Dear Friends,

As a boy growing up in Alamosa, Colorado, I remember the times in the church during the season of giving thanks when the communion table and other places were covered with elements of the colorful fall season. Then there is the image of our family enjoying a Thanksgiving feast around the dinner table. Sometimes extended family members would join us or we traveled to other family members’ homes. We gathered together and asked God’s blessing.

One of my favorite hymns for the Thanksgiving season is “We Gather Together.” Even though this song is of Dutch origin and written in 1597 by Adrianus Valerius, it spoke to a time of great turmoil and victory by the Dutch over the Spanish forces in the Battle of Turnhout. One hymnal history site says, “It was originally set to a Dutch folk tune. In the United States, it is popularly associated with Thanksgiving Day and is often sung at family meals and at religious services on that day.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Gather_Together)

So we now have this hymn to draw us together during this season of giving thanks.

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!
We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be;
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

May the season of thanks giving truly be a blessing to you and yours as you gather with family and friends. May this season of thanks at Valley Presbyterian Church be a place of blessing, support, reconciliation, commitment and love. Most of all, we thank God for our blessings as we journey through life; gather around tables to enjoy a feast of thanksgiving, and Worship with thankful hearts.

Joy and praises for the journey ahead.

- **Sunday, November 11** is a special time as we participate in a **Music Big Sing Sunday** where the choir, soloists, musicians and the congregation sing throughout the service. Join us for a wonderful time of music.
- **Generosity Sunday November 18** is when we bring our pledge commitment cards to the table and we receive new members. The Rev. Brad Munroe, Presbytery Pastor of de Cristo Presbytery, is preaching.
- **Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 22** from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to the first 175 who sign up in the office. The **First Sunday of Advent begins December 2**.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor
A week ago, I spent a day away with the pastors of our Presbytery (called Macedonia Ministries). Our topic for the day? That dreaded “E” word: evangelism. We discussed how to share our faith with those outside the church.

Why do we do this? Simply put, we want to connect people to God. We concluded the best way was simply to tell our own stories with God...no theology courses required.

So, we pastors tried this out. We were given five minutes to come up with a very short story we experienced with God. Here was mine:

*I grew up believing I had to earn God’s love, and it was a great burden to carry. One day, I was in a seminary class, and the professor said three words that changed my life: God chose you. It hit me like a thunderbolt: God’s love had nothing to do with me. God just loved me, period. I walked out of that class with the burden of trying to earn God’s love lifted. For the first time I understood grace. Amazing Grace. God loves us unconditionally.*

Do you have a story you can tell others? If not, I encourage you to think about one. Here are some questions to help you:

- What has God done in your life?
- What is God doing in your life lately?
- Why is God important in your life?
- What does following Jesus mean to you?

Once you come up with your story, practice it, because I am going to pray for opportunities for you to tell it!

“We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.” (Madeleine L’Engle)
Operation Christmas Child
Submitted by Janice Potter

This is the 25th year that the Samaritan’s Purse has been collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for children around the world, and this is the 15th year Valley Presbyterian has been participating in this wonderful ministry. We collected 97 shoeboxes last year. We can help you with suggestions for your shopping if you would like to stop by our table on Sundays after worship. We are just east of the kitchen.

Shoeboxes must be returned November 4 or 11 so they can be taken to the next collection point.

Mission Breakfast
November 10 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Submitted by Doug Clark

Why support Mission Breakfast? Why have a great inexpensive breakfast while being inspired, informed, and invigorated? What Would Jesus Do (WWJD)? Beyond the excellent speaker, Patti O’Berry, Founder/Executive Director of Hands of a Friend Foundation and Genesis House Shelter, there is an opportunity to pray together, to have spiritual growth, and to practice fellowship. Mission Breakfast is giving and sharing as a single or couple, and as a member of the family of God.

Our next Mission Breakfast features Patti O’Berry, Founder/Executive Director of Hands of a Friend Foundation and Genesis House Shelter. You must hear this living miracle speak! Tickets for breakfast are $5.00 and will be for sale October 28 and November 4 in Fellowship Hall.

Thanksgiving and Gratitude
VPC Library Books

These books can be found in the rack on the library table.

