



Valley Voice

From Pastor Craig

One of the learnings of the JAG Report and Interim Pastorate was that “church” is not only Divine Worship on Sunday morning, but “church” is our faith, our caring relationships, missions, ministries, and the use of this physical resource for our community in this time. While we all have been distanced, our Church (Pastors, Session, Staff, Committees) have been extremely busy planning and rectifying long-standing issues.

I am convinced that while we routinely have experiences and relationships, God often uses these again for new and differing times. I originally experienced Stephen Ministry Leadership training in 1985 and now have been retrained and used by VPC. For the last 30 years, I have been video recording worship, in part I used these to candidate for PNCs like our own; which then provided me greater comfort in leading you in the divine worship of God today, on camera. For the last decade, I have owned and used a “Zoom” video conference meeting room for Session meetings, committee meetings, teaching classes, General Assembly: Permanent Judicial Commission testimony, and internationally creating and supervising a health care system in South Sudan; which now is serving our committees and Session at Valley. The old adage is that, “we plan and God laughs.” Perhaps this is less that God frustrates our plans, and more that we envision all our plans, experiences, relationships microscopically, and God reveals these as part of a larger vision.

In this edition of The Valley Voice, you will read of a number of developments coming to fruition during this time, in order that our Church “Divine Worship, faith, caring relationships, missions, ministries, and physical resource for our community in this time” will be better prepared to address God’s current and future needs.

Craig Lindsey

Additional Sources of Revenue for our Church

When the United States Congress initially offered the CARES Act: Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), as readily as the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly of the PC(USA) granted endorsement, Treasurer Don Brooks jumped into action making application through our local bank. As happened to so many local small businesses, the initial \$250 Billion was not nearly sufficient. Undaunted Don, assisted with financial and incorporation records from Annie Stitt, re-applied for the \$485 Billion renewal of the PPP. At present, VPC has been notified that all necessary paperwork has been submitted and we are “in the pipeline.” If/when granted, this will provide our church revenue of an unanticipated \$105,000 to offset two months of salaries and utilities as needed.

In addition, the Green Valley Chamber of Commerce has made available grants of \$1,000 to local businesses for advertising. Annie Stitt readily pulled this together to support our church.

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New Skills

In one of my email blasts in April, I asked the question: What new skills are you learning during self-quarantine?

Here are the skills I learned in the last month:

- How to speak in front of a camera (and still learning).
- How to post on the church's Facebook page.
- How to cut the hair on the back of my head.
- How to use Zoom.

I invited you to send me your new skills. Here are some of your responses:

- Learned how to make a mask.
- Learning to play the native American flute.
- Learning how to play backgammon from husband.
- From a couple: learning how to be with each other 24/7.
- Learned Zoom, yoga and meditation.
- Learned how to shop for groceries online
- Taking an intermediate Spanish class with Zoom.
- Learning how to edit photos on a new iMac desktop.
- Learning patience.
- Learning how to slow down.

Even though there is much sadness and loss in our country, I pray we can see this time as a way to remember what is important in life - often the simple things in life. And when the lockdown is lifted, we will enjoy the gift of being together.

All my love,
Pastor Diane

Volunteer Opportunity at VPC for a Special Person!

I, Barb Streng, have had the privilege of serving as Sunday morning attendance keeper here at Valley. With the wonderful guidance of Wendy Kopera, a program was developed to keep attendance of our church family each Sunday. This information is of great assistance to many different committees for as many different reasons and is a vital position in helping in many areas of Church activity.

In short, it involves marking attendance on the computer. Thus you can do it at home and at your relative pace and convenience. Although being involved at VPC for six years and considered a ministerial affiliate, I was thrilled to be able to put names and faces together, and the church family became so much more visually and personally alive. I sincerely hope you will prayerfully consider filling this position which I regretfully have to resign from. If so, please give Pastor Diane or Pastor Craig a call. I have all the information and will be willing to help you get started. Blessings and thank you.

The Valley Voice is published each month. Please submit articles for consideration to notices@valleypres.net by the 15th of the prior month. Articles may be edited for style, length and content.



St. Andrew's Children's Clinic Has Great Needs!

At this time of crisis, St. Andrew's Children's Clinic is in desperate need of our prayers, concerns, and donations. The staff is working on clinic business from their homes; the children are staying at their homes in Mexico, not receiving the monthly care that the clinic has given for over 45 years. Of great concern are the children with respiratory problems such as asthma. The clinic has decided to remain closed through June (so far). The children are now staying home without specialized treatment.

COVID 19 issues have been mostly ignored in Mexico. Just lately, April 13, did the government recommend lock-down procedures. No one knows what COVID 19 cases exist in that country. Information given to the public is not accurate. Numbers are false. We can only guess that the disease is present, as it is throughout our world.

As a non-profit agency, the St. Andrew's Clinic is receiving no funding right now, yet there are still bills to be paid. Our Lord guides us to find ways to help people in need. If you can find it in your heart and your pocket book, please send a donation to help them out. Send to Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 S Camino Del Sol, for St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, or to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, PO BOX 6787, Green Valley, AZ 85622.

Christ's Blessings for all VPC Readers!

Worship Service Video Production (Once the Church Re-opens)

Interested in being a part of videotaping worship services when we all get back to attending services at the church? We would like to stream Sunday morning services live and keep copies online for viewing anytime later.

