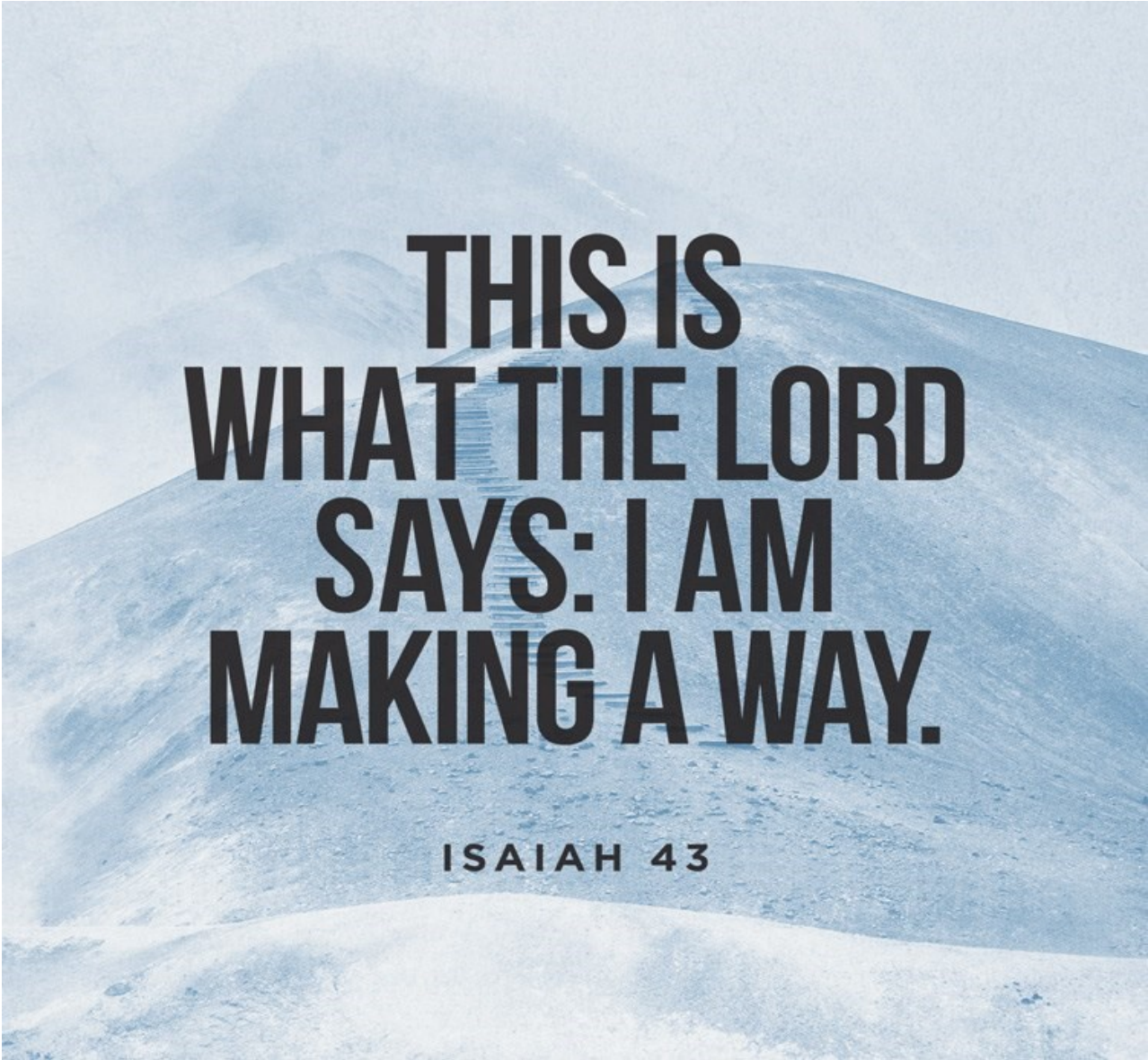




Our Valley Voice
November
2020



**THIS IS
WHAT THE LORD
SAYS: I AM
MAKING A WAY.**

ISAIAH 43

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

OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

Valley Presbyterian Church

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

Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship
9:30 a.m. In Person and Online

Taizé Service

1st Wednesday of the Month
5pm Online

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Taizé Worship

Wednesday, November 4, 5pm

This worship service happens the day after our election. If you need some peace and encouragement, we invite you to view our Taizé worship on our website: valleypres.net. Come to this service of peace and quiet, beautiful music and candles. We will focus on what agape love looks like and uphold the preciousness of unity.

Staff

Pastor Craig Lindsey..... Pastor/Head of Staff.....pastorcraig@@valleypres.net
Pastor Diane Christopher...Pastor of Discipleship.....dianechristopher@valleypres.net
Jamie Reed Director of Musicjamie@valleypres.net
Wes Moulton Organist/Accompanistwmoulton@valleypres.net
Chris Erickson Parish Nurse.....parishnurse@valleypres.net
Suzanne Mandeville..... Bookkeepersuzanne@valleypres.net
Laurie Allen Executive Secretarylaurie@valleypres.net
Carla Goings Administrative Specialistcarla@valleypres.net
Joe Snow Lead Custodiancustodians@valleypres.net
Ray Esparza Custodiancustodians@valleypres.net
Bob Lopes Custodiancustodians@valleypres.net
Dick Horn Web Designer.....rrhorn@mac.com
Alice Sanchez Nursery Attendantvpc-office@valleypres.net
Gee-Gee Smith Valley Voice Editortubacgee@gmail.com

Valley Readers

2:00 PM -- Monday, November 30, 2020

Classroom 1

Many of us did a lot of reading during our enforced isolation over the last few months. So, we thought we'd do things a little differently at the November meeting of Valley Readers and discuss the books we've read and really liked since the 1st of March. Come prepared to recommend up to three books – you can have some alternates ready in case of duplication if you wish. If you send your titles in advance to Liz Haynes at ehaynes62@mac.com, then a list can be prepared and passed out at the meeting.