100 graces: mealtime blessings. Marcia Kelly. (204 K28)

Come to the table: food, fellowship, and a celebration of God’s bounty. Benita Long. (641.5 L85)

Giving thanks: poems, prayers, and praise songs of Thanksgiving. Katherine Paterson. (JUV 204 P27)

Giving thanks: the recipes and history from Pilgrims to pumpkin pie. Kathleen Curtin. (394.2 C94)

Giving thanks: the gifts of gratitude. M.J. Ryan. (179 R95)

Graces: prayers and poems for everyday meals and special occasions. June Cotner. (204 C82)

Grateful: a song of giving thanks. John Bucchino. (JUV 782.4 B85)

How many days to America? Eve Bunting. (JUV FIC B88)

Saying grace: blessings for the family table. (204 Sa9)

A simple act of gratitude: how learning to say thank you changed my life. John Kralik. (179 K85)

Thanksgiving. Ideals Magazines. (808 Id8)

Thanksgiving: the biography of an American holiday. James W. Baker. (394.2 B17)

The desperate crossing: the untold story of the Mayflower. (DVD 741.45 D46)
Valley Readers

Monday, November 26
2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1

Our November selection is *The Food Explorer* by Daniel Stone. In the late 19th century a young botanist, David Fairchild, with the grounding of a government job in the Dept. of Agriculture, set out to explore the world, and find new foods and crops to enrich America. He also had the backing, and often the company, of rich, eccentric Barbour Lathrop. We have Fairchild to thank for such bounty as avocados, long-stem Egyptian cotton, seedless grapes, and kale, among countless other examples. Please join us for a discussion, led by Sheila Frahm, of this interesting, true story of a man who transformed American food. For additional information please contact Anne Morrison at 520-399-0762.

Women’s Ministries

November 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Carol Peeler, Moderator

It seems like we finally have some rain and cooler weather. Isn’t it wonderful?

We have been using the recipes from the VPC Cookbook to prepare the Gathering Luncheons. They have all been good, and everyone is enjoying them. We still have copies on the Women’s Table for sale on Sunday mornings. Our next gathering will be November 13, which is a Tuesday, and yes, it’s early again this month. We all need to get ready for Thanksgiving. Be sure and get your reservations made on the 4th or 11th. And remember, you don’t have to be a member to come. Invite a friend or neighbor and make them a reservation. Our program will be given by Janice Potter and she will tell the story of the D.I.A.P.E.R. Project. She will also talk about the Dedication of Thank Offering. We have envelopes for your contributions.

If you haven’t joined a Bible Study Circle you may still do that. You pick the time and day. They are all listed in our Calendar and Directory that can be found on the Women’s Ministry Table on Sundays.

And remember the other things we do: Mission Quilts, Creative Hands Sewing, and the Prayer Shawls groups. We have quite a lot of Prayer Shawls but can always use more. We love to get hats, gloves, baby blankets and sweaters for children. We’ll see you at the Women’s Table to answer any questions.

At the November 13 Gathering, the Thank Offering will be gathered and dedicated, just as it has been in November for many years. When we give our God-given gifts to address the needs of others, we are one in Christ.

Submitted by Janice Potter

The 2018 Thank Offering Grants will provide opportunities for the people they serve to grow in self-esteem, hope, freedom and economic stability. This one offering will lend a hand to the displaced, establish gardens to eliminate hunger, provide showers to the homeless, transport food to food banks, provide nutritious food to students on weekends, and help people with low incomes obtain hearing aids.

Please give with a joyful heart. Thank Offering envelopes will be available from your circle moderator or at the Women's Ministries Table.

The program, “Visit to the D.I.A.P.E.R. Project” will be presented by Janice Potter. While diapers are an important part in this story, it is also a story of stepping out in faith during their darkest days by a small Charlestown, Indiana congregation. Come and find out what part you played in their success story.
It’s Time to Sign Up for Supper Clusters

By Carmen Nylund, Organizer

Sign-ups for Supper Clusters have begun, and will continue through the end of November. Do you still have questions about Supper Clusters? A quick recap - Supper Clusters are small groups of people (usually eight, but a group of six could be formed) who attend worship at VPC. All VPC members, snowbirds, regular attendees, couples, and singles are invited to be part of a “Cluster.” We encourage each group to get together once a month, beginning in January, to share a meal, spend time with new friends and/or renew old friendships.

