VA to help veterans who qualify get fee assistance as well.

In Adult Day Services, experienced professional staff and trained volunteers provide health assessment and oversight (provided by a registered nurse), recreation, field trips, therapeutic activities, intergenerational activities, a noon meal and snacks. Adult Day Services provides a lifeline for couples struggling to cope with the effects of serious illnesses that impact people late in life and helps them remain together in their home. We also provide Caregiver Support Groups that are open to the entire community, whether someone is participating in Adult Day Services or not.

Two things make our Adult Day Services program unique:

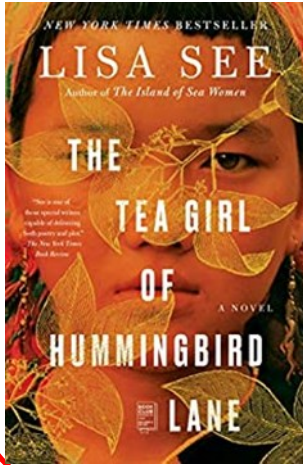
- * Posada Life Community Services (a not-for-profit) offers the only state-licensed Adult Day Health Care program in the greater Green Valley area.
- * We offer regular intergenerational programs to benefit both the older adults attending Adult Day Services and the children attending our Los Niños del Valle Preschool.

(We will resume the intergenerational program once we are given the green light from the CDC and Pima County. We continue following covid guidelines to keep adults and children safe.)

Adult Day Services benefits:

- ⇒ Individuals who have memory impairment due to Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, or who have other health issues such as Parkinson's disease, head trauma or the effects of a stroke.
- ⇒ Caregivers (usually a spouse) whose quality of life improves with respite from the ongoing responsibilities of caring for a loved one.
- ⇒ The community, which benefits from our outreach activities and caregiver support.
- ⇒ Dedicated volunteers improve our quality of care. Their donated time investment means more funds can go into Adult Day programming.

**Valley Readers
2:00 PM – March 28, 2022
Classroom 1**



In March the Valley Readers will read *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, by Lisa See. Published in 2017, this poetic novel celebrates a remote culture which confronts change in the modern world, the burdens that circumstance places on people's lives, and the bonds of family even when that family is unknown. The discussion will be facilitated by Gee-Gee Smith. Please contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.



Bowls

Valley Assistance Empty Bowls was a great success!

Thank you to everyone who donated your time, items for raffles and auctions, Vendors who donated soup and the beautiful bowls from the Ceramic Club.

A great time was had by all!



Bowls



And More Bowls



Raffle Items



Silent auction



Casa Vida Nueva para Niño's
"A Big Thank You from Casa Vida
Nueva Para Ninos (Orphanage)"
 Submitted by Reed Olson
 VPC Mission Committee

It is hard for the orphanage to say "thank you" to each individual who loves and supports the children. Please know that they truly feel blessed to be supported by VPC. Right now there are 4 children in high school and two in college.

The photo shows the children about to open their Christmas gifts which Valley Presbyterian Church donated over \$2,200 towards.



If you want to know more about this mission, go to the following web site: www.risesa.org





Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO

Something NEW has come to YOUTH ON THEIR OWN!!

They now have a brand new MERCH STORE. See below a few of the items that are available for purchase, and which will support YOTO! To learn more about the items that are available go to yoto.org. and click on the header SHOP YOTO.

Elliot Shin, an apparel & graphic designer living in Southern California is creating the art work used on the merchandise. It is his contribution to the continued success of YOTO!



INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING

We will meet at the church on Wednesday, March 23 from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm in Classroom 5 to make Inspirational Cards for Youth on Their Own students!

Our brief messages are included with the monthly stipend checks that students earn. Come join the fellowship and fun! We use a variety of uplifting slogans, colored sharpie pens, stamps and colored stamp pads, stickers galore, border ribbons, and colorful cards. ALL ARE WELCOME!