We need skill in camera operations, lighting, video, sound mixing, IP networking, post-production and streaming software use. We're pretty sure many of those skills need to be honed specific to our operation. All that matters for now is that you have a passion to get the job done. We want to assemble a group large enough that we keep things moving and no one "burns out."

If you are interested in being on the ground floor as this venture moves forward, drop an email to Dick Horn (rrhorn@mac.com). We will do some initial planning electronically and then meet face-to-face once the lockdown is lifted.

Valley Readers

**Monday, May 18
2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1**

**Please note change from
regular 4th Monday date.**

If we are able to meet in May, we will celebrate being together again and discuss the good books we all read while staying at home, as well as books we recommend in general. There may even be refreshments. The date change is due to Memorial Day. The books that were scheduled for March and April will be discussed later in the year. Stay tuned and contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

Patio Sale Dates for 2020

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

Sorting: Postponed until
further notice.

Holiday Sale: November 20 &
21 (set-up November
18-19)

Patio Sale News

For the first time since it started, all Patio Sale activities are at a standstill for the time being – no donations accepted at the church, no pickups of donations, no sorts, no nothing. If there is anything good about this, it is that the patio sale volunteers got forced into taking a good rest after working so hard. It has also given the Amigos ample opportunity to reflect on the past season and plan for the future.

Planning for the future is not easy to do when the future is so uncertain, but we have some important decisions to make before we can get the Patio Sale moving again. Our major consideration will be keeping everybody safe and healthy, but we have never dealt with a pandemic before, so how we keep our drivers, our volunteer helpers, and those who donate goods to us safe is something we have to figure out. We have had the first meeting of what will be several in order to figure this out.

We have also gone over the results of last year to see what we could do better, and one of the first issues to come up was the need to find more agencies to be here on Saturday to pick up what is left after our sale. This year we were really scrambling to get rid of the last of the merchandise. Next year we hope to have representatives from the organizations supported by our mission committee here on Saturday to take whatever they want and can use.

The Amigos are looking forward to getting back to a regular schedule as soon as possible, but, until that time, stay well and keep setting aside those things you no longer need until we can pick them up from you.

Remember Those Vinyl Records?

Submitted by Laurie Allen



We don't need your 45 rpm's, we need to update your pertinent church records in the database and files!

If you have had changes ie: address, phone/cell#, DOB, update your next of kin, personal preferences, etc., please email your information TO ME, or I can email you a form to fill out. We will have forms available at the church. Thank you!

Email laurie@valleypres.net

Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

(Based on financial data through March 2020)

The Finance Committee met on Saturday, April 4 via Zoom for a special meeting to determine our status regarding the CARES Act. Based on all information available, we determined that it could provide funding through the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) to assist VPC during this time of uncertainty and authorized the Treasurer to begin the application process and seek approval from the Session. As of this date we do know that the loan application has gone to the underwriter and is still making progress through the system. On April 15, we met again to review financial activity through March.

The first quarter of this fiscal year keeps us in a positive position. In the following report we have defined "Giving Support" as contributions for current operations and "Other Support" as Patio Sale Fund or other Funds support for operations, investment income, fees for services (memorials, events, concerts etc.):

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving support	\$197,849	\$263,233	(\$65,384)
Per Capita support	8,144	9,350	(1,206)
Other support	<u>18,861</u>	<u>17,802</u>	<u>1,059</u>
Total support	224,854	290,385	(65,531)
Expenses	<u>211,772</u>	<u>214,889</u>	<u>(3,117)</u>
Net	<u>\$ 13,082</u>	<u>\$ 75,496</u>	<u>(\$62,414)</u>

This report shows that we are behind the 2020 Budget. No surprises here because of the State shutdown. April is anticipated to be even worse with the church closure and especially the loss of collections for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Green Valley churches normally receive the majority of their support during the high season November through April. This helps to see them through the low months. We are seeing that many are still sending in their pledges and that the online giving has increased significantly. For this we thank you.

On May 4, the outside auditor will be at VPC to do the financial audit for 2019.

Session Notes from April

- Approved a Capital Campaign to solicit funds for the 2023 repayment of the debt for solar power equipment not to exceed \$100,780; and a subcommittee consisting of Judy Aguayo, April Boysen, Bob Campbell, and Gail Gesell to implement and oversee it.
- Approved the establishment of a Columbarium Committee.
- If granted, to receive a Coronavirus Small business Grant to be used for payroll for church personnel.
- Grant an additional week's vacation to pastors and staff in acknowledgement and appreciation of their extra services during the pandemic down time.
- Approved the following: Upon the resumption of Sunday Worship Services, experiment with two (2) services each week (one at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 10:30 a.m.) with Sunday School in between.
- Approved the continuation of Taizé Worship Services on the first Wednesday of each month.



News of Note



A Note From Wes

My Valley Presbyterian Family,

A year....it's truly hard to believe that I have been at VPC for a year already. I remember walking into the church sanctuary for the first time last April. I was moved by the beauty of the building, I was astounded by the wonderful instruments the church possesses, I was moved with awe at the view of the mountains, and most of all, I was touched by the kindness of the people I met. I have truly loved being the organist at VPC this past year. The church services are wonderful, the staff is amazing, the Christ-centeredness of church activities is moving, but the people...the people are my favorite part. I feel as though I have made hundreds of friends the last year. When I look back across the journey of my life, the path that brought me to VPC and Green Valley is one of my most cherished. Choir, I genuinely thank you all (all y'all!) for your hard work, dedication, and volunteerism; but I thank you more for making our time together one of my favorite things. I love the music we make together, but I love our fellowship and laughs together equally as much. Additionally, I have been fortunate to gain someone in whom I'm sure I have a life-long friend, our director, Jamie Reed. Jamie, it is my privilege to work with you, play under your direction, perform duets with you, and count you as a dear friend.