You can include as many titles as you wish in the email to Liz. You are, of course, also welcome to just come and listen and get some good book recommendations. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.



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

ON LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION



One of the concerns of our Church has and continues to be leadership. While churches often seek the opposite of their last leader, I have and continue to seek a different way from all of our former pastors. Not that there was anything wrong, but after 40 years we need to change things up! The leadership style I try to emulate requires listening to you, not reframing the way in which I want, but listening and trying to hear you. Then working with you to establish a process that we all know and own for making changes as necessary. Then believing, working methodically and praying to God, that what we are doing will be made manifest. We may not all like the outcomes, but we will know and have opportunities to be involved along the route. At times, changes have to be made to our process, and at times there are changes to what has been familiar, but this is not change for the sake of change. As your

installed pastor, you will hear me in committees advocating for one decision or another, I do care passionately about this church and about you. When the committee or the congregation vote, I choose to abstain, in part because I want these to be your decisions; in part because I need to minister to everyone especially those unsupported. Once committees make a decision, I then stand behind that decision to the congregation and community.

A second concern which came up in the JAG Report, and Mission Study, and Session Minutes, has been communication. In Green Valley, we all come from other places and because of this we have differing expectations and assumptions. Someone commented recently “We talked about a concern, and you went ahead and fixed it! We are accustomed to talking about stuff for years.” There are times when we think we hear one thing, however a person means something else. There are times when what we really want is not accomplishment but to control how something is done. The humor of a preacher is that sometimes you preach a sermon, and months or years later hear yourself being quoted differently than you intended! As your pastor, I am trying to listen and I will continue to try. After months of isolation someone said, “What do you mean the Pastors and Worship Leaders have provided daily E Blasts throughout this time? There has been daily Bible Study with Pastor Craig on Zoom? Worship has been available on the Website? YES, if you have not heard this previously, we are trying to do everything in our power to minister to you. If you have not been receiving please tell us, and we will work to get you connected to your church.

FROM THE PASTOR con't

On our first Sunday congregating in “Live-Action Worship” good friends at Valley recognized that Judy and I have been with you a full year (What a year); and that Pastor Diane and I have tried to go out of our way to be in ministry with you despite the circumstance of the world. Thank you. We have come to love our home here with you. I am told that if you can live through a summer with a record 107 days over 100, with less than 2 inches of precipitation for the year, and 210 days of social isolation, in Arizona you have earned being called a Desert Rat. Thank you for supporting us as we continue to minister to you.

FULL TRANSPARENCY ON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

All 23 of the Air Conditioning Compressors have been working throughout 107 days in excess of 100 degrees! A new outdoor LED Message Board has been installed! Replacement of the Sanctuary Sound System is able to be heard! A fresh Updating of the Kitchen has happened! A new Irrigation System is causing things to grow! Funds to repay the Solar System cost are being pledged! Video-Conferencing of Meetings and Video-Recording Worship! After years of talking about problems and being restricted by what we did not have, things are getting done; but how are we affording all this?

First, our Session has led us through difficult times in the life of our church, not only dealing with deaths, mourning, depression, but also significant financial cuts. However, our predecessors were wise stewards, who established funding streams for the future of our church.

- Our Budget covers annual costs of staffing, administration, maintenance, utilities, some mission.
- The Amigos provide an amazing ministry helping people with local moves, while generating a supplemental +\$50,000 annually through the Patio Sale for our Mission Giving.
- The Foundation invests Memorial Gifts and Reserves of VPC, as a separate corporation.
- There is also a Capital Improvements Fund, annually fed both by year-end balances and a percentage of income from Foundation Investments.
- Fifth, we have an incredibly supportive, creative, and responsible church-family, who when they see a place to make a difference step-up and do so.

The Building and Grounds Committee (B&G) has an annual inspection of our Air Conditioners, with plans for a rotation replacement, funded by Capital Improvements Fund. This does not come out of the Operating Budget, or the Foundation.

FUNDING NEW SANCTUARY SOUND SYSTEM and SIGN

While originally there were bids for very expensive LED Signs, Ruling Elder/ Building and Grounds member: April Boysen found our new sign at Electronics Liquidators for \$1,000. A Tucson company initially bid over \$150,000 for a new

FROM THE PASTOR con't

Sound, Lighting and Camera System; however, we found a company specializing in churches, who broke their bid into “ala carte phases” and for \$37,000 we replaced the Sound System, while also being attentive to the physics of speaker placement. When there were overages, Pastor Craig petitioned for these to be paid by the company providing saving \$4,000. Both the sign and sound system were funded by the Capital Reserve for this. Using our custodians, B&G member Skip Berry and our Pastor, saved the church a great deal in installation cost. None of this was charged against the Operating Budget or Foundation. *Then, without request, members donated \$21,325 towards these costs! So, our Sound System has actually cost the church Capital Improvements Fund about \$16,000!*

CUSTODIANS STEPPING UP

Rather than replace kitchen cabinets, the Custodians purchased a gallon of paint and refinished the cabinets for us, themselves. Rather than paying to have Weed Control this year, our custodians have sprayed for weeds. The skilled work of our staff saved the church these costs. Way to go guys!

IRRIGATION

A member of the church concerned with landscaping, donated \$6,000 which encouraged others to join in supporting. Also, Ruling Elder/B&G member: Judy Christiansen worked with the landscaper on significant costs savings for this project to empower our native plantings to thrive rather than just survive.