You can sign up at the “Supper Cluster” table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, or you can complete the form below and bring it, or send it, to the church office. If you still have questions, please stop by the Supper Cluster table and I will be happy to chat with you.

SUPPER CLUSTER SIGN UP FORM
(Please Print)

NAME(S) __________________________________________________________________________

STREET ADDRESS ___________________________________________________________________

CITY & ZIP ____________________ NEIGHBORHOOD ____________________
(Desert Hills, Quali Creek, e.g.)

PHONE ____________________ EMAIL __________________________________________

Full time resident? ____________ Part time resident? (Please indicate months you are in GV)
___________________________________________________________________________________

Comments: ____________________________________________________ _____________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Please return the completed form to the church office or drop it by the Supper Cluster table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

Join us for Taizé Worship

First Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center
The next Taizé is November 7

Taizé worship was developed by a group of monks in the small village of Taizé, France. Every week, thousands of young people come and worship three times a day with the monks. This style of worship and its music are so popular that it has spread all over the world. If you have not experienced Taizé worship, please come for a service of beautiful music, candlelight, prayer and scripture. If all that isn’t beautiful enough, these services will often feature guests musicians as well.
The Inquisitors
The History of Christianity:
From the Disciples through the Dawn of the Reformation

Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 1 starting November 2

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

This class meets on Fridays from 1:30 - 3:00 and starts on November 2. There will be 18 meetings. We will not meet on the day after Thanksgiving or during the holidays.

Men’s Weekday Bible Studies
Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

This group, with about six to thirteen men attending each week, meets Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. This group meets at the church for one hour in classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (777-8027), but focuses on group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They are studying the gospel of Matthew. Join the group any time to participate in the discussion or just to listen. In either case, your presence will be welcomed. Lessons are self-contained so feel free to join the group when able. NOTE: The Wednesday group will not meet on November 21, 28 and December 5.

Wednesdays in Advent
(December 5, 12, 19)

Advent is a beautiful time of the year in the church. It lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas, and is a time of remembrance (Jesus, who came) and anticipation (Jesus, who will come again).

Here at Valley, we will participate in Advent not just on Sundays, but Wednesdays as well. Here is our schedule for Wednesdays in Advent:

5:00 p.m.  Worship in the Spiritual Life Center
5:45 p.m.  A simple meal in the Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m.  A class on the theme The Music of Christmas.

Watch for details in the December Valley Voice. Join us as we anticipate the coming of Christ, both in the past and in the future to come.
All Those Questions You Have About Christianity, But Were Afraid to Ask!  
(Formerly known as the “Adult Confirmation Class”)  

Mondays at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5

Using the amusing videos from the youth confirmation curriculum, Pastor Diane will explore the questions many of us have about our faith (admit it….we all ask them!).

The topics for November are:

Nov 5   Was Jesus of Nazareth God?  
Nov 12  If Jesus was God, why did he have to die?  
Nov 19  Is believing in Jesus really the only way to get to heaven?  
Nov 26  No class  

Come to all, or come based on the topic of the day. Come and tackle the difficult questions, so your faith will deepen and draw you ever closer to the wonders of God.

HIGHLIGHTS From Pam and Dave L: Headed to Valley Presbyterian Church in January

Submitted by Doug Clark

August: Had a tremendous response, as we met with about 40 friends of whom were with us in Bangladesh in March, for a special fundraiser for Bangladesh ministry. About $20,000 was given which was a great encouragement and help. It made our day! Please keep praying for our team working among the 1,200,000 Rohingya refugees.

Then we were in Germany for OM leadership planning meetings for the 14 countries we are helping to oversee. While there, we were able to visit Luther’s home where the Reformation started 500 years ago. This was the famous Wittenberg door where Luther nailed his 95 theses. I also just read his biography which was deeply challenging.

September: This was the month for training. I attended an intense three-day leadership training conference in Atlanta on leadership development training and effectiveness for Boards. Then, Pam and I went to Seattle for a week to get training to become Master Coaches. We already see this is going to help us be more effective in our ministries and vision to help train hundreds of cross-cultural workers to develop and fulfill their God-given calling.

