

Valley Voice

Thoughts for the Journey

Dear Friends,

The late, great theologian, Jonathan Edwards, was quoted in the book *Closer Walk*, July, 1988, p. 15, about what new estate the Christian is in life. "The redeemed are dependent of God for all. All that we have - wisdom, the pardon of sin, deliverance, acceptance in God's favor, grace, holiness, true comfort and happiness, eternal life and glory - we have from God by a Mediator; and this Mediator is God. God not only gives us the Mediator, and accepts His mediation, and of His power and grace bestows the things purchased by the Mediator, but He is the Mediator. Our blessings are what we have by purchase; and the purchase is made of God; the blessings are purchased of Him; and not only so, but God is the purchaser. Yes, God is both the purchaser and the price; for Christ, who is God, purchased these blessings by offering Himself as the price of our salvation."

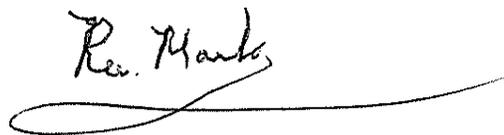
If we believe that Jesus Christ came into this world to save us and to take upon himself our sins then we are redeemed. We must also extend God's love in Jesus to others because we are redeemed. It is not our place to condemn others, otherwise we are playing God.

We must never forget that Jesus is the Redeemer and we are the redeemed. So, the next time we make a judgment or condemnation of someone, let's remember who it is we serve and who saved us.

A few of things to come:

- **Faith Formation Sunday** is Sunday, September 9.
- **Thrive Project** is a ministry opportunity which Session has approved for Valley over the next year called "Discerning God's call and building disciples of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit." More information elsewhere in the newsletter.
- **Grapevine September 24 at 9:30 a.m.** begins the Peace & Justice Committee's educational opportunity called "Seeking to Be Faithful - Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement"
- Please remember to bring or send your summer offerings with you.
- See you in church.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor

Moving Forward

Session approved the Position Description for the future Pastor/Head of Staff which will be used in the search process. You can read it on our website, www.valleypresbyterian.net under the News & Events tab, or there are copies posted in Fellowship Hall and in the hallway from the back lot coming in the office door.

Session is moving ahead with the pastor search process by asking the Church Nominating Committee to begin developing criteria for recruiting and interviewing candidates for a future Pastor Nominating Committee.

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To Thrive

During devotions one morning, I read the scripture passage about the Israelites being allowed to leave Egypt after years of slavery (Exodus 15). As they leave, the Egyptian Pharaoh changes his mind and decides he wants the Israelites back.

He sends his army after them, and as the Israelites walk out of Egypt, they notice the army of Pharaoh approaching. They are terrified and turn to Moses in anger, "What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?...It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

It is said that the future of the church will not be as we know it today. It was a topic of discussion at the Pastor Transition Training I attended. I've been reading about it in newspaper and magazine articles, and on the Internet. The church is declining, rapidly. And by church, I am talking about the church everywhere in America.

Many churches are trying to figure out how to stop the flow of people leaving the church, but at the same time, like the Israelites, they want to "remain in Egypt." They want the church to be the way it used to be, do things the way they have always done it. Yet, others are trying to find a new way, even though it may lead them into the wilderness.

Moses responds to the people's complaint: "Do not be afraid. Stand firm...the Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

You need only to be still.

In other words, keep focused on God. God will provide the way. So I think of our church as we look towards the future, as we look for a new way to do church. I think of The Thrive Project, a way to revitalize the church, along with other churches in our Presbytery (see information on The Thrive Project on page 12).

Therefore, I invite you to The Grapevine on Monday, September 10 at 10 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center to learn about The Thrive Project. Discover the Seven Vital Signs of a Healthy Church and discuss how to move forward. Then let us stand firm, be still before God, and watch what God will do.



Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

How Time Flies!

Wow! It's September already! Someone once said that the older you get, the faster time goes by. Even if it chronologically remains the same, it sure feels faster. Does time fly by because we have more precious memories stored away? Does it fly by because we've experienced so much? I wonder. When I was a kid, I remember wishing away time. I couldn't wait to be 5 and start school. I couldn't wait to be 13 and be a teenager. I couldn't wait to be sixteen and drive! Be careful what you wish for. My son, Jacob, said something the other day about wishing he was older. We talked about not rushing things, which can be hard to do when you're 12. Together we ruminated about what it meant to "be in the moment" and how challenging that could be. We talked about the excitement that tomorrow holds as it is full of possibilities. We smiled at the memories we had already made together and I realized how very precious each moment of life is. Life is a gift from God.