Thank you for an amazing musical year; Here's to many more....

Wes

A Note from Jamie

It is so hard to believe it has been a year! As I look back on our time together, I am amazed at how much we created. Since I am a list person, here goes.... My favorite moments:

- The number of singers growing every week: new faces, voices, and friendships!
- Seeing the beauty in all of your faces as you sing every Sunday!
- Meeting one of my best friends, Mr. Wes Moulton. Our duets!
- Going from one musical project to the next (special services, Cantata, Choir Concert, new music, the list goes on.)
- Knowing you are all along for the ride with my 'on the spot' changes, arrangements, and musical ideas. Thank you for trusting me.
- This leads to an extra special favorite moment: the love medley in the Choir Concert. Hearing your stories and memories and coming together to create this special moment will forever warm my heart.
- And finally, you all meeting my little man, AJ, and embracing his energy and sweet heart.

At home we have a way of documenting AJ's witty and fun comments about anything and everything. I call them AJisms. So from the mouth of a seven year old, I'd like to close with an AJism about his Valley Presbyterian Family: "I love that people get to spend time together. I love that everybody loves Jesus. I love dressing in my bowties and being Pastor Craig Jr. Oh yeah, and the food." I'm looking forward to the future and seeing you all again very soon!

Jamie

What About the Photo Directory?

Submitted by Linda Freeman

I wish we had dates to share with you. We don't. But, I can share what is happening right now (or rather, what isn't happening!).

If you had your pictures taken be assured that they are saved on the Lifetouch systems and will be retrieved when production resumes.

The church will begin to receive copies of the free 8x10 photos as soon as production resumes. When the first ones start to come in we will let everyone know. If you are still in town, we'll have them available for you to come and collect them. Otherwise, we will hold them until we see you again.

If you ordered photos for yourself, these will be mailed to the address on your photo receipt. If you don't remember which address is on their records, you can call Customer Service at 1-866-756-0281 once production resumes. They can pull up your record and get everything worked out for you.

The Community Connection Directory IS HAPPENING – it is just being delayed. Valley Presbyterian has arranged with Lifetouch to resume photo sessions in November with some follow-up in February. We'll let you know when sign-ups begin again.

Think happy thoughts!

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona

Submitted by Joan Bolin

As mentioned in the April Valley Voice, the founders of Crossroads Mission, Ben and Bert Wenke, came out of their eight-week retirement to become the directors again after the new director, Pastor David Lopez, didn't work out.

The Mission is not open to the general public at this time because of Governor Ducey's restrictions due to the Corona virus. The Mission has been handing out bags of produce to people that come in looking for food. Ben has been working with five men in the men's shelter recovery program. There are four women in the women's shelter.

The Mission is refurbishing their three homes at this time. Ben stated there is a need for woodworkers for some small jobs there at the Mission. Call Ben, (520) 264-8434, if you could help with these small jobs.

Ben told me the following story that just happened: There were 30 Cuban people and a naked baby that were delivered in the desert, who all crossed the Mexican border into Arizona. The Cubans were dropped off in the desert somewhere near Patagonia, Arizona. They ended up in Nogales, Arizona, and were taken to Crossroads Mission where they talked with Ben. Ben called the Border Patrol who came to the Mission. Ben gave the baby's mom one of the baby quilts that he had there at the Mission, which came from our Valley Presbyterian Church's quilting group. What a story. You never know where a quilt is needed.

Crossroad's Easter lunch scheduled for April 11 didn't occur because of the restrictions from the Corona virus. The Mission did fill 35 Easter baskets, which were given to the Nogales Police Department so the police could hand them out to the kids they know are in need.

Ben sends hugs to all.



It's a whole new world, and many of us are using programs and apps we've never (or rarely) used before. I'm sure most of you have used either Skype or Facetime at some point in your lives, but now the ability to meet "face-to-face" allows us to continue to participate in groups and meetings that have shifted to being online, and for the extroverts among us, it allows us to meet with friends to chat, eat, and laugh together - basically to maintain some sanity! If you are using those programs, or any of the others (more about those in a minute), there are some rules of etiquette you may not be aware of that can help meetings go more smoothly, particularly if there are multiple participants.

The following was written for Zoom, in particular, but much of it applies to other venues as well.

1. Click "Show Participants." This will show you who's got their mic open and who doesn't.
2. If you aren't speaking, mute yourself.
3. If you'd like to speak and someone else is talking, unmute your mic to show you'd like to talk. Other folks *should* be watching "Show Participants" and let you speak next. Another option is to raise your hand.
4. Let other people speak. You don't have to comment on EVERYTHING.