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

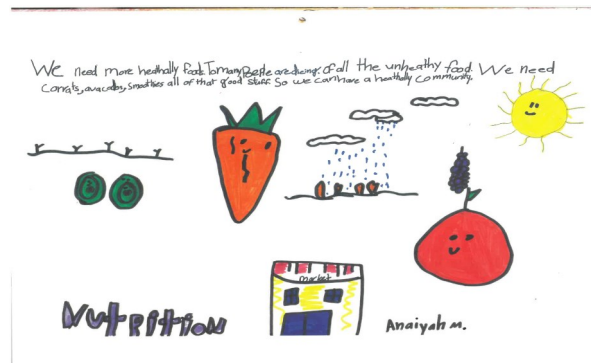


Submitted by Kylene Joplin & Carol Stephens

The Food Bank Mission Breakfast was a tremendous success and the information provided by their representative Norma Cables, Public Relations and Marketing was most interesting and informative. We learned how important VPC's food and monetary contributions are. The need an ongoing as is our support.

Funds raised at the breakfast is \$ 1,010.00 this will be divided between the Green Valley and Amado Food Banks.

The artwork accompanying the monthly Valley Voice articles are from the 2022 Community Food Bank Calendar and are cleverly created by local children. Several calendars were distributed at the Mission Breakfast.



**Artwork by Anaiyah,
"If People eat better food, they can have a
happy and long life"**

This year we have donated 55 lbs of food to the food banks and raised \$1706.00 (including the funds raised at the Mission Breakfast).

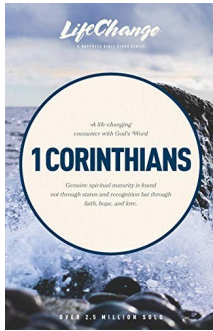
The Community Food Bank is definitely a worthwhile mission for us to support.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Reminder:

- Food Bank Sunday is March 6, 2022.





Men's Weekday Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

With about six to thirteen men attending each week, the group meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. They meet at the church for one hour in classroom 1.

The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (520-777-8027) but focuses on the group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

Join the group any time to participate in the discussion or just to listen. In either case, your presence will be welcomed. Lessons are self-contained so feel free to join the group when able. The study guide is available from Amazon or Christianbook.com.

**Please note: Men's bible study will not be meeting March 2nd or 9th.
Will see you on Wednesday March 16th.**

Lines, Curves and Colors – Rejoicing in the Gift of Imagination

Submitted by Linda Freeman

**Mondays, beginning March 14, from 1:00 to 1:30 (yes, just 30 minutes) in
Classroom 5 The last class will be April 4.
Led by Linda Freeman**

So often our lives center around accomplishing a task – planning the shopping list, getting the groceries, writing an email – the list goes on and on. This class concentrates on enjoying the gift of imagination.

During this class we will be encouraged to disengage from the to-do list and spend time in something unmeasurable – listening to music and coloring an image. Each week will be based around a broad focus subject, such as water. We will individually celebrate how listening to a bit a music can inspire us. Then, we'll concentrate on adding color to a collection of lines and curves. We'll explore where the act of coloring takes our thoughts.

Our objective in this class is to enjoy our imaginations and to not to produce a product. Our ½ hour together will involve little talking and discussion. All supplies will be provided – but you are welcome to bring your own.

Please consider this unique way to celebrate the Lenten season and join us.

OFFERING FOR LENT



Ash Wednesday March 2



Lent, the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. It is tradition to be given ashes on this day to mark our mortality. We will offer ashes in two ways:

Drive-by Ashes: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Drive by the fountain and receive ashes while in your car

Ash Wednesday Worship Service
5 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Devotionals for Lent

Lent is the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sunday) and begins Wednesday, March 2. It is a time to prepare ourselves as we walk with Jesus to the cross. One way we help you in this preparation is by providing a Lenten Devotional. We have two different devotionals (both free):

- ♦ *In View of God's Mercy:* This devotional helps us set our sights on what is meaningful and holy in our faith walk with God. It will be available at the Welcome Centers and in the Church office beginning Sunday, February 27.
- ♦ *A Season of Grace:* Designed for seniors, this devotional highlights the message and theme of the grace that blesses the lives of older adult Christians. It is large print. This devotional will be available at our Welcome Centers beginning Sunday, February 27, and will also be mailed to our homebound.

You are invited to pick up a devotional for yourself and encouraged to pick up several more for friends and neighbors. We have plenty for many.