SOLAR CARPORT

One of our body heard the report that the Solar Carport was saving our church 85% on our monthly electric bill, who then offered a \$25,000 Matching Pledge for gifts received in the last quarter of this year to purchase this outright.

ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING & VIDEO RECORDING

Our new Pastor had decades of experience with ZOOM Video Conferencing and Video-Recording Worship, which supported by Pastor Diane filming on her Cell Phone, Jeff Babcock editing, Dick Horn producing, brought these to reality without cost to the church. The Deacons are now investigating Live-Streaming using their accrued funds for this purpose. The net result is that the Session has not had significant additional costs that could not be paid by the Session's Capital Reserve funds, and our church family have been incredibly supportive of getting these things done. Thank you so much for your encouragement and faith in our Session and pastors.



Diane Christopher: Pastor of Discipleship

As we take cautious steps to open up worship again, I hear this comment a lot: “My fear is people have become so comfortable watching the worship service online, they will not come back to church.”



The fear is real. I came across an article that gave reasons why people will not come back to their regular church attendance. Here are the reasons:

The fear is real. I came across an article that gave reasons why people will not come back to their regular church attendance.

Here are the reasons:

- **People enjoy worshipping at home.** The relaxed atmosphere of being at home may have a long-term appeal for many church attenders.
- **People don't feel safe in public places anymore.** The current health crisis may make people quite leery about going to any public meetings in the near future.
- **People like the freedom to watch services on their own schedule.** It is convenient (and very American) to make your own worship schedule.

Having said all that, there are some great reasons why people will (and should) come back to church

- **People will miss connections with other believers.** We crave connections with others. We are designed to see and hear and taste and touch and feel our way through the physical world. The online world is great, but it has its limitations. Couples that try a long distance relationship know this is not ideal. It is the same with the church as the Family of God. We need to see each other.
- **There is nothing like singing together.** We sing to glorify God and to encourage each other. We sing to express our emotions to God. Of course, we cannot sing together yet, but we can still hum and hear the music live.
- **People will respond positively to connections made during coronavirus situation.** We have worked hard to communicate the gospel and the love of Christ through technology to minister to church members and our neighbors. Having made connections with the outside world, we may find those people entering our doors.

Pastor Diane con't

- **People will have a greater sense of commitment due to living through a crisis.** Some church leaders believe that the coronavirus epidemic may be good for the church. Churches have had to figure out ways to fulfill their mission without the opportunity to gather in large assemblies. The emphasis upon a growing level of true community in small groups, in lieu of big gatherings, may continue to be a significant priority in the church's future.

In the book of Revelation, there is an awesome worship service in heaven. It is attended by thousands of angels and every creature on heaven and on earth. They all sing together, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever!" They bow before the throne and worship Christ face to face.

Our worship services here on earth are a foretaste of heaven and that amazing worship service. A worship service is something you will not find anywhere else in the world. So when the time is right, and if you are able, we invite you back to catch a glimpse of that heavenly worship....together.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- November 1st Pastor Diane: All Saints Day and Communion
- November 8th Pastor Craig: Joshua 24: 1-3, 18-24
- November 15th Pastor Craig: Amos 5: 18-24
- November 22nd Pastor Craig: Matthew 25: 31-46
Christ the King Sunday/Thanksgiving
- November 29th Pastor Diane: Advent 1

NEW SOUND SYSTEM

Sunday, October 11th we used the new Sound System for the very first time. Everywhere in the Sanctuary from the back of the Choir loft, to the last row of each section, the Sound System worked perfectly. Vocalists were microphoned, those making announcements from the Table could be heard and the system adjusted if needed. Pastor Craig learned to tape the microphone to his neck, but even the preacher's mic worked.

THE PASTOR'S RECIPES

When we first opened “Carport Church” Pastor Craig supplemented goodies with a Lindsey favorite: Date Bars. My Great Grandmother’s Recipe did not use eggs, because in the days of iceboxes you could not keep them cold. so, this can be made without eggs, baking for 25-30 minutes; or with eggs baking for an hour. The original recipe called for two handfuls of this, a pinch of that, cooking in a warm oven until done. Overtime we have tried to routinize the amounts.

Cut 1/2 pound of pitted dates into pieces. Stew these Date Pieces in a small pot on the stove with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water and 1/8 of a cup of granulated sugar, until dates break down into a paste. Set aside to cool.

Cream together:

1 Cup of Brown Sugar

1 Cup of Butter

1 teaspoon of Baking Soda

$\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoon of Salt

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cups of dry Oatmeal

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cups of Flour

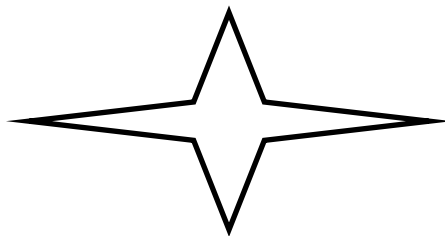


Divide this dough in half, pressing into the bottom of a standard baking pan (glass or metal).

Spoon stewed dates on top of raw dough like icing.

Layer remaining dough on top of date layer. It seems to work best to flatten balls of dough with your hands to jigsaw puzzle pieces to cover the top. Bake in a 350 degree oven until golden brown. With eggs, cook a full 60 minutes, so the dates are gooey but not the dough. Without eggs 25x30 minutes. Like a cake, this should be firm when done.

Remove and cut into small squares while still warm. This recipe is very forgiving, and can be doubled as necessary. Once baked, the cookies can be frozen. This is a great recipe to make with children. My own children love them; routinely arriving at Grandma’s house to ask: “Did you make them?”