October: we are in Tbilisi, Georgia as I write this. We are meeting with about 50 other OM leaders as we pray, plan and seek God for what He wants us to do in reaching the 920 million unreached Muslim peoples in our area.

IRAN: we fly to Iran October 13-24 and would appreciate prayers for wisdom and anointing as we listen, teach, counsel, and coach our team, plus meet with various other people and government leaders.
Holiday Patio Sale

Friday, November 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Come to the sale and shop, and have a bowl of soup and a goodie for lunch with us.

Don’t forget to bring in goodies for the Bake Sale going on during the Holiday Patio Sale. We are looking for candy, sweet breads, bars, cinnamon rolls, and holiday-themed cookies. Please bring these items to the church kitchen on Thursday, November 1 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Contact Eloise Fredrickson (648-7317) or Lorna Kitchak (262-994-9508) for questions about volunteering or about the sale itself. Contact Anne Morrison (399-0762) or Lois Macfarlane (625-7049) for questions about the bake sale.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Valley Presbyterian Church

1:00 P.M. Thursday, November 22, 2018

Do you have plans for Thanksgiving dinner? If not, consider joining us at Valley Presbyterian in Fellowship Hall to enjoy good fellowship and a wonderful dinner. The menu follows:

- Roast Turkey
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Vegetable
- Rolls & Butter
- Pumpkin Pie, regular & sugar-free
- Stuffing
- Sweet Potatoes
- Cranberry Fluff Salad
- Apple Pie
- Coffee, Tea & Water

A sign-up sheet for this event will be available in Fellowship Hall after service starting Sunday, November 4. While there is no charge for the dinner, donations are always welcome. We do need to have attendees sign up so we can determine the amount of food we will need. If you cannot be in church to sign up, you can call the office and give them your information. If you need a ride to and from this event, please indicate this at sign-up time and provide your phone number and address.

A sign-up sheet will also be available for volunteers willing to help with preparing, serving, clean-up or providing transportation for those needing it.

We will limit attendees to 175 so be sure and sign up as soon as possible. The cut-off for signing up will be Sunday, November 18. We look forward to a good turnout, good food, and great fellowship!

Prayerfully yours,
The Valley Galley Crew

Patio Sale Dates for 2018

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

Holiday Sale! November 2-3
Sorting: December 13
**More Blog Readers Wanted**

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.

**Lord, in Your Mercy**

Brief Caution: Some of the content of this blog post may be disturbing. Please be prayerful if/when you read, in a good state of mind.

Standing in the hall 48 hours later, just behind the one-inch-diameter-hole with jagged rays emanating out from it in the large vertical pane of glass, felt a bit eerie and surreal. I wondered what the tall, slight young man in the white shirt thought that morning when he woke up. Surely, he did not say to himself, “Today is the last day of my life; I will be sure to make the most of this day.”

The story and details are in the blog.

Saturday morning Kristi and I went down to the quiet serenity of the Nile River to find a healing calm. We read from Psalm 91, words which now possess new and special meaning at a moment when it felt like one of us could have suffered the same fate as our young South Sudanese neighbor. We appreciate your prayers as we heal and recover from the trauma, as we seek to not live in fear, and as we seek wisdom for such situations and how we can best be equipped to serve in this needy land. We invite you to pray with us for the family of the young man who died a rather senseless death. Pray for wisdom in how we can show our neighbors love and solidarity. Lord, in Your Mercy.

Please Pray for our missionaries, the Rice’s, as they live Christ in a dangerous country, South Sudan. Please join me in following our missionaries, and let me know if you have joined the blog brigade by telling me, or emailing me at douglasclark68@me.com. More blog readers and prayers are clearly needed.

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**Ever Thought about Becoming a Stephen Minister?**