Time flies! There has been much to do in the 11 months that I have journeyed with you. We have accomplished a great deal together, created memories together, and shared the precious gift of time with one another. The future holds potential and excitement for us. For the next few weeks, I will be working hard to stay in the moment with you as we finish what we started and part ways. God is good and gracious. We have been placed in one another's lives for a time and a purpose. Summer is already drawing to an end and the pace of life is picking up again. I hope that you will join me in being intentional in time – time with God, time with yourselves, and time with each other.

Blessings along the journey,

Linda

Rev. Dr. Linda Lloyd, Interim Pastor of Care

Session Notes from June and August

Submitted by Rev. Mark A. Medina

Standard Meeting of the Session, June 28, 2018

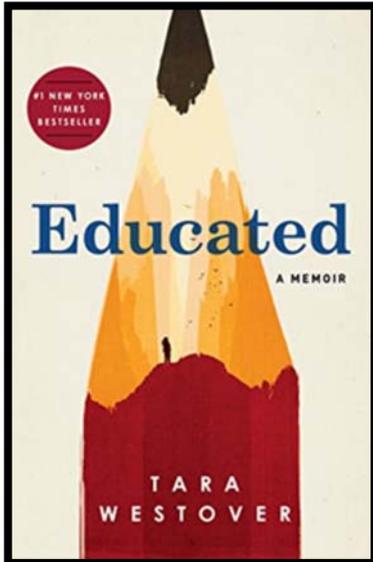
- Approved Valley's participation in the Thrive Project, "Discerning God's call and building disciples of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit," beginning the Fall.
- Amended the budget to reflect personnel cuts of \$36,000.00 for the second half of 2018.
- Approve Elder Judy Aguayo.
- Approved personnel reductions at the end of the year, leaving a projected budget deficit of \$67,000.00.

Called Meeting of Session, August 2, 2018

- Approve the Pastor's Position Description.
- Accepted Gretchen Pyburn's resignation from Nominating Committee.
- Call for a Congregational Meeting for after worship on August 12, 2018 for the purpose of changing the by-laws for the Nominating Committee.
- Discussion on the future Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). "Session is moving ahead with process of calling a future Pastor Head of Staff by asking the Church Nominating Committee to begin developing criteria for recruiting and interviewing candidates for a future Pastor Nominating Committee. The Session has also approved the position description for the future Pastor Head of Staff."

Valley Readers

Monday, September 24
2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1



Tara Westover had never set foot in a classroom until she was 17. Raised by survivalists in backcountry Idaho, she had no concept of the world outside of her immediate surroundings. How this girl goes from having to learn how to learn, to attending Harvard and Cambridge and attaining a Ph.D., makes for a riveting memoir. Considerations of the value of education, what it's like to see the world through new eyes and make a new life, and the grief of severing oneself from family all combine in this bestselling NPR Book Club pick. Please join us for a discussion of *Educated*, by Tara Westover, led by Rev. Dr. Linda Lloyd.

The Peace & Justice Committee

The committee meets the first Monday of each month. **HOWEVER**, the next meeting will be September 10 at 9:00 a.m. due to the Labor Day Holiday on September 3.

Submitted by Cara Bissell

All are welcome. Communicating among all parts of the body of the church is desired.

Patio Sale Dates for 2018

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

Sorting: September 13, October 11

Holiday Sale Setup and Sale! October 31- November 3

Sorting: December 13



Hunger Walk

September 15 at 8:00 a.m.

We are forming a VPC team for the Hunger Walk on September 15. If you can't walk, please find someone on our team and sponsor them. Brochures will be available in the church office. Betty Kiesle-Yoder will be your Captain.

Women's Ministries

September 25 at 11:00

Submitted by Carol Peeler, Moderator

What a wonderful time we had at the Women's Gathering in Louisville, KY on August 5-7! The attendees will all have a set time to tell of our experiences at one of the Women's Ministry meetings here at our church. It will be informative and interesting. Plan to attend, have lunch, and listen to our stories.