FOR HOSTS:

1. If you have a Zoom account, set your meeting preferences to "Mute participants on entry." This way people are muted by default and you don't have to spend time when each person joins asking them to mute themselves and teaching them where the mute button is. People will be way more motivated to find an "unmute" button than a mute one.
 - a - Click on "zoom.us" in the upper left-hand corner.
 - b - Choose "preferences."
 - c - Choose "general."
 - d - Choose "view more settings."
 - e - Scroll down to "Mute participants on entry."
 - f - Slide the slider to the "on" position.
2. If you are hosting a meeting and everyone is talking, you can re-mute everyone with this:
 - a - Click on "Show Participants."
 - b - Click on "Mute all."
 - c - Click on "Allow participants to unmute themselves" if you're feeling magnanimous.
3. If you are hosting a meeting and people are shouting over each other, you can mute individuals as well. Please do this; it's frustrating to try to speak and have one person shutting other people out.
 - a - Click on "Show Participants."
 - b - Find the person you want to mute.
 - c - Click on the microphone icon to toggle mute.

There are a ton of apps/programs that allow you to hold audio and/or video meetings, and many are free or have a free version. Here are a few (listed alphabetically), along with the number of people who can participate at the free/lowest cost level, and some noteworthy comments:

Cisco Webex Meetings (100 participants), Facebook Messenger (6), FaceTime (32, Apple products only), Google Duo (8), Google Hangouts (10), Jitsi (unlimited, open source for more tech-savvy users), Lifesize (25), Skype (50), WhatsApp (4, also good for texting internationally), Zoom (100, 40 minute max for free if more than two participants).

Test one out with a friend and grow as you feel comfortable. Stay connected, stay sane, and stay healthy!



Faith Formation

Faith Formation Update

Learn the Basics ~ Deepen Our Faith ~ Share our Beliefs

The above statement is the purpose/mission of the Faith Formation Committee and Planning Team. Even though we are not able to meet in classes right now, we have offered other ways to deepen your faith.

Pastor Craig and I send out daily email blasts with encouragements and spiritual insights. If you are not signed up to receive our email blasts, go to our website, valleypresbyterian.net, click on "News and Events" and choose "Weekly E-blast." You may also call the church to sign up.

On the church's Facebook page, I post daily church updates and spiritual encouragements. Not on Facebook? No problem. Go to the church's website and click on the "f" in the upper right hand corner. It will bring you to our Facebook page.

Wes and Jamie record weekly duets of favorite hymns. You can view these on the Thursday email blast or on our Facebook page.

We record the worship services (Sunday mornings and Taizé) so we can continue to sing praises to God and hear the word.

Once we reopen, Faith Formation will offer the class called "Pray Like Jesus" by Don Underwood based on the Lord's Prayer. It is very apropos for days like this. I am currently reading it in the morning before I head to church. Won't you join me?

Hopefully this summer, we will show the movie "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" based on the life of Mr. Rogers starring Tom Hanks. It has great lessons on how to listen to others with compassion.

As I look at the third component of the Faith Formation mission statement (Share Our Beliefs), I pray you have had opportunities to share with others how your faith in God is helping you in this time. God uses us to be a light to others.

Pastor Diane

The Fountain

In recent years, the parking lot fountain was looking a little "worse for wear." Up stepped Building and Grounds craftsmen Jim Luhring and Rick Nau, who rewired the lighting and pump floatation; custodians Joe Snow and Bob Lopes, who painted each level inside and out of the fountain with pool paint; Su Van Valen who trimmed and cultivated the bushes; Carla Goings who supplied rubber duckies. Many of the church's neighbors now stop to sit on the bench and enjoy the fountain during daily walks, as do those attending the church for a variety of activities. What a welcome Oasis of Grace.



Our Sincere Thanks to Wendy Kopera

Years ago, during Pastor Larry DeLong's tenure and Pastor Mark Medina's, no one in our church knew how all the technology functioned. Wendy Kopera stepped up and read all the manuals, researched, and tried to make things work. Wendy had been responsible for operating the sanctuary sound system, as well as the ones in the Fellowship Hall and in the Spiritual Life Center. Wendy was responsible for purchasing and setting up the server and computers of our church offices. Wendy set-up our Breeze database, and Mailchimp mass e-mail program. Wendy was responsible for everything from rebalancing the sounds of worship on CD recordings to publishing the monthly Valley Voice Newsletter. Anything electronic or technical, Wendy was the one to fix-it and maintain it. However, in the Spring of 2019, Wendy and Joel decided to move themselves to Maine. Graciously, Wendy has worked long-distance as a contractor for the church throughout this last year, even making a special trip back to Arizona last February to train the current staff and pastors in how stuff works. We hope that you will all join us in thanksgiving to Wendy for all that she has helped to create here; as well as bearing with your pastors and current staff as we use and build upon what has been established and make mistakes. There comes a time when we all must cut the cord, and learn how to support one another, when those who used to be with us are no longer part of the community geographically. Thank you Wendy for having always gotten back to us, whenever we called saying "Wendy will know," and empowering us to take on responsibility for how to now support one another. The Baptismal Font demonstrates a wonderful metaphor for us... One person's finger in the font causes the water to seek a level, when that person's fingers are removed the water seeks a new level as other step forward to offer their touch as well.

Capital Campaign for Solar System

For two years, about 87.5% of our church's power requirements have been met through a contract with Technology Credit Corporation (TCC) using the solar power system they installed in our parking lot. Total savings compared with what we would have paid to Tucson Electric Power during the first twenty-two months of operation amounted to \$11,075.72.

We have a great opportunity to purchase our solar system beginning in May 2023. Ownership would save the church approximately \$14,500 in yearly utility costs after paying for maintenance, annual inspection, and insurance.

The total purchase price is \$100,780. With the expected annual utility savings, the return on our investment (ROI) is about 6.9 years.