Training begins in January 2019

Submitted by Helen Phillips

Valley Presbyterian Church will be training another class of Stephen Ministers beginning January 4, 2019. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. If you think you might be interested, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders now to schedule an interview: Patti Bright (305-3275), Gayle Tompkins (399-3500), or Helen Phillips (777-8027).
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<td>1:00 Adult Confirmation Class</td>
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<td>2:00 Valley Readers</td>
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Evelyn Mosher, Sandi Olsen, Anita Row
Mary Ruth Jaggard
Joan Dakin, Wally Watson
Lily Johnson, Donaldina Joung
Lawrence Craft, Peggy Schloff
Chris Ballaris
Judy Criswell
Donna Dufour, Jane Hilsenhoff
Diane Christopher, Joan De Voire, Darlene Feil
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<th>Thu</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9:00 Congregational Care Leaders</td>
<td>2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal</td>
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<td>1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers</td>
<td>3:45 Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal</td>
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<td>3:00 Communion at Silver Springs</td>
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<td>3:45 Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sandy Lichtenberger, Reed Olson</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9:00 Faith &amp; Health Committee</td>
<td>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal</td>
<td>9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed</td>
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<td>3:45 Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>10:00 Chair Exercise Class</td>
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<td>11:00 Stephen Ministry Peer Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30 Inquisitors Class: The History of</td>
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<td>Christianity</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Krantz, Evelyn McClanathan</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>8:00 Session Meeting</td>
<td>16:00 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers</td>
<td>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise</td>
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<td>1:00 Green Valley Genealogical Society</td>
<td>10:00 Chair Exercise Class</td>
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<td>2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal</td>
<td>10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting</td>
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<td>3:45 Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Hazel Kern</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING - OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>17:00 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<td>1:00 Thanksgiving Dinner</td>
<td>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise</td>
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<td>10:00 Chair Exercise Class</td>
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<td>Jean Alexander, Bill Bond, Travis Sayre</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>10:00 Outreach Committee</td>
<td>30:00 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<td>2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal</td>
<td>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise</td>
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<td>3:45 Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>6:00 Music In The Valley: Sonoran Bells</td>
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<td>Connie Conklin</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>31:00 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</td>
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<td>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise</td>
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<td>10:00 Chair Exercise Class</td>
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<td>6:00 Music In The Valley: Sonoran Bells</td>
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<td>Linda Romstad</td>
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November is “Sponsor a Child for Christmas” Month

Deadline is Sunday, November 25
Plus sign up for the next Christmas visit on December 8

Article by Reed Olson

November is your opportunity to sponsor an orphan child for Christmas. VPC helps 42 children and 10 adults who live at the “Home for Children” in Nogales, Sonora, MX. See Reed Olson in Fellowship Hall November 4, 11, 18, or 25 to select the child/adult you want to sponsor. Donations, up to $40 per child, allows us to purchase gifts for the children while the Christmas sales are going on. The directors will wrap them up for handing out during our December 8 visit. Reed Olson will have Christmas cards for each child/adult ready for you to sign as their “sponsor.” Also, sign up for the next trip to the Home on December 8 to witness the children opening their Christmas gifts. Help make an impact on these children – sponsor a child for Christmas.

How To Sponsor

1. See Reed in Fellowship Hall to select a child and/or an adult to sponsor.
2. Sign their Christmas card. Pick up a photo of the child/adult you sponsored, place it on your refrigerator, and pray for them.
3. On your check, write “Valley Presbyterian Church” then, in the memo section, write “Children Christmas Sponsor.” Place your donation in a filled-out VPC pew envelope. On the envelope check the Special Gift box, then write: “Children Christmas Sponsor.” See image on right.
4. You can sponsor more than one child. Also, children can have more than one sponsor.
5. See Reed in Fellowship Hall for details.

Crossroads Nogales Mission Asks for Food Donations

Submitted by Janice Potter

Crossroads Nogales Mission has put out a request for the following food items: Canned fruit and vegetables, macaroni & cheese, powdered milk, sugar, rice, jelly, peanut butter, and tomato sauce.

If you can help, please place you donations in the box on the second shelf of the Food Cart.

Thank you for your kindness!
Generosity is Sharing God’s Gifts

Submitted by Elder Judy Aguayo, Chairperson of the Stewardship/Generosity Committee

The American theologian, Thomas Merton, said this about generosity: “To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His Love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him.”

We have entered the season of “Generosity is Sharing God’s Gifts.” As we affirm God in our lives, we believe that all we have comes from our Creator. These are gifts that were shared with us for the benefit of life. During the first few Sundays of November, members of the congregation will be sharing with us how God has blessed them in their lives and faith. Yes, we all have stories to tell of the many ways that God has blessed us.