Our first Grand Circle will be September 25 at 11:00 a.m. The first lesson in our new Bible study, *God's Promise*, will be presented at that meeting by Pastor Diane Christopher. The study was written by Amy Poling-Sutherland. We met her at a Gathering, and she was here for a Grand Circle and sermon last April. Tickets for this Grand Circle will be available for \$11, and that includes lunch. There are also books, not required for the Grand Circle, but used in our smaller Circle meetings, which will be available for \$11. We also have just a few available in large print for \$13. You can purchase the books at the Women's Ministries table in Fellowship Hall. In our Circle meetings, we meet in small groups (called Circles) to study the lesson for each month. You may sign up at the Women's Ministries table, and pick the day and time that is convenient for you.

You do not need to be Presbyterian or a member to join us in a study about God. Come have lunch and enjoy the fellowship of other women. We have some interesting speakers lined up, we hope to see you all at our Grand Circle on September 25.

What is the General Assembly?

By Eloise Fredrickson

In order to understand the function of the General Assembly, it is necessary to get a grasp of the structure of our church. There are six agencies in the Presbyterian Church (USA). They are the Board of Pensions, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and the Office of the General Assembly. Except for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, which is self-sustaining, the agencies give reports to the General Assembly and, in most cases, have boards that are elected by the General Assembly. The Office of the General Assembly (OGA), however, depends upon the General Assembly for its financial support that comes through the per capita provided by congregations.

The duties of the OGA include the following: it supports the co-moderators in their duties; it manages the call process for pastors, including a database of pastors who are searching for a position; it publishes the General Assembly minutes, the Book of Order, and the Book of Confessions; it compiles annual statistics and houses the archives through the Presbyterian Historical Society; it answers questions regarding the PCA (USA) Constitution; it organizes and manages the General Assembly and other national meetings; it prepares, administers and grades ordination exams; and it communicates with the larger church on immigration issues.

The only funding that the OGA receives to do all that comes from per capita giving. If every member of the church paid his or her per capita, which means "each head" it would amount to less than \$1 to support the Office of General Assembly, but not everyone pays. For instance, Puerto Rico has a large number of Presbyterians, but, since the hurricane and even before, they are simply unable to pay because of poverty. Many of our small churches are barely hanging on, so they can't afford to pay.

Next month I will explain more about per capita.

Men's Weekday Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 7:45 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 7:45 a.m. They are now reviewing *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels* by J. Warner Wallace. A group of six to twelve men meet in the Media Room of the Silver Springs Retirement Community. The group meets for fellowship and study and an all-around lively discussion. Dave Tompkins is the leader (399-3500).

The second group is resuming on September 12. This group, with about six to thirteen men attending each week, meets Wednesday mornings at 9 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.

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.

Exploring Membership Class

Tuesdays, October 23 and 30, November 6
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Watch the October Valley Voice for details!

The Inquisitors

The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon

Beginning September 21, Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 1

On Friday, September 21, the Inquisitors will begin a six-week study of *The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon*. There can be no question that the New Testament is the most important book—or collection of books—in the history of Western civilization; it is by far the “bestseller” of all time, since the invention of printing. However, many people today do not know a lot about the New Testament, including such basic facts as what books it contains, when they were written, by whom, when, and for what purpose; how the books were copied and transmitted down through the ages; and when and why they came to be collected together into a canon of Scripture. This course will examine these questions and more.

The class meets from 1:30 - 3:00 and views and discusses the Great Courses course entitled, “The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon.” The professor is Dr. Bart Ehrman, Professor and Chair of The Department of Religious Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Ehrman is one of the world's leading scholars on the New Testament.

Adult Confirmation Class

**Mondays at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5
Begins September 10**

Do you understand what you believe? And why? Do you understand the basics of your faith? Would you like a review of Christianity in a way that includes visuals and hands-on? Using the curriculum for the youth confirmation class (which begins September 9), Pastor Diane will cover such basics as:

Who wrote the Bible, God or humans?
Am I really supposed to believe that Mary was a virgin?
Was Jesus of Nazareth God?

Then once a month, we will cover really tough questions chosen by the confirmation class, such as:

Did God create evil?
Why does God let bad things happen?
What does God think about war?

This class will continue throughout the year. Come to all, or come based on the topic of the day. Here are the topics for September:

Sept 10 Who wrote the Bible, God or humans?
Sept 17 Is the Bible True?
Sept 24 Why does the Bible contradict itself at times?

Come learn with our youth, and review the wonderful truths of Christianity and how they apply to our lives.

"Seeking to Be Faithful - Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement."