After reviewing Pima County Health Department food preparation guidelines and precautionary distancing requirements and after prayerful consideration and lengthy conversation, the Valley Galley has decided NOT to sponsor a Thanksgiving meal this year.

It is our hope and prayer that sometime in early 2021, when Covid 19 has subsided and health precautions are lifted, we will be able to have a GIANT celebration of thanksgiving, a time to break bread together and offer our gratitude for having survived.



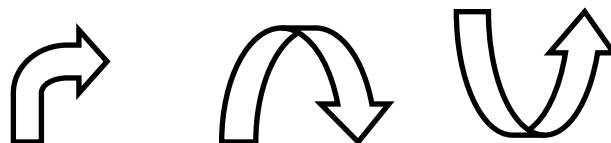
Lois Macfarlane & Anne Morrison



CONTACT TRACING

PIMA County Health Department responded to Pastor Craig on October 10th the Saturday before our Sunday opening. The Health Department had reviewed our plans and procedures and gave our church an EXCELLENT Rating! In addition to practicing over coffee hour for several

weeks before opening for worship, we are taking temperatures externally, disinfecting hands, wearing masks, socially distancing, even having bulletins set out on the pews instead of picking up. Most important we have been tracking who was in attendance, so that if someone develops symptoms we could quickly verify everyone with whom they came into contact. Having initially requested persons to call ahead, we now have a fairly accurate list of regular attenders, so no longer do you need to call or email each week! Instead, please stop at the Welcome desks, where we can check your attendance, to be able to follow up if it should ever become necessary.



Are you Experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?



Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- Isolation and loneliness
- Anxiety over health
- Grief due to many different kinds of losses
- Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling
- Financial strain or job loss
- Uncertainty about the future
- Other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by Video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For more information, call our church office.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

VPC Solar Power System Purchase Funding Status:

On September 16th, 2020, Valley Presbyterian Church (VPC) received an anonymous matching funds proposal from a member of the Congregation. The proposal reads as follows; *"I would like to pledge that I would match dollar for dollar every donation during the 4th quarter until December 15, 2020 up to \$500.00 per person and up to \$25,000.00 total during this period."* Thanks to this member, this provides an extra incentive for you to help fund the purchase of the Solar Power System from Technologies Credit Corporation (TCC) at the end of the 2nd Quarter of 2023. Once the system is owned outright, VPC will no longer have to pay TCC for the power the system generates thus, saving an additional \$14,000 per year in energy costs.

Donald Brooks – 520-399-3959 – dxb38@cox.net

Why Stephen Ministry?



After a joint meeting with other faiths held at VPC, I had a Jewish couple come over to me and ask while pointing to my name badge, "Why Stephen?" They were inquiring as to why our ministry was called, Stephen Ministry. I had once wondered about the naming of the ministry, so was delighted to be able to explain to them,

"Many years ago, Dr. Rev. Kenneth Haugk was a pastor of a very large congregation and he was thinking of all the people in his congregation that needed his visits often and he didn't have nearly the time to be able to visit them. His thoughts then jumped to some of his members that had the gifts and time to make these visits, however, they weren't pastors. He developed the Stephen Ministry program and trained these people to have the skills in making visits and how to administrate the program. He chose the name, Stephen, because Stephen is the only named person in the bible who was put in charge of caring for the hurting people in the early Christian church."

Stephen Ministers aren't pastors. They are trained, compassionate and caring people who are willing to give an hour a week to another human being in order to make life more enjoyable or bearable for that person. That could be you too. If you have the inclination to want to make life better for a hurting person, you could fill out an application to see if you have the gifts for Stephen Ministry. Call Patti Bright (520-305-3275) to have an application mailed to you. Through an interview, the SM leaders will be able to determine if Stephen Ministry is the particular gift you have or if you appear to have the gift for one of the other pastoral ministries at VPC.

The bonus of being trained is finding that the training is valuable to you in other circumstances in life. The icing on the cake is the blessing of joy that you will receive when giving of yourself to another person that is in need of your caring spirit.

Exploring Membership Class

Mondays, Nov 2, 9; 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Classroom 5
Thursday, Nov 19, 8 -9 a.m.



In this extraordinary year, we offer a shortened New Member class for those of you interested in becoming a member of Valley Presbyterian Church. The class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership. You will meet the pastors and staff, and discover what makes this Body of Christ unique.

Contact Pastor Diane Christopher with any questions and/or to register:
pastordiane@valleypres.net, or 625-5023.

Birthdays for November,

Chris	Ballaris		11/20
Roxy	Blair		11/25
Bill	Bond		11/16
Barbara E	Brubaker		11/14
Betty	Chadwick		11/ 08
Rev. Diane	Christopher		11/28
Frank	Coggins	E	11/08
Constance	Conklin		11/29
Lawrence			
Edward	Craft		11/19
Judy	Criswell		11/21
Joan	Dakin		11/12
Joan	DuDeVoire	R	11/ 28
Donna Marie	Dufour		11/ 27
Mark	Erickson	T	11/22
Darlene	Feil		11/28
Brenda	Hait	T	11/08
Geneva	Halliday		11/03
Jane	Hilsenhoff		11/ 27 ***
Jana	Honermann		11/17
Mary	Horn		11/18
Mary Ruth	Jaggard**		11/7 *
Lily	Johnson	M	11/13 11/13
Donaldina	Joung		
Hazel	Kern	S	11/15
Robert	Krantz	H	11/09

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Happy 90th Birthday!