The Session approved a Capital Campaign for the purchase of our solar system. We have 36 months to accumulate the funds needed to convert from the TCC contract to a full purchase of the equipment. A special account was established for the Campaign and already has received generous contributions of \$2,500 from congregation members. You will be hearing about the progress of our solar system campaign in the coming months.

If you would like to participate in this cost-saving endeavor for the future of Valley Presbyterian Church, please note Solar System Campaign with your donation. Remember, every dollar is important.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2020						
3 Bill McGrath	4	5 Jim Bruner	6 Peggi Briggs Pam Karbowsky Rod Lichtenberger Catherine Williams	7	1 Barbara Dittmer Martha Jump Ruth Morris	2 Sandra Howerter
10	11	12 Dorothy Barker Ann Stockdale	13 Annamae Buchholtz Barb Streng	14 Margot Elsner	8 Geri Berry Janet Fitch	9 Bill Wheeler
17 Norm TenBrink Su Van Valen Don Younker	18 Ted Smith	19 Dick Christensen Kris McGrath	20 Etta Stratton Kenneth Taft	21 Patti Bright Judy Stevenson	22 Janice Agner Anna McCarty	23 Barb Case Jo Gibson George Higginson Jay Messerschmidt
2 Doris Simmons Janet Wagner	25 Dorothy Sturz	26	27 Jan Panhuis	28 Lois Blacker Sandy Clark Wanita Marshall Charles McCarty Phyllis Nutting Jeanne Truitt	29 Betty Patton	30 Parkie Copeland Ellie Higginson
31 Katherina Harder						

Sanctuary Sound System

We have clearly heard that the sanctuary sound system was difficult to listen to! While investigating alternatives, two families stepped forward, donating memorial gifts in a starting amount of \$5,000 and \$10,000. Our sincere thanks to them.

Pastor Craig contacted the architects and engineers from the early 2000's sanctuary reconstruction and secured the as-built drawings for the mounting of our sound system. Our Building and Grounds Committee entertained a Tucson sound engineer to investigate this, who verified one of the two rafter speakers was not working. He then recommended a plan for \$150,000 to fix the system. Needless to say, that was not acceptable. Anticipating that, he suggested the same design, for lesser quality equipment of \$75,000. He also pointed up difficulty inherent in our sanctuary having expansive glass windows in every wall, which reflect sound like a mirror reflects light. Again we sought other alternatives. Custodian Bob Lopes then offered that he used to play in a band, and a friend he met at church, who also played in the band, now has an engineering company in San Francisco, which offers contemporary solutions for historic churches' acoustic, lighting, & video problems. Bob worked with this friend long-distance, taking measurements of our sanctuary. Bob even creatively measured the various heights of the ceiling from the sloped floor using a helium balloon and string!

This engineer has diagnosed two immediate problems. What have been installed, and recommended previously, were speakers for amplifying music. Acoustically, anyone who has come to a Music in the Valley of True Concord Concert, or our own worship, have experienced that our sanctuary is wonderful for music without any amplification. The first problem being that the "spoken word" and "music" are opposites. When a soloist hits a final note, you want this to echo and reverberate; but in a prayer or sermon, that same echo, muddies the sound. VPC needs audio speakers for the spoken word, not for music. Second, according to physics, line array speakers, as we have used, can be steered, but the optimum angle from speaker location to the listening congregation is less than 30 degrees. The speakers hung in our rafters are at an 80 degree angle to those seated. Therefore, the sound is bouncing off of the walls and coming back to listeners making sound muddy.

Plans from our Session are now underway, for this engineer to visit VPC, taking sound measurements of our pastors' speaking voices, the Steinway piano, organ and vocalists, in hope of rectifying the sound system as soon as possible. If and when a decision is made by Session, we will need an additional \$15 - \$20,000 beyond what has been received in advance for purchase and installation of a system appropriate for everyone to hear clearly in our Sanctuary.

Church Sign

At the Annual Meeting in late January, discussion was raised of the congregation's desire for an electronic sign board, with overwhelming interest. While preliminary signs ran in the \$20-30,000 bracket, our Building and Grounds Committee have found a sign for about \$1,000. This sign will be mounted above our current monument sign on the corner, where we have often displayed disposable signs. This sign will be a permanent attachment, but the wording can be changed regularly using a computer keyboard.

The Church Reformed is Always Being Reformed (by God)

These were the watchwords of the Reformation, emphasizing that rather than being an Orthodox Church, as one among the Reformed Churches (Presbyterian, Disciples, Congregational, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran), we are in tension between preserving what is sacred and holy, over against contemporary circumstance in the world. March 16, 2020 the Corona Virus of 2019 reached the level of a pandemic, and in response Valley Presbyterian Church reformed, from having live, in person worship open to all at 9:20 a.m. every Sunday morning, to adopting video recording worship. Dick Horn has worked diligently to support our pastors and staff in providing this medium for all of us to worship God every week.

Now, we wait and pray, as the infection and mortality rates from this disease across the state of Arizona continue to rise. Our hearts go out to one another, as we lift these persons and the medical workers before God. The mandate is and has been, that nothing more can be done safely, than to distance ourselves, until a full two weeks after these infection and mortality rates have not simply stabilized, but significantly decreased. After which, congregations are considered Level Two in being able to congregate. In the meantime, committee meetings have resumed by Zoom video conference.