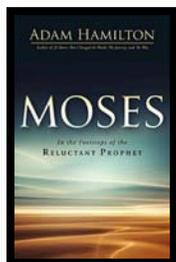
September 24 at 9:30 a.m., then October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 2:00 p.m.

The Peace & Justice Committee is hosting a congregation-wide event beginning with a Grapevine and followed by several classes. The purpose of this ministry opportunity is to implement "ongoing church training, and general congregational education." Toward that end, we, the committee members, envision holding a Grapevine meeting on September 24 at 9:30 a.m., to introduce the "Seeking to Be Faithful" document and explain its purposes. Then, five classes will be offered on the underlying sets of topics, commencing with Communication, Trust, and Respect, beginning October 1 at 2:00 p.m.

We are basing our work on the Journey Ahead Group's recommendations approved by Session, an outside speaker, and other materials made available to us. Please join us on this part of our journey.

A New Class on Moses Begins September 13

1:00 pm on Thursdays, starts September 13 and runs for six weeks



Please join us as we begin a six-week study on Moses, the reluctant prophet and one of the most important figures in the Old Testament. This study by Adam Hamilton covers the life and the journey of Moses and the Israelites as they leave the bondage of Egypt and spend 40 years in the wilderness. Adam Hamilton retraces this journey through the book and the accompanying DVD and, in doing so, raises important questions for our faith journey today. The class will be facilitated by Liz Haynes. Books will go on sale in late August at the Faith Formation kiosk after Sunday morning worship. The cost will be \$12.00.



SAVE THE DATE HALLOWEEN TAILGATE PARTY & SCAVENGER HUNT!

Wednesday, October 31 at 4:00 p.m.

When? Halloween evening, Wednesday, October 31 at 4:00 p.m.

Where? Valley Presbyterian parking lot.

What to Bring? Bring your dinner to enjoy "tailgate style."

How to Dress? Casual - come in costume if you'd like!

Why? Come for Halloween fun and a chance to celebrate with friends.

LOOK for more details in the OCTOBER VALLEY VOICE!!

See you there!!

Sign Up Now for Supper Clusters

By Carmen Nylund, Organizer



We hope that your Supper Cluster has had time to get together this summer, and if not, will begin meeting again this fall and continue through the end of the year.

Some of you may be asking "What are Supper Clusters?"

Supper Clusters are small groups of people who attend worship at VPC and get together once a month to share a meal, spend time with new friends and/or renew old friendships. All VPC members, snowbirds, regular attendees, couples and singles are invited to be part of a Cluster.

How it Works:

- October - November, sign up to join a Supper Cluster.
- In December, the Supper Cluster organizers will review names, and form groups of eight to form a Cluster.
- In December, each participant will receive a letter with the names and contact information for their Supper Cluster group.
- Supper Clusters generally begin meeting in January and continue through the end of the year.
- Each Supper Cluster is encouraged to get together once a month to share a meal together.
- In the fall, sign-ups will be held again and Clusters will be reshuffled for the next year.

Questions? Contact organizer, Carmen Nylund at carmen.nylund4@comcast.net, or at 520-269-7732.

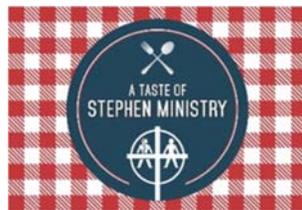
New Quilting Season Starting for Mission Quilters

Every First, Third and Fifth Monday
 September 17, 2018 - the First Monday in May, 2019
 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

With the ending of the long, hot summer days soon upon us, the Mission Quilters are starting to get the itch to stitch again. We are counting on those who get satisfaction from contributing their talents to join us in blessing another less fortunate human being with a stitched gift from a stranger.

All interested persons are welcome to join us.

Any questions, call Patti Bright 305-3275



Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)

Second Fridays of the Month, October-February (excluding December)
 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

Have you ever wondered what Stephen Ministry is all about? There will be several opportunities this fall and winter for you to get a taste of Stephen Ministry and prayerfully consider whether you might want to be a part of this ministry.