Jane Hisenhoff

Royce	Lambert	L	11/03
Sandra	Lichtenberger		11/01
Judy	Lindsey		11/19
Evelyn	McClenathan	H	11/09 *
Pat	McFarland		11/17
Milton	Meigs		11/08
Evelyn	Mosher	R	11/06 *
Dan	Myers		11/02 **
JoAnne	Newkirk		11/04
Sandra	Olsen	K.	11/06
Reed	Olson		11/ 01
Gerry	Pearson		11/04
Linda	Romstad	S	11/30
Anita	Row	L	11/ 06
Travis	Sayre		11/16
Margaret	Schloff		11/19
*Janis	Troop		11/04
Wallis	Watson	L	11/12
Frances	Williams		11/04
Karen	Woodrow		11/03
Leilani	Young		11/30

* indicate age in their 90's

** indicates age over 100



More Bloggers wanted (15 and counting) Note #15 blogger

A blogger 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 blogging the real life story of Bob and Kristi Rice who share on a weekly basis the story of God working in their life.

[Radical Empathy](#)

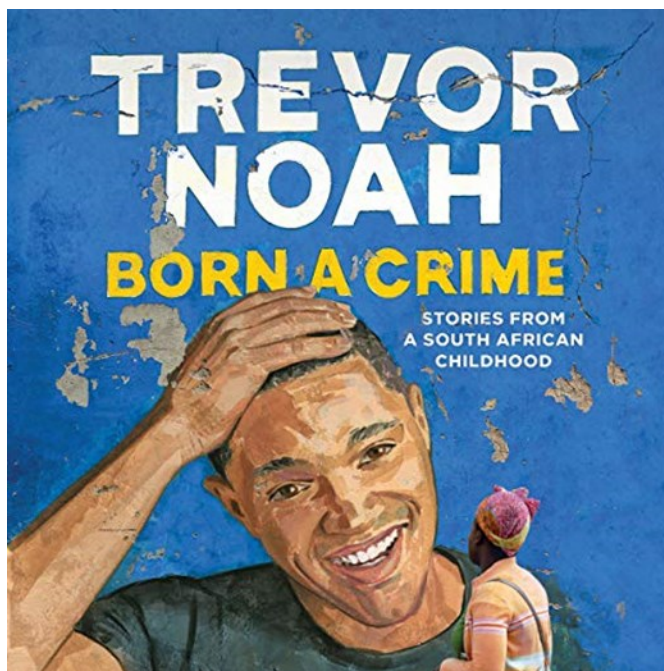
Recently I had a conversation with a family member about empathy. What does it mean to be empathic to others? Is empathy a natural gift or a skill we develop? When I lived in Rwanda, one of the greatest services the visiting short-term church teams performed was sitting quietly and humbly listening, giving space for widows and others to share their stories. In the midst of our current racial reckoning in America, as a means of becoming more empathic to the challenges faced by communities of color, a colleague recently recommended listening to the voices of persons of color, to not just read their autobiography or memoir, but to listen to them speak for themselves their own life story (via audio book).

Back in June, while we were living in an apartment lent to us by a church acquaintance, one of the regular highlights for me was listening to Trevor Noah describe growing up in Apartheid South Africa in his memoir, Born a Crime. Noah describes what it means to be "colored" or mixed-race, but not fitting into any of racial the categories because of his particular social location. Noah candidly describes a life of poverty, living on the margins, the challenges women like his mother face in their culture, a life of robbery and thuggery which many blacks are forced into because of poverty, and the challenges faced in the Homelands because of State-Sanctioned White Supremacy. Noah looks back on his formative years with a compassionate lens, describing for the listener the countless injustices he and his mother and his community faced. Noah astutely compares the Apartheid and racist South Africa of his youth with that of the United States of America, where he now lives. Listening to Noah, at times I found myself laughing, but other

times crying. I experienced a mixture of tears and joy with Noah's poignant and dramatic conclusion.

A colleague in mission cites the wisdom of an Asian proverb, "To hear is to forget, to see is to remember, but to feel is to understand." May we 'feel' the pain of others, listening to their stories, and thus 'understand'. In a recent interview with Oprah Winfrey, Isabel Wilkerson, acclaimed author of The Warmth of Other Suns and Caste, describes the need for "radical empathy." Along with Wilkerson, I believe that this 'radical empathy' only comes when we hear the

stories of others, have a more complete picture of our history, and are motivated to action, action which will create a more just and loving world. Amen.



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

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños **(children's home)**

Submitted by Reed Olson

NEWS FLASH

**regarding the upcoming Christmas donations
for the children's home!**



This year we are not able to physically collect donations or have people sign the children's Christmas cards due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, the need is still great. You can support the children by sending your donation to VPC. Please address your check/envelope to: "Valley Presbyterian Church" and in the memo section write, "Orphanage Christmas donation." VPC will collect the checks, then forward the accumulated donation to the orphanage to help pay for the children's Christmas gifts. All donations need to arrive at VPC no later than December 8. Thank you all for your support.

St. Andrews Children's Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brouwer



Laura Romero, the executive director of St. Andrews' Children's Clinic, has arranged for new office space in Green Valley for the Clinic. In early September they established an office at Valley Community Services, 3950 S Camino del Heroe. Staff is managing that office and Laura is usually working from her home or from the office in Rio Rico. Through Eloise Frederickson, our church helped find the office space in Green Valley. Donations of

clothing, diapers, blankets, etc. can be taken to the new office.

Laura is willing to conduct a ZOOM meeting for anyone interested. The Mission Committee is interested and will ask for a presentation in November. Let Kay Brouwer know (573-552-2313) if you would like to learn more about St. Andrew's Children's Clinic via a ZOOM meeting.

The Clinic staff and volunteers are working hard to help children, although not in the regular location in Nogales, Arizona, which is closed this month, October and maybe longer. Doctors are volunteering time and making appointments with patients in Mexico. A few Cleft lip/Cleft palate patients will be treated first. Future services will not be the same, but Laura and the staff are fully committed to continuing help to children of Mexico as they have in the past 45 years. Our concerns, prayers and donations are greatly appreciated.