Holy Solitude: a Lenten Study and Discipline

Mondays, 10:00 a.m. starting March 7

On Zoom and in Classroom 5

(Due to the Patio Sale, the first class will be in the sanctuary choir loft; no Zoom)

Your guides: Pastor Diane and Linda Norman)

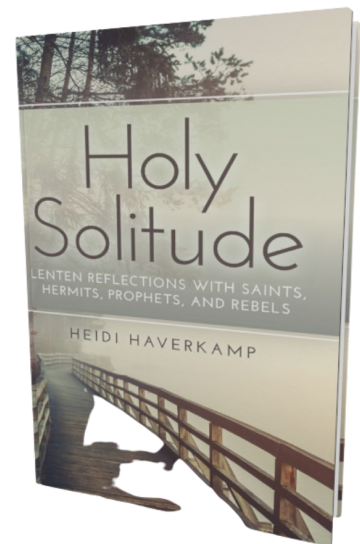
I have a longing to go deep this Lenten Season (Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2). With all the news and pandemic, I feel beaten up. Do you? Join me on a Lenten journey of study, fasting and giving. (Even if you don't feel beaten up, I invite you on this Lenten journey.)

Here is how the journey works. Sunday through Thursday, we will study Lenten reflections of "saints, hermits, prophets, and rebels." On Fridays, we will practice a fast. Do not worry. You will not practice a 24-hour food fast. One Friday, you drink only water (along with your meals). Another fast is spending a day in silence. On another Friday, you skip a meal.

Saturdays are for "almsgiving." Maybe on one Saturday, you give cash to someone who asks for it. On another Saturday, put extra money in the offering plate. On another Saturday, give to a different charity.

On Mondays, we will discuss our readings, and our experiences of fasting and giving.

This study is based on the book *Holy Solitude* by Heidi Haverkamp, an Episcopal priest. Books can be purchased from me, Pastor Diane, for \$12 (it is also offered on Kindle). The book's reflections and practices begin on Ash Wednesday (March 2).



Lenten Taizé

Thursdays in Lent starting March 10

5 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

(March 10 will be in the sanctuary due to the patio sale)

Taizé is a beautiful and meditative worship service filled with quiet music, scripture, candlelight, and silence. It is led by our Taizé Choir.

March Birthdays

** indicates turning 90
* indicates age in their 90's

Pam	Coggins	March 01
Linda	Kucera	March 01
Patricia	Sellars	March 01
Nicole	Raymond	March 02
Lillian	Deyerberg	March 03 *
Stuart	Howerter	March 04
Marcia	Koshollek	March 04
Donald	Groendyk	March 05
James	Mills	March 05
Audrey	Wolter	March 05
William	Streng	March 06
Geri	Graessle	March 08
Dale	Pryor	March 10
George	Boysen	March 11
Marilyn K.	Kidd	March 11
John	McPherson	March 12
Susan	Wilson	March 12
Cheryl	Cooper	March 13
Sue	Stuempfig	March 13
Julie	Ginader	March 15
Susan	Neuman	March 15
John	Wood	March 15
David	Bowen	March 17
Sandy	Green	March 17
Stephen	Kepler	March 17

March Birthdays

** indicates turning 90
* indicates age in their 90's

Nancy	Storey	March 17
Larry	Briggs	March 18
Mary Lee	Haas	March 18
Dorothy	Hofman	March 19 *
Joan	Richards	March 19 *
Dianne	Steinacker	March 19
Lon	Main	March 20
Richard	Bushong	March 21
Dick	Davison	March 21 **
Jean	Stewart	March 21
Robert M.	Williams	March 21
Sheila	Frahm	March 22
Katie	Sayre	March 22
Caryl	Thomas	March 23
Margaret	Hammel	March 25 *
Kenneth	Frahm	March 26
Jamie	Reed	March 26
Anne	Moore	March 27 *
Karen	Brooks	March 28
Kathryn	Danhof	March 28
Richard	Johnston	March 28
Lance	Barker	March 29
Ed	Farver	March 29
Karen	Bahnick	March 30
Jack	Claton	March 30
Lynne	Szabo	March 30
Christine	Fleischmann	March 31
Sharon	Thompson	March 31