A generosity letter and pledge card will be sent to you the week before Sunday, November 18 for you to pray about and to consider your ongoing commitment to Valley Presbyterian Church. Thank you for the ways in which you bless this congregation.

Why do we wear name tags at church?

I (Pastor Diane) came across an article titled, “22 Compelling Reasons Why Wearing Nametags Will Change Your Life Forever.” Sounds compelling, doesn’t it? Here are a few of the reasons I really liked:

A nametag is a permission slip. It’s OK to talk to strangers. And that person might actually be nice. And cool. And interesting. You might even learn a thing or two.

A nametag is a conversation advancer and engagement tool. The sooner you know people’s names, the sooner you feel comfortable around them.

A nametag is an invitation for friendliness. It’s like walking around saying, “Here. I’m making this really, really easy. All you have to do is say hello.”

A nametag personalizes and humanizes someone. Instead of being a nameless statistic or just another face in the crowd, now you have an identity.

A nametag reduces psychological distance. The minute you know someone’s name, you immediately feel closer and more connected to that person.

A nametag is a mini-sacrifice. Sure, you feel dumb when wearing a nametag. It’s uncomfortable. But think about how many people whose lives you just made easier.

We encourage you to wear a nametag while at church....for all the above reasons and because, well, we really do want to know you.

Don’t have a name tag? Walk over to the Information Table in Fellowship Hall after worship and sign up for one. And, you don’t have to be a member to get one!

Forming Your Faith: An Adult Sunday School Class

8:30 a.m. in Classroom 5

Start your Sunday mornings with study and conversation. The class discusses the sermon scriptures being read during the worship service that day. Be enriched as you hear how God speaks to others through the scriptures, and then hear the thoughts of the preacher of the day. This class is open to all, so please join us.
Donate to Our Mission Partners at No Cost to You

Arizona residents can donate to Qualifying Charitable Organizations and receive an offsetting credit on their state tax return. A married couple can donate up to $800 and an individual can donate up to $400. And, your Arizona Charitable Tax Credit donation is separate from and in addition to the foster care and public and private school tax credits.

Several of our mission partners are considered to be Qualifying Charitable Organizations by the Arizona Department of Revenue. This means that we can give to these mission partners and receive a 100% credit against the Arizona tax liability we would otherwise have to pay. The amount of tax credit in any year cannot exceed $400 for a single taxpayer and $800 for a couple filing a joint return. It also cannot exceed your Arizona tax liability for a given year, though any excess can be carried over to be applied to a future year. You have up to April 15, 2019 to make a donation and claim the credit on either your 2018 or 2019 tax return.

The following VPC mission partners currently qualify for the tax credit:
- Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, in both Amado and Green Valley
- Crossroads Mission in Nogales
- Hands of a Friend
- Valley Assistance Services
- Youth on their Own

VPC is a qualifying pass-through organization, which means you can make your donation check out to VPC and indicate on the check that the funds are to be passed on by VPC to the charity. This enhances the support of VPC to the mission partner.

The mission committee at VPC encourages any of us who are Arizona residents to be sure we fully utilize this tax advantage to support the organizations listed above. Tax forms 301 and 321 are attached to your AZ tax return to claim this credit (see www.azdor.gov).

Session Notes from September

Submitted by Charlie Ashton, Clerk of Session

- Session requests Presbytery to permit the establishment of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
- Purchase of a new refrigerator
- Steps to deal with roof leaks and termites in the barn area near the kitchen
- Placement of financial information in the Sunday bulletin every week
- Received the donation of a pickup truck from Ken Frahm to be used for the Valley Galley and the Patio Sale
- Purchase of a new church sign for events to be placed at the edge of Camino del Sol
- Full-time status with benefits for employees working at least 30 hours per week
- Expressed thanks and deepest appreciation to Rev. Dr Linda Lloyd for her ministry and service to the church - especially for her leadership in organizing the Congregational Care Ministry under the Board of Deacons
Bring your singing voices to church on Sunday, November 11 as we celebrate music at Valley Presbyterian! We’ll have opportunities to sing great, well-known hymns, and listen to beautiful music from the choir and ensembles that took part in last year’s Music in the Valley concert series. The Valley Ringers and Joyful Spirit Ensemble will also make a joyful noise! In addition to the theme of music, there will also be a recognition of our veterans, and an acknowledgement of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. In 1918, the armistice was signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany. May we always strive to live in peace.