Please Take Note

***There will be a Congregational meeting following worship
on Sunday, Nov 15,
in order to elect the next class of Elders and Deacons.
Please plan to attend!***

Crossroads Mission, Nogales

Submitted by Joan Bolin

On October 12, 2020, I spoke with Ben Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, via a phone call and received the following information:

The sad news is that Crossroads Mission is struggling financially now. Since COVID-19 virus has hit the world, each month only gets a little worse financially at the Mission. The three transitional houses for women are taking a hit, not operating as usual.



Bert & Ben Wenke
Co-Directors of Crossroads Mission

The Mission has stayed open during the virus pandemic because it is the only shelter in Nogales. All the sanitary precautions are being taken, and masks must be worn by everyone who enters any of the Mission's properties.

The Mission is still making take-out lunches, packaged in clamshell containers, and handed out to the needy people that come into the Mission. The Mission is preparing about 40 of the take-out lunches daily which is much less now because of the virus and that the Mexican border is still closed. The Mission is now distributing clothes again (clothing has not been available because of the COVID-19 virus).

At this time, Ben couldn't say if the Mission would be able to prepare and serve their normal Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. He just said time will tell.

The Mission is in dire need of money to keep the Mission running. Canned food is also needed to prepare the take-out lunches. Food donations may be placed in the bin marked for Crossroads Mission in Fellowship Hall.

Please keep praying for Crossroads Mission, it is a vital part of Nogales, Arizona.

DAVE'S BIG FALL

From Dave Lovett

On June 5th, I was trying to help my neighbor cut a limb from his tree next door that had broken in a storm. As I was up high on a ladder, cutting with a chain saw, a limb unexpectedly sprung backwards and knocked my ladder down. I dropped about 20 feet, and landed hard on the ground, rolling in pain. I later went to a local ER and found I fractured two vertebrae in my lower back.

Needless to say, I have cut back on a lot of physical activity, I am not climbing ladders, and I try not to bend, lift or twist! The doctors have told me it takes about three months for this kind of break to heal well.



So, Pam has been trying to take care of me although I am not a very good patient! But she has been awesome in supporting me and also cutting the lawn, weeding the garden and doing the heavy lifting! I do appreciate your prayers for a good and healthy recovery without long term back problems.

MILLIONS FACING STARVATION IN SOUTH ASIA FROM COVID-19 AND CYCLONE AMPHAN

We have become deeply involved in helping those suffering from COVID-19 in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh due to people facing starvation from the lockdowns there. Millions of day laborers suffered incredible hardships to try and get back home, with some walking literally 100's of miles to get to their villages. Then on May 20 Super Cyclone Amphan caused an even great humanitarian disaster on top of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our teams met people who told them, "I would rather die of COVID-19 than starvation." So far we have helped raise \$185,000.00 in cooperation with our OM offices and other donors, and helped about 9000 families which means about 54,000 people with food rations, hygiene packs, and shelter materials as so many also lost their homes.





YOUTH ON THEIR OWN's - Mini Mall is now open to students on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12pm – 5pm.

THANK YOU for your generous donations both in products and in money to YOTO's Mini Mall. We have made two trips with a trunk full of supplies, including CLEAN SWEEP donations to YOTO headquarters.

Thank you for remembering these kids in need.

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING

A small group met at church on September 23 to make 47 cards. Several ladies made cards at home adding 99 more cards. THANK YOU TO OUR DEVOTED CARD MAKERS!! We will not be meeting in November due to Thanksgiving. Our plan will be to meet next on December 2 from 2- 3:45 pm in Classroom 5. If you would like more information, or would like to join us, please call (520-282-1390) or email me (mmhorn@me.com).



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

(Sponsored by Samaritan's Purse)
Submitted by Joan Bolin

After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel. For over 25 years, Samaritan's Purse has been distributing Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gifts to millions of children in over 100 countries! The aim is to make known, through children and their families, the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. Valley Presbyterian Church has been participating in this wonderful ministry for years. Don't you want to make a needy child happy and put a smile on his/her face? This is

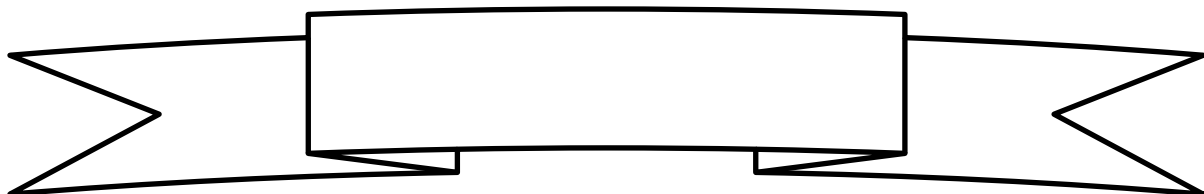


probably the only gift they will receive at Christmastime. Stop by our table on the designated Sundays listed below and pick up a Christmas shoebox(s) to fill.

The following items cannot be included in your Christmas shoebox: toothpaste, gum, food, seeds, liquids, lotion, vitamins, breakable items, war-related items, and aerosol cans.

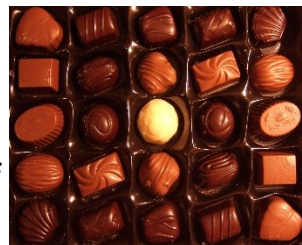
Shoeboxes may be picked up in Fellowship Hall on the following Sundays: November 1st, and November 8th. Shoeboxes will also be available at the church's office on November 2nd through November 12th, during office hours only.

ALL FILLED CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THEN NOVEMBER 15, 2020.