Valley Presbyterian Church March 2022							◀ Nov 2021	Jan 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
		1 9:00am Cardio Drumming Womens Ministries Coordination Team 9:30am Prayer Ministry 11:00am Network of Caring Meeting 1:00pm Membership Outreach Committee 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal 4:00pm Faithworks Zoom Class 5:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	2 Ash Wednesday 8:00am Ministry of Presence Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Ash Wednesday-Drive By Ashes in Church Parking lot Chair Exercise With Mia Cooper 12:30pm Worship Committee 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Practice 5:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	3 8:00am Patio Sale Pack and Sort 2:30pm Journey Through Grief	4 8:00am Annual Patio Sale Fixtures Arrive 9:00am Piano Tuning – Sanctuary and Spiritual Life Center 5:00pm GVCC Rehearsal	5 Annual Patio Sale Fixtures Arrive		
6 Annual Patio Sale Fixtures Arrive 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 1:00pm Patio Sale Set-Up 3:00pm Music In The Valley-Caleb Collins	7 Patio Sale Set-Up 10:00am Holy Solitude 1:15pm GVCC Rehearsal	8 Patio Sale Set-Up 4:00pm Faithworks Zoom Class	9 Patio Sale Set-Up 10:00am Chair Exercise with Mia Cooper 3:15pm Choir Practice	10 8:00am Patio Sale 5:00pm Lenten Taize	11 8:00am Patio Sale 1:15pm GVCC Rehearsal	12 8:00am Patio Sale 12:00pm Patio Sale Clean-Up		
13 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	14 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise GVCC Rehearsal 10:00am Holy Solitude 1:00pm Lines, Curves and Colors-Rejoicing in the Gift of Imagination 2:30pm Journey Through Grief 6:30pm GVCC Concert	15 8:00am Mission Committee Meeting 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 11:30am Women's Ministries Gathering Lunch & Meeting 2:00pm GVCC Concert 4:00pm Faith Works Zoom Class	16 9:00am Mens Bible Study Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise With Mia Cooper Finance Committee-On Site -Zoom 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Practice	17 St. Patrick's Day 1:00pm Southern Arizona Genealogical Society 2:30pm Journey Through Grief 5:00pm Lenten Taize	18 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise's Stephen Ministry Training 17-18 and 15	19		
20 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 5:00pm Friendship Kettle Dinner	21 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise Mission Quilters 10:30am Holy Solitude 1:00pm Lines, Curves and Colors-Rejoicing in the Gift of Imagination 2:30pm Journey Through Grief 4:00pm Run Circle	22 9:00 am Cardio Drumming 9:30 am Prayer Ministry 1:00pm P.E.U. Concert 4:00pm Faithworks Zoom Class	23 9:00 am Mens Bible Study Parkinson's Chair Exercise's 10:00 am Chair Exercise with Mia Cooper 1:00pm YOTO Card Making 2:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15 pm Choir Practice	24 8:00am Session Meeting 2:30pm Journey Through Grief 5:00pm Lenten Taize	25 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises SM CE Meeting Stephen Ministry Training Supervision and 21-22 10:00am SM Peer Group Meeting 11:00am Stephen Leaders Meeting 7:00pm True Concord Voice & Orchestra	26		
27 9:00 am Childrens Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	28 Mission Breakfast-St Andrews Children's Clinic 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Holy Solitude 1:00pm Lines, Curves and Colors-Rejoicing in the Gift of Imagination 2:00pm Valley Readers	29 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry 11:00am Network of Caring Meeting 2:00pm Joyful Spirit Ensemble Rehearsal 4:00pm Faithworks Zoom Class	30 9:00am Mens Bible Study Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise With Mia Cooper Drive By Ashe Wednesday 2:00pm Bell Rehearsal 3:15pm Choir Practice	31 1:00pm Personnel Committee 5:00pm Lenten Taize	1 Parkinson's Chair Exercises Piano Tuning Sanctuary 10:00am Parkinsons Tail-Gate Kick off for Parkinsons Awareness Month-Under Sodor Panels	2		