Note the article below about the free concert by the Joyful Spirit Ensemble and the Valley ringers.

Music in the Valley’s Next Concert
The Sonoran Bells
Friday, November 30th
6:00 p.m.

For those of you with dual residences, have you looked into any smart home devices that might be useful? Imagine, when you have been away from one of your homes for a time and you are now an hour away from arriving there, being able open an app on your smart phone and adjust the temperature on the thermostat so the house will be comfortable when you arrive. You could turn on some lights if you are arriving at night so you don’t have to stumble to the door in the dark. You could tell your smart vacuum to run so the floors aren’t dusty. Or, you could even tell your smart lawn mower to trim up the lawn!

Even I would be leery about trusting technology enough to have a lawn mower run when I’m not around to keep an eye on it, but thinking back to when I used to visit the family cabin in northern Michigan in the winter, I could definitely imagine turning on some lights and heat so I wouldn’t arrive to a freezing cold, dark building. If only there was a smart shovel. :-)

In addition to getting things ready for arrival, I can imagine these devices being useful if you left home and couldn’t remember if you turned off the lights, or set the thermostat, etc.? It would provide valuable peace of mind to be able to open an app on your phone from anywhere, at any time, to check it out and possibly make adjustments. I’ve seen smart plugs that you could plug just about any device into and be able to at least control the power flow to that device (which would always work to turn a device off, but not always to turn it back on again as that depends on the type of switch in the device itself).

Many of these devices can be controlled by Amazon Alexa (or the Google or Apple equivalents) which adds a level of convenience (and fun!). The future is knocking at our doors.

I don’t have smart devices in my own home yet, but if I had two homes I would definitely be looking into it so I could enjoy the safety and security of being able to control some of those things remotely.
Welcome, Elders, Class of 2021!

Bob Campbell  Richard Horn  Marcia MacDonald  Tom Macfarlane

Welcome, Deacons!

Class of 2020

Dick Christensen  Jean Hein

Class of 2021

Lee Ann Calhoun  Joan Dakin

Class of 2021

Betty Kiesle-Yoder  Mike Yoder  Kathie Rusk
Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

The Finance Committee met on October 16 to review the September year-to-date financial statements. The financials as of September 30, 2018 show that the deficit has grown as expected over the summer and early fall. It now stands at $77,821 compared to an anticipated deficit of $82,199.

The revenues are down. Year-to-date revenues are $16,558 below our projected revenues, which is about $2,000 better than reported at the end of July. As we move into the “season,” our hope is that the giving levels will rise again as in the past several years. When we look at budget to actual, the revenues are down 2.8% from the year-to-date budget and expenses are down approximately 3.1% (again, that is a good thing!!) This gives us a positive net income variance as shown below:

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<th>Year to Date</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$580,559</td>
<td>$597,117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>$658,380</td>
<td>$679,316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net income (loss)</td>
<td>($77,821)</td>
<td>($82,199)</td>
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The Finance Committee has been working over the past three months to develop a budget to present to Session that is realistic and representative of each committee’s programs and projects for 2019. We have a sub-committee that has been working with Rev. Medina to review and reallocate some administrative expense line items to the committees that should be responsible for such items. As of October 16, we have that document ready for presentation to the Session at their October meeting. The budget we have developed sets a goal for the Stewardship Committee to work toward in the upcoming Generosity Campaign. There may need to be changes, but this initial plan is a balanced 2019 Budget.

The final Budget must be approved by Session and will be presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in early 2019.

HELP WANTED

The Finance Committee is looking for numbers people to assist with the year-end internal financial review.

CONTACT: APRIL BOYSEN, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

gaboyse1@gmail.com

Asking for your Assistance

The sound technician on Sunday morning has an important part to play and requires attentiveness. Please avoid talking to, or distracting, our technician before or during worship. Thank you.