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ's care for others - listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith. This fall, our continuing education classes will be open to any congregational member who might like to learn more about distinctively Christian caring. We will be looking at different aspects through the book, Christian Caregiving: a Way of Life by Ken Haugk. The second Friday of the month will be devoted to this with a variety of speakers. **Mark your calendars now for October 12, November 9, January 11, and February 8, in order to get a taste of Stephen Ministry.**

October 21 will be Stephen Ministry Sunday. Following the service, we invite everyone interested in learning more about this ministry to join us for special taste treats in a special location (tba). We will answer any of your questions about this ministry and explain the **COST**:

Commitment
 Of
 Self and
 Time

We need more members who are willing to commit and become Stephen Ministers, remembering that the blessings will outweigh the costs. Our next training class begins January 4! Is God calling you to this new ministry? If you want more information now, contact Patti Bright, (520) 305-3275.

Come taste and see how good the Lord is through serving in Stephen Ministry!

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

September 2018

<p>2</p> <p>Communion Food Bank Collection 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship & Communion at LaJoya 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship</p> <p> Peggy Kuhn, Sally Ruschmeier</p>	<p>3</p> <p>LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p> Peggy Kuhn, Sally Ruschmeier</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:30 WM Coordinating Team 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 Publicity Committee 11:00 NOC Meeting 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble</p> <p> Don Du De Voire</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 Ministry Of 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair 5:00 Taizé Worship</p> <p> Edie Allan,</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Youth Confirmation Class</p> <p> Dick Bolin, Sara Hennigar</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Library Committee 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Peace & Justice Committee 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Grapevine: Thrive Project 10:00 AAUW Meeting 1:00 Adult Confirmation Class</p> <p> Beverly Guinn</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:45 Mission Committee 9:30 Prayer Ministry 2:00 Personnel Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble</p> <p> Don Du De Voire</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:15 Crossroads 8:45 Deacons 9:00 Men's Bible 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair 10:00 Faith</p> <p> Sonya Larsen, Jim Nelson</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Youth Confirmation Class</p> <p> Linda Jorn, Bob Puttock Jr</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:00 Adult Confirmation Class</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 9:30 Prayer Ministry 1:30 Finance Committee 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble</p> <p> Alicia Wood</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:15 Crossroads 9:00 Men's Bible 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair</p> <p> Mabel Acri,</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Youth Confirmation Class</p> <p> Nancy Lamphere, Marguerite Nelson, Dan Schroeder</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stay Vertical in GV 9:30 Grapevine 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:00 Adult Confirmation Class 2:00 Valley Readers</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 9:00 Creative Hands + Knit & Chatter 9:30 Prayer Ministry 11:30 Women's Gathering 3:30 Joyful Spirit Ensemble</p> <p> Joan Larson</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible 9:00 Parkinson's 10:00 Chair</p> <p> Jane Bond</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:30 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Childcare 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Youth Confirmation Class</p> <p> La Vicie Runkle</p>			

	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 Communion Prep  Dorothy Foucher, Nancy Langsdale
Presence Exercise Exercise Class Jane Groendyk	6 9:00 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:00 Communion at Silver Springs 3:45 Choir Rehearsal  Charlie Ashton, Bill Lemman, Dale Parker	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class	8  Jim Chervenka, Jane Lee
Mission Lunch Prep Meeting Study Exercise Exercise Class Formation Planning Team Candy Nelson,	13 8:00 Patio Sale Sorting & Marking 9:00 Faith & Health Committee 1:00 Moses 1:30 Outreach Committee 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal  John Busman, Jane Selbie, Rudy Sweisfurth, Jr	14 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Education 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Stephen Ministry Peer Group 11:00 Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting  Jim Collins, Lois Dierken	15  Rene FitzSimons, Donna Frisch
Mission Lunch Prep Study Exercise Exercise Class Carla Goings	20 9:00 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Moses 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal	21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting 1:30 Inquisitors  David Elsner, Fred Folberth	22  Gini Baird
Study Exercise Exercise Class	27 8:00 Session Meeting 1:00 Moses 2:15 Valley Ringers Rehearsal 3:45 Choir Rehearsal  Mary Lillie, Carolyn Stevens	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:30 Inquisitors  Harold Jenkins	29 7:00 Communion Prep



Casa Vida Nueva para Niños, A.C. (New Life Home for Children)

To the world you may be one person, but to a child, you are the world.

Sign up for the next trip to the Home for Children (orphanage)

Article by Reed Olson



The next trip to the Home for Children in Nogales Sonora MX will be Saturday, October 13.

See Reed Olson after church in Fellowship Hall September 30 and October 7 to sign up and receive the trip details.