Acting on recommendation of our Worship Committee, our Session has begun creating plans for when we are able to be free to attend worship again, how we might reform to be safe. These are only plans at this stage, as circumstance continue to change daily. A week ago the governor of Arizona projected that this re-opening would not be before June, and in coming days our Presbytery will report their own recommendations. Valley Presbyterian Church's Session recognizes that a significant percentage of our winter attendance are making their way north to other homes for the summer. When we are able to worship together, we expect everyone to continue to be concerned for the health and well-being of others by staying home if you feel ill. When we are able to come to worship, rather than our 9:20 a.m., we will shift to our earlier practice of two identical worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School classes offered in between at 9:30 a.m. Expectation is that this will significantly reduce the possibility of exposing one another. There will not yet be any opportunity for Coffee Hour fellowship, as we will still be encouraged to not socialize. Please plan to wear a face mask, or pick one up on your way inside when you come to worship. While speaking normally can project personal oral vapors an average of six feet, when singing we each project further. Therefore, between each person or couple there should be maintained a social distancing of six to eight feet, and in pews everyone should plan to offset themselves to not be seated in-front or directly behind others. Our wonderful choir will need to share their gifts in smaller arrangements of quartets, double quartets, or however our musical director arranges. We pray that these will not feel like rules or discipline, but that given the compromises of immunity many of our congregation live with, these will be demonstrations of our caring for one another. While some have speculated who will be allowed to worship when, we sincerely believe that because no one will be at our regular time of 9:20 a.m., we can each self-regulate this summer into 8:30 a.m. worshippers and 10:30 a.m. worshippers. Pastor Craig has stated that during this time our leadership looks to our Parish Nurse Chris, Valley Assistance Services, and our Congregational Care Committee to lead us in what is wise.

More Blog Readers Wanted (15 and Counting - Note #15!)

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.

Small beginnings

A few weeks ago, before Coronavirus took over our thoughts here in South Sudan, I joined a meeting of women to talk about community development. Women gathered in a circle after the church service, many of them holding young children on their laps. I started the discussion by reflecting on John 10:10, where Jesus expressed his intention to give us "life, and life to the full." What does that mean? That means that God cares about all aspects of our lives – our eternal souls, certainly, but also our bodies, relationships, work, and minds. If one part of our lives is unhealthy – such as a conflict with a family member, that will have an impact on the other parts of our lives. So how can we improve and promote health in all areas of life?



My colleague Elijah passed around a weaving that was in process. He asked the women to tell what they thought it was, or what they noticed. Several women suggested that it was a basket, or would become a woven bag for carrying things. Some said that they knew how to do this type of weaving. When something is at the beginning, there are many possibilities. Something looks small and insignificant at the beginning, but with slow progress can become something big, beautiful, and of great use. With that perspective we asked the women what some of their dreams are for their group. What impact could they have? Some of their top dreams included:

- Education (many of them had not gone very far in school, or could not read/write)
- Employment for women (perhaps through a store for selling handcrafts, or a farm)
- Strengthen them spiritually (including prayer, Bible study)
- Trauma healing training
- Health awareness (e.g. about diseases, including cancer)

We then looked at each of these top goals or hopes they had for projects. What would be required in material or human resources for each? What resources did they have available? And finally we asked them to vote for which of these should be tackled first. Voting was a challenge, because all of these projects had value and felt like a priority to the women. But finally they decided that creating employment would be a task to tackle first, especially through trying to open a shop or have a cooperative that could sell some of the beautiful bead-work that the Anyuak tribe is known for.

They thought about some ways that they could save to get some capital for opening a shop. We talked about the planning and training that might be needed before they opened. The women, most of whom live in the neighborhood and do not have consistent work, are eager to collaborate. We talked about the need to continue to meet, to learn and plan together. Please pray for God's wisdom and provision

(continued next page---->)

for these women in Lologo. And now that Coronavirus has made meetings risky, pray for wisdom in how we proceed!

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.

Operation Mobilisation - Pam & Dave L.

We are in this together!

Dear Everyone,

I trust you all are keeping well. We are doing well, by the powerful grace of God.

The last two days of shopping in the stores for items that we would like to have on hand in our household is reminding me of the days when we used to live in Tajikistan during the war days, anthrax, typhoid and hepatitis outbreak days--we would stock up on flour, rice, meat, TP (-), oil, butter, veggies, canned goods, and other essentials. We never knew if they would be on shelves the next day or the next week.

When we were out there as a team we would check in with each other to see how we were doing.

Once a week we would gather for a prayer times. God is our Refuge and Stalwart. He is faithful that is for sure. He knows how to take care of us even though our emotions are all over the place.

We have been in contact with our staff in Germany Jordan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Armenia, Turkey and with (friends in) Iran these last weeks. They would covet our prayers, too. If you think about it please pray for them. The Central Asian and Subcontinent facilities are not as good as ours to take care of the patients. We have been quite concerned for them, too. Please join us in prayer for them.

Also, our ministry ship called Logos Hope, that Justin (our son) had been on for two years, is in "lockdown" now too. Ministry continues on but in a different way.

Trust you all keep well during this pandemic.

Looking to Jesus (our only Hope)! He is good! God cannot not be Good. :-) Don't worry about the grammar but think about the sentence. :-)

Love and blessings, Pam and Dave

Bowing to One Another

Many have speculated what we might do, as we cannot shake hands. The practice of hand shaking actually originated as means of ensuring that the other person was not coming at you with a concealed weapon. Rather than fist bumping, or elbowing one another, each of which could appear rather hostile, perhaps we could return to the ancient practice of reverence, by bowing to one another. Bowing down to respect one another and God, especially when extending the Peace of Jesus Christ.