Thanks from St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

The Noisy Offering on September 30 provided great and loving donations of about $2,340.00. The congregation of Valley Presbyterian is kind and generous in helping children suffering from the birth defect of cleft lip/cleft palate. On October 13, the St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic escorted 40 children to the hospital in Hermosillo for their surgeries. The mission committee added $660.00 so that our church enabled three children to get their operations. The Noisy Offering occurs on the 5th Sunday whenever a month has five Sundays. All donations go to support one of VPC Missions. Thanks to everyone in our church family.
Another Journey

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

I have been at Valley Presbyterian Church for over 10 years. I have worked with several Pastors, seen change of staff a few times, and helped many congregational members, some of whom are no longer with us. After 10 years of being in one room, I am now moving in down the hall. Going through many folders, binders, papers, and other saved items made me think of where we were. Now, just where we are going? A huge transition has taken place and many might not know about it: Congregational Care. With Deacon oversight, Congregational Care is like a big umbrella that holds Communion/Extended Communion, Facility Visitation, NOC/Rideshare/Homebound, Communication of Care to the Congregants, Grief/Bereavement Ministry, Stephen Ministry, Ushers/Owl Express/Safety, Prayer Ministry/Prayer Shawls and Prayer Bears, Sunday Fellowship, and QAPI under it. The Parish Nurse Ministry works with, and supports, these ministries as well.

Congregational Care and Parish Nurse Ministry are now in the same office. Moving into the office that Rev. Dr. Linda Lloyd had, a sense of caring and the love for a family of choice needs to, and will, continue. It is wonderful to see such an amazing team of caring individuals in our new Congregational Care. I am excited to share an office with this wonderful team, and what a journey we will have.

Over the next few months, each of the ministries in Congregational Care will be briefly described under the Congregational Care section of the Valley Voice.

Mark your calendars: A Congregational Care Fair will take place in January 2019.

On October 20, Congregational Care had their first ever retreat to welcome each other, strengthen care given to the congregation, and also say Goodbye to Rev. Dr. Linda, who envisioned us as a strong and vital caring presence at VPC.

See pictures below:
Caring for Those in our Congregation: Congregational Care

Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News

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

Blood Pressure Screenings: You may have your blood pressure taken during the week by appointment with the Parish Nurse.

The Sunday blood pressure screening clinics will be on November 18 and December 16 due to the holidays. Join us these two Sundays right after Worship in the Sweet Family Room for a screening.

Movement & Exercise Classes Here at VPC:

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

- Chair Exercise classes are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m. There is a fee. For more information, contact instructor Mia Cooper at 204-5264.

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

Watch for more events and information on Memory Loss starting in the Fall.

A Virtual Dementia Tour will be starting soon.

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

Medical Minute

Snakes may be still out and are often under shrubs, plants or trees. Please watch where you walk and do not reach into/under shrubs, plants or trees. If a snake bites you or someone you are with, remain calm, stay still and call 911 immediately.

Promoted to Glory

September 28  Geege Whitehead
October 14  Rick Olsen
October 20  Gare Reid

A Daily Word of Encouragement

Check out the church’s Facebook page every day for a spiritual word of encouragement. Not on Facebook? You can still read our Facebook page. Go to the church’s website, www.valleypresterian.net, and click on the little “f” in the upper right hand corner. It will take you directly to our Facebook page. If you are already on Facebook, don’t forget to “like” our page while you are there, and share the posts that inspire you most. We love to see your comments, too!
Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship
9:30 a.m. in the VPC Sanctuary
Communion served on first Sunday of each month

November 4   Gathered in the Spirit   Rev. Diane Christopher
November 11  Worship with Songs of Praise for all
November 18  No More, Mr. Nice Guy   Rev. Brad Munroe, guest
November 25  Christ: King or Just Another Prophet?
              Rev. Mark A. Medina

La Joya at La Posada
9:00 a.m. at La Joya
Communion served on the first Sunday of each month

November 4   Rev. Mark A. Medina and Carol Wilking
November 18  Rudy Sweisfurth

Taizé
Wednesday, November 7 at 5:00 p.m.
in the Spiritual Life Center

Gaslight Tickets for Scrooge
Sunday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gaslight Theater

Submitted by George Curtis

If you reserved tickets for the Campus Ministry fundraiser at Gaslight, they will be available in Fellowship Hall on Sunday October 21 and 28. Remaining tickets will be on sale on Sunday November 4 and 11. You can still reserve by contacting George Curtis (625-2394).

Gaslight has increased the ticket price to Campus Ministry from $17 to $22.27. As a result, we have raised our price from $30 to $35.