Or, contact Reed to sign up early: 520-269-7829/email: olsonr1@cox.net.

The Grapevine: Introducing the Thrive Project

**Monday, September 10
10:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center**

God is calling the church to thrive in the 21st century!

Starting this September, the churches in our Presbytery and the Presbytery of Grand Canyon are collaborating together to revitalize our churches. It is called The Thrive Project. We are joining this effort as a way to revitalize our church as God continues to heal and move us forward into the future.

Come to this Grapevine on September 10 to learn about The Thrive Project. Learn about the Seven Vital Signs of a Healthy Church. Discover how we will enter into seasons of examination and experimentation as we learn to listen to, and lean on, the guidance of the Holy Spirit into ministry and mission.

As we begin this project with our brothers and sisters in Christ in our Presbytery, Brad Munroe, our Executive Presbyter, asks us to consider these questions:

What is the new song God is calling us to sing together?

What are the new ways God is calling us to express ourselves as the Beloved community?

How will we receive for ourselves the only true life, and offer it to others?

Crossroads Nogales Mission Lunch Program

Submitted by Janice Potter

We are short of persons for the upcoming fall months.

VPC sends four volunteers on the second or third Wednesday to prepare lunch for 60 to 100 people.

If you would like more information, please call Janice Potter at 505-9944. You need not be a member of Valley Presbyterian. Most people go once or twice a year and it is a good way to get acquainted with people you might not have met yet. Many report they feel they have done something good for others.

Taizé Worship is back!

**First Wednesday of every month
Beginning September 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center**

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.

Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

As of the writing of this article, the Finance Committee just received the July year-to-date financial statements. The committee will meet on August 28 to review activity through July. The committee did not meet in July, but the financial statements through June were available to them on July 20. The financials as of July 31, 2018 show that the deficit has grown, and now stands at \$47,486 compared to an anticipated deficit of \$40,383.

As is typical for July, the revenues are down. Year to date revenues are now \$18,278 below our projected revenues. As we move into the fall, our hope is that the giving levels will rise again as it has in the past several years. When we look at budget to actual, the revenues are down 3.7% from the year-to-date budget and expenses are down approximately 2.1% (that is a good thing!!) as shown below:

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue	\$472,216	\$490,494	(\$18,278)
Expense	<u>\$519,702</u>	<u>\$530,877</u>	<u>(\$11,175)</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>(\$ 47,486)</u>	<u>(\$ 40,383)</u>	<u>(\$ 7,103)</u>

The Finance Committee will be accepting budget requests from church committees beginning with the August 28 meeting. Hopefully, all committees will be prepared by the next Finance Committee meeting, on September 18, so that we will have a firm grip on the anticipated expenses for 2019 before asking the congregation for their support of these programs and projects proposed for 2019.

Montlure Day Camp Valley Presbyterian Church's Alternative to Vacation Bible School 2018

Submitted by Cara Bissell

Nearly a score of children, ranging from preschool through 5th grade, enjoyed this year's camp offered the last week in June. The focus, as always, was bringing Christ into children's hearts. Each day (from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) focused on a variety of the question "What if...?"

What if We Belong to God? (Psalm 139)

What if We Have Hope? (Mark 2:1-5)

What if We Have Enough? (John 6:1-14)

What if We Speak Up & Show Up? (Luke 10:25-37)

What if We Change the World? (Matthew 5:13-16)



This event was led by five Montlure staff counselors led by Ms. Kellie von Borstel – the director of Montlure's camping program. Many VPC volunteers helped out as well. Gail and Lance Barker were the go-to and organizational glue behind the entire program. Peggy Babcock organized, led, and brought preschool children to a height of fun and laughter. A variety of adults, many of which have helped in previous years, also made this year's "camp" a success, if not by their hands-on and skillful presence, then by donations and contributions to the silent auction. As a result of the fundraising and your generosity, we

were able to offer the camp free to all children!

Anne Morrison led a troop of adults who provided and served daily snacks for the children. Jeff Babcock provided much needed and appreciated carpenter's expertise for the camping atmosphere, along with trees, tents, and rafts. The climbing wall made its third consecutive year's appearance as well. The week's events were made available through pictures courtesy of Joyce Lambert's photographic skills. The music program, led by Pam Karbowsky, and the daily efforts of Pastor Diane and custodians, marked by the traditional circle gathering in prayer before each day's program, made this week God's creation – not our own.