Chocolates and Pumpkins

Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get, a popular phrase brought into the movie Forrest Gump. This also reminds me of our health. You never know what you have inherited, what will come along, what will happen in the future. So instead of opening up the box of chocolates, and trying to determine which one might be the best, just open the box and enjoy; enjoy all the possibilities and enjoy the present time.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

These past few weeks I traveled to Prescott Valley to visit with my daughter and my new grandson. His first outing was to visit a pumpkin patch. Very similar to chocolates in a box, were the pumpkins all various sizes, and different colors. All of us might be in the same patch but we are different, different health, different sizes and looks, different needs. We should all be cared for in the same way. Yes, we are all caregivers of some kind to someone, and we need to take care of us. No matter what the issue, no matter what the problem, each of us needs to take time to care for ourselves, so we can better care for others. My visit was to help. With staying up and feeding my grandson, Colton, I'm hoping that it helped out, even if it was for a few days.

Caring for ourselves is often placed on the back burner, especially during these times. Remember to take time to take a walk or exercise, to take a nap, to visit with someone on the phone or through the email, talk with family, friends, and neighbors that may lend support, or to just sit and relax and have a cup of tea with a good book, especially on these wonderful days. Take time, be aware of your own health and seek out a health care provider or counselor if needed. Don't forget to see your doctor/healthcare provider regularly during this time of COVID. Caregiving, stress, and emotions all go hand in hand. Stress can lead to numerous health difficulties or problems, if it is not decreased or addressed. Our emotions and energy may have become greatly affected from COVID. Taking the time to care for ourselves is caring for others.

In Psalm 119:50, we hear the words: *This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.* Just as our stress, emotions, our energy, and our outlook affects our health, so does our health affect our spirit. Mind, body, and spirit are related.



Next time you open a box of chocolates, or search for a pumpkin in a vast pumpkin patch, remember to take the time care for yourself and your health, and don't forget to just enjoy the moment.

Chris Erickson, RN, BA, C-Parish Nurse

Parish Nurse



Caring for those in our congregation: Congregational Care

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News November 2020

Many of our classes are still on hold as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues.

We will continue to update you with more information.



Congregational Care is creating ways for our church to continue its care to others and to address the needs we are seeing.

Connections, during this time, are also essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care.



Keeping active during this time helps to stay positive and healthy.



Medical Minute: Remember 75 percent of falls can be prevented. There are several risk factors to look for both environmentally and medically. One is that Benadryl, a common allergy over the counter medication and one that is used in Tylenol PM or Advil PM, can continue until the next day for those who are 65 and over taking this medication.

PASSING ON A TRADITION

Pastor Fred Morrison is fondly remembered as a wonderful golfer and even better pastor. Recently, Anne Morrison passed Fred's Golf Cart on to Pastor Craig for his commute to work and local Pastoral Calls. During the summer months, Pastor Craig had been keeping the Christiansen's car away from the pack rats by driving it back and forth to work. Now that they are returning to Arizona, Pastor Craig is going from the gas-savings of their Prius to absolutely NO GAS with the Electric Golf Cart. Pastor Craig admits that his Golf game is Mulligan Stew, so he is better driving the Cart on Pastoral Calls.



ALL SAINTS DAY 2020

2020 has been an especially difficult year for everyone, especially hard because of the deaths due to the International Pandemic.

While we as a Church have been spared a great number of COVID related deaths, we have had our share of passing's.

All Saints Day has regularly been honored on November 1st. It is because of this that people celebrate Halloween on the night prior, and because November 1st All Saints Day was an important celebration in Europe in the 1500s that Rev. Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of the Church.

On All Saints Day, Pastor Diane is preaching, and we will remember all of our members who have died in the last 12 months.

On December 22nd we will celebrate "Blue Christmas" in the Spiritual Life Center, with a focus upon all our losses, but this is to honor the resurrection of our saints.

If you know of others PLEASE let us know, the persons your pastors know to remember are:

Nov/Dec 2019 - 2020

Gloria James	June Broviak
Ben Coppock	Ruth Bishop
Carrie Malovich	Gordon Page
Janice Potter	Milo Burnham
Gene Arnold	Jeanne Truitt
Marcy Dart	Lillian Reber
Tommy West	Don Moses
Betty Hughes	Nancy Langsdale
Ruth Lund	Olive Heller
James Rogers	Charles Watt
Mary Lee Shurigar	John Vold

Wendell Miller
Grant Stitt
Jo Hudson
David Nutting
Parker Long



Women's Ministries

The attendees at the Women's Ministries September Gathering enjoyed a great kickoff presentation by Pastor Diane of the first lesson in this year's Bible study: *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*.

The speaker for our November Gathering will be Bill McCreary, *who is associated with Posada Life Community Services, including the Community Center, Adult Day Services, and Los Niños Del Valle Child Care and Pre-School.*

We will be collecting two offerings at the November Gathering – our annual Thank Offering and a cash offering for the Presby gift which will go to Posada Life Community Services. The meal will be a brown-bag lunch with coffee and water provided. We have hopes for a catered meal in December to celebrate our Christmas Gathering if all goes well.

There is now a link on the main webpage for Valley Presbyterian Church that will take you to Women's Ministries videos. These include the presentation that Pastor Diane did in September, a link to a national webinar about this year's Bible study which is very interesting, and links to the presentations by Pastor Diane for leaders of the Circle Bible studies. These are in lieu of the training sessions that were held on the first Tuesday of the month in the past. Anyone is welcome to watch those presentations, especially if you are unable to attend a Circle meeting.

To reach the link you will need to scroll down on the main page until you see these buttons.