We are in this together! - Bob and Kristi Rice

Exactly one month ago, in mid-March as the Coronavirus was spreading all over the world, we were stocking up on food in Juba and preparing to 'shelter-in-place' and work from home for a while. We knew that given the very limited medical facilities in South Sudan, we had to make every effort not to get exposed to this new and virulent virus.

Saturday morning, March 21, we received a message from the leadership of Presbyterian World Mission, requesting that all mission personnel return to the U.S. if possible. That same morning, we learned that there was a government directive in South Sudan closing all schools for at least 30 days, which would include Nile Theological College. Given both those factors, we realized that it was best for us to act quickly in responding to this request, although it was an abrupt change in direction from the perspective we had had that week. Within a few hours we had booked flights to return to the U.S. and spoken with our colleagues in South Sudan to share these sudden plans. We left Sunday, the following day, flying through Addis Ababa, Istanbul, and New York before landing in Chicago. We learned later that the airport in



Wearing our masks through the New York airport

Juba was closed indefinitely the following day to protect South Sudan from incoming travelers who might be infected.

It took us a few days to emotionally reconcile ourselves to being away from home and in this strange environment of lockdown in the U.S. We find ourselves praying more for our hurting world, especially since we now find ourselves in the midst of the country most affected by it. We are trying to stay in touch with colleagues in South Sudan, doing what we can to support our church partners as they walk through this crisis. We are also using the extra time to do some research, writing, and projects that had been on the 'back burner.' In our spare time, we are watching spring unfold in the Midwest - a glorious reminder that God is sovereign and the author of life. We join you in praying for an end to this pandemic, and hope that we can return to South Sudan soon!

Year-Round Taizé Services

Following the anxiety and brokenness of the world after World War II, Taizé worship was created in Europe by a group of laypersons. This meditation style of worship uses repetitive psalms, prayers and chants, which create a contemplative mood, different from the oratory of sermons, or civic life. In the past VPC often suspended Taizé services during the summer, however this year we plan to continue to provide and video record these services for all wishing to participate on the first week of each month. In the same way as you have done for worship, we hope you will pass the word to friends and neighbors of this marvelous spiritual resource.



Congregational Care



By Linda Jorn, Network of Caring Chair

The Network of Caring (NOC) ministry was the first committee formed at Valley Presbyterian Church. Its purpose is to provide the church family an opportunity to meet with other Presbyterians in their neighborhood. Most neighborhoods have a dedicated person to check on your well-being and tell you about up-coming church events. God provides for his people through his people.

Our caring during this pandemic has expanded to include additional contact with you whenever possible. We need to know that you are safe and we want you to know that we care deeply about each one of you. We wish to make certain that

you know you are loved and important. We strive to let you hear the smile in our voice, the love from our heart and God's caring through our contact. I have been working closely with our Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, on the Task Force Team to bring you the latest information.

Many of you have been using Facetime and Zoom to stay connected to your loved ones. I hear the pure joy in your voices when you describe these events with the entire family on the screen. Although we remain apart, technology can certainly make it easier to be together. On-line worship services and special music help us remain connected to our church. No computer, no problem - we can always connect with God and we now have more time to listen, pray for each other, and notice the beauty around us from God.

I sincerely thank each of the caring NOC Neighborhood Contacts who are sharing God's love with you: Leona Aardema, Judy Aguayo, Verla Bakker, Ann Bont, Patti Bright, Mary Lou Browne, Lee Ann Calhoun, Jeannie Cameron, Judy Clark, Pam Coggins, Virginia Crook, Karen Curtis, Joan Dakin, Connie Davis, Donna Dufour, Ann Erickson, Chris Fleischmann, Dorothy Foucher, Eloise Fredrickson, Linda Freeman, Donna Frisch, Jane Hamby, Jean Hein, Sara Hennigar, Jo Huntsinger, June Jones, Donaldina Jount, Martha Jump, Kylene Joplin, Betty Keisle-Yoder, Nancy Lamphere, Marti Long, Lois MacFarlane, Rosemary Mathews, Pat McFarland, Margaret Moore, Anne Morrison, Pat Nau, Marguerite Nelson, Phyllis Nutting, Carol Peeler, Beth Phillips, Kathie Rusk, Betty Singleton, Carolyn Sittnick, Doris Steffy, Barb Streng, Carol Wilking, Jan Woerner.



With God's help, we will get through this together. Remember to thank God for what you do have.

Creating a Columbarium Committee

On the Northeast side of the church building, just outside The Joe Hawkins Spiritual Life Center there is a Columbarium. Our custodians began by cleaning and polishing the Geese statue, while Arizona Master Gardener Su Van Valen replanted the gardens. Laurie Allen worked tirelessly tracking each niche, filled and sold. Pastor Craig began researching what documentation might be needed for a Columbarium. Arizona is different from other parts of our Nation, in that rather than being considered legally as a Cemetery under real Estate Law, a Columbarium is considered an extension of the church building. Historic Rules and information about our Columbarium appear to be slim. Therefore Session is creating a "Columbarium Committee." Three Ruling Elders immediately volunteered to serve on this committee and we are searching for two or three additional volunteers among you. As has been taking place, Laurie Allen in the church office is responsible for all Sales and tracking of our membership. The Custodians are responsible for upkeep, as well as interment under the spiritual presence of our Pastors. What we seek is a committee to advise and make recommendations to our Session of any necessary rules and best practices for this wonderful resource.