Video Resources

Special **Video Worship**

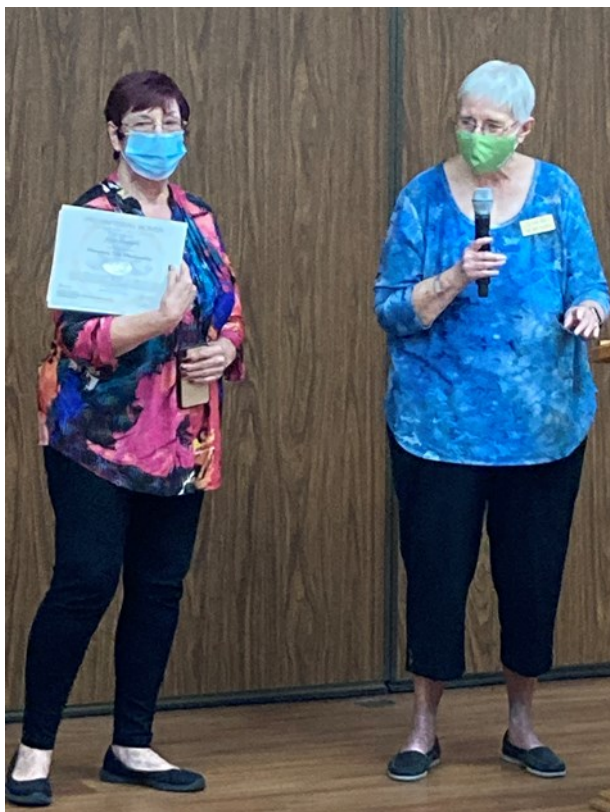
[Click here](#)

**Women's Ministries
Videos**

[Click here](#)

Women's Ministries con't

Joyce Lambert Receives Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women



Joyce Lambert was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women at the Women's Ministries Gathering on September 29th. Joyce was honored for her service to Women's Ministries at Valley Presbyterian as a Circle Leader, long-time member of the Coordinating Team, and publicist and photographer. She received a certificate and a silver membership pin.



WANTED: COUNTERS



As we begin opening anew for Sunday morning Worship, we need a few persons to come in on Monday mornings to count the Offering before the Treasurer makes the Deposit. A good accounting system uses persons other than the Treasurer and Bookkeeper for counting. Due to illnesses we need four to six persons, to create a rotation. Please contact Bookkeeper Suzanne Mandeville.

Dear VPC Family

I am very lucky; as an organist, I often get to hear what music means to people. People share with me why specific pieces of music move them, as well as music in general.



I have been fortunate enough to be able to help brides and their families plan their wedding music. I have been honored to help grieving families choose music for funerals. There are many hymns that remind me of a specific person. Some of these people have passed, some are in Texas, some are in Sierra Vista, and some are part of the VPC family. Then too there are the songs that mean something to me, secular and religious, such as the hymn that was sung while I dressed to be baptized (I Surrender All), the song that was on the radio in my car after a good-first date (Thousand Years), the song I sang karaoke to at my college-best-friend's wedding (Don't Stop Believin'). These, and so many others, make up the soundtrack of my life. Some of the best gifts I have ever been given are when people close to me share tracks from their own soundtrack. Music is communal and to be shared. That is one of the many things that the pandemic has made more difficult. As we move forward through, and from, this time, know that we will be innovating as much as possible to share music with YOU at VPC. Along those lines, Jamie and I are pleased to announce the first concert of the 20-21 Music in the Valley Concert Series:

“Welcome Home for the Holidays”
A concert of the classics, pop hits, and Christmas music
Sunday, December 6th, 1:00PM and 5:00PM
Valley Presbyterian Church.

There will be two seatings, at 1:00PM and 5:00PM, and admission is free-of-charge. Because of the necessity of social distancing, there will be a limited number of seats available at each time. If you would like to reserve your seat(s) for you and your guests, please e-mail Jamie at jamie@valleypres.net. If you prefer not to e-mail, you may reserve your seats by calling Wes at 325-669-9219. When you make your reservation, please include which seating you prefer, and include your phone number. Of course, all plans are subject to change based on the state of the pandemic in our area in December.

It has been wonderful to see you in church the last few weeks. Jamie and I feel lucky to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

God bless you, and remember always to keep expanding your personal soundtrack,

Wes

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)



**You are Never Alone:
Trust in the Miracle of God's Presence and Power
by Max Lucado
Class began Tuesday, October 27
10:00 a.m. by Zoom**

You are stronger than you think because God is nearer than you know. In this class, you will be comforted by the living, loving, miracle-working God who doesn't think twice about stepping into the thorny thickets of your world to lift you out.

There is still time to join this 6-week class even after our start date.

Contact Pastor Diane (pastordiane@valleypres.net; 625-5023) and she will get you set up to join in on the discussion.



PATIO SALE NEWS

In the middle of October, the Patio Sale Amigos met to make a decision on one issue: whether or not to hold a Holiday Sale this year. In previous years we held a sale in November that featured Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring holiday items that had been collected over the year, but this year, which will go down in my books as the Year of Great Uncertainty, we wondered if we could go on as we usually do. Nothing else was usual, and the church hadn't opened to do anything other than hold a worship service, which itself wasn't exactly usual. We came up with a number of ways we could allow for social distancing and assure safety, but with COVID-19 numbers rising in most of the country, it seemed too big a risk to take. After thorough discussion and an intense desire to do what we have usually done, the final and difficult decision was made to cancel the Holiday Sale for this year. We still welcome donations of holiday items, however.

Now for some good news: We welcome Carmen Nylund to the team of Amigos. Her ability to think things out thoroughly and to get thoughts, ideas, and things organized well are an asset to our group. Please express your appreciation to her when you see her.

We eagerly accept the donations you bring to the church. Bigger items will be picked up if you just call the church and make arrangements.