Congregational Care

VPC Task Force

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

Congregational Care and Deacons have not been meeting during these last two months. However, a Valley Presbyterian Church Task Force started during these uncertain times of COVID-19.

Our task force includes Sue Horton, Jean Hein, Linda Jorn, and Chris Erickson. We are increasing connections to those congregational members, visitors, friends, and their families. Homemade facial coverings are available to those caregivers and those who are shopping or taking care of others if they request them. Please let us know if you may need them. They are in the Congregational Care office. These face coverings were made by our own congregational members. Thank you to Sue Luhring, Carol Willie, Suzanne Mandeville, and Martha Jump for keeping our congregation safe with these beautiful face coverings. Volunteers have been background checked and are shopping for essential grocery and pharmacy items for others who are at-risk and who should not leave their home.

The Task Force delivered the Easter lilies to the homebound. Along with the lilies, they also received a face covering.

NOC has increased their calling to a goal of once a week to those in their neighborhoods. There have been many positive comments regarding the calls and increased communication.

The Task Force provides updates on the Wednesday E-blast about staying positive, things to do, Scripture readings, funny quotes, and necessary information. We hope these E-blasts will help those during this time.

For any concerns or needs, please call Jean Hein 520-625-1489.



Priscilla the Presbyterian Peccary

Last Autumn, the Village of Tubac sponsored local artists painting fiberglass Javelina. These were then auctioned off, and April 1st, were delivered to their respective new homes. Our own Linda Star-Landon created a beautiful submission, which our own Linda Jorn won at auction, donating to Valley Presbyterian Church. Linda Jorn named her "Priscilla the Presbyterian Peccary" which seems better than Juanita the Javelina. With so much in our world being the same, Priscilla stands out to welcome everyone to Valley Presbyterian Church bringing a smile to their lips.



Congregational Care

Becoming Unglued

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

Many places help us stay the recommended distance of six feet apart by having curbside pick-up or contactless delivery. While in line the other day at a local grocery store, one person was checking out, order complete, and was having the items bagged. Another person six feet ahead of me started to unload the cart of groceries. Much to the surprise of those around me, the first person who was done turned to the second person and screamed, "You get back!"



Most of the stores have markings or tape on the their floors telling you where to stand and which way to go down each aisle to avoid others and keep the distance of six feet from others. Some people are wearing face coverings, and some are not. Some are running around fast and some do not observe six feet. Have we started becoming unglued?

Anxiety, tension, paranoia, and fear of the unknown have continued through the COVID-19 pandemic. Signs of these are displayed in stores, in the media, and in the neighborhoods. Mental health and emotions are becoming unraveled. Telemedicine and counseling services continue over the phone for those who may need mental health services. Please stay in touch with your healthcare provider.

Staying positive during an uncertain time is essential. Call a loved one or friend or neighbor and just talk. Take a walk during these beautiful days. Exercise. The more we are in front of the TV the more we are consumed by media and are less active. Put on a mask or face covering and walk.

Where in past years we have had hugs and encouraged hugs for free, now there are no hugs, no hand-shakes, and no contact. This also causes people to become unglued. However, let us not forget there are some things that are not cancelled: sunshine, relationships, friendship, love, devotions, naps, music, dancing, spring, summer, kindness, imagination, conversations, and hope.

Stay Home, Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!



Medical Minute

Future Hug Coupon - Valid forever



Valley Presbyterian Church

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

vpc-office@valleypres.net

www.valleypresbyterian.net

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

Pastors

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

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. Online

May 3	I AM the Sheepgate	Rev. Craig Lindsey
May 10	In My Father's House	Rev. Craig Lindsey
May 17	Why do you stand looking into Heaven?	Rev. Craig Lindsey
May 24	The Whole World in His Hands	Rev. Diane Christopher
May 31	Day of Pentecost	Rev. Craig Lindsey



Promoted to Glory



March 24	Annabelle Davidson
April 2	Rev. Earl Harvey
April 3	Wendell Miller
April 7	Rev. Dave Horton

Farewell, My Dear Friends

Wendy Kopera, Valley Voice Editor

It took a year, but VPC has finally found people to cover the various tasks I was performing there at the church (haha!). This will be my final time publishing the Valley Voice, and my final Valley Voice article. Look for a fresh, new publication starting next month.

It has been very comforting to me to be able to stay in touch with so many of you after moving away, either through Facebook, email, or talking back and forth with those who submit articles each month. I keep you all in my thoughts and prayers, especially now. VPC is the thing I've missed most about leaving AZ, especially seeing you all on Sunday mornings. I hope you won't hesitate to reach out to me or Joel (wendy.kopera@gmail.com, piercepiano@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook) if you want to say hi, check in, or even ask for some tech help (from me, not Joel!). VPC has been a profoundly important part of my life for the seven years I was physically there and even this past year, and this final parting leaves a void (and sadness) that I cannot describe in the space I have here. I still do some websites and newsletters for other organizations in Green Valley, though, so who knows, maybe we'll still "bump into" each other here and there. If/When Joel and I visit AZ again, we'll be sure to stop in and say hello. Love to you all!



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Special birthday greetings to Phyllis Nutting (5/28) as she celebrates her 90th birthday this month.