News of Note

By Joel Pierce



Taizé services will begin September 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. They will happen on the first Wednesday of each month, and from time to time will include special guest musicians from Green Valley and the University of Arizona. We invite you to these prayerful and meditative services.

Music in the Valley will begin its second season in October. Just like last year, proceeds from ticket sales help keep the series running, and will now benefit our new Music in the Valley Scholarship (see below). Tickets for Music in the Valley will be available mid-September. Both season tickets and individual tickets will be for sale in Fellowship Hall after all services, as well as at the front office during regular business hours. Additionally, tickets may be purchased at the Green Valley Chamber of Commerce. Stay tuned for more details! Here's a taste of what's to come this season:

October: **Joel Pierce and Russell Ronnebaum** - Joel and Russell will play an exciting program of 4-hand piano music!

November: **The Sonoran Bells** - The professional handbell choir, the Sonoran Bells, will play a program of Christmas music in our Sanctuary! They are as much fun to watch as they are to listen to!

December: **Flutefinity and HarpFusion** - We welcome back HarpFusion, this time joined by the flute choir at the University of Arizona. Have you ever seen a group of harps and flutes play together? This will truly be a unique concert experience!

January: **Solo doctoral student** from the University of Arizona. - Stay tuned!

February: **The Sanctuary Choir: Gospel, Blues, and Jazz** - Our own Sanctuary choir and soloists will present a concert of gospel, blues, and jazz, accompanied by a jazz combo!

March: **The Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus** - The Tucson Boys Chorus will be here to sing a variety of music in March! You may even get to see some fancy rodeo roping! You won't want to miss this performance!

April: **Music in the Valley Scholarship Recipients Concert** - The four recipients of the Music in the Valley Scholarship will end our season with a joint performance.

Because of your participation in the last's year's Music in the Valley concerts, our Music Ministry was able to start a new scholarship for undergraduate students in music at the University of Arizona. Next month's Valley Voice article will highlight the first two recipients of these scholarships. They will share their music in our worship services and play in the last concert of our series. Thank you for your support!

Can You Identify These Blocks?

Submitted by Linda Freeman



We found these covered, wooden blocks while cleaning out the cabinets in the rear of the Spiritual Life Center and none of us could figure out what they were/are for. Can you help? Please call or email the office and let us know! Otherwise, look for them at the Patio Sale.

Blog Excerpt from the Rice's

Submitted by Doug Clark

Visit to the camp

It was only seven-thirty in the morning as our motorcycle taxis navigated the puddles on the muddy road that led to the big camp at the edge of town. As we came over the hill, the expanse of white tents came into view, which stretched as far as we could see. Later, one of the pastors would ask, half-joking, "Do you see our white city? This is our Jerusalem!" This was POC3 (Protection of Civilians Camp 3), for South Sudanese people displaced from their homes. We had come on this Sunday morning to join them for church.

The strong voices of the youth belted out their song in such an arresting way, and made me wish I could understand the Nuer language that they were singing. The pastor whispered to us that they were singing about their suffering, and asking whether it was because of their sin, or the sin of Adam or their ancestors that the suffering had come. Another youth choir followed, singing a song of lament about the suffering in South Sudan. "We are all scattered;" they sang, "we listen for sounds of peace, but there are none." A third choir of youth sang later, about Jesus being our light in the midst of the darkness. It was evident that all of the congregation enjoyed the choirs and resonated with their songs. One woman, in particular, danced up and down the aisles during the songs, while holding high a small wooden cross.



Bob preaching, Pastor Peter translates into Nuer

Bob preached from Lamentations 5, which describes the suffering of Israel as they are in exile. This chapter describes several specific aspects of Israel's suffering that are true for the South Sudanese, thousands of years later. Homes being taken by foreigners, women raped, even going to gather firewood for cooking at the risk of their lives. This, of course, is why the Bible speaks to us today – because just as the suffering is the same, God's power and promises are also the same today. Bob reminded us of reasons for hope that we find in the midst of the suffering described in Lamentations: That God invites us to express our laments, and He hears us; that God grieves with us in our suffering; and that God has the final word (and not any of the governments or leaders that appear to hold people's fate in their hands). As Bob finished his sermon, one woman sitting near the pulpit solemnly came to shake Bob's hand. Several others followed, wanting to express appreciation, even as the service continued.

Yet, in the midst of the long period of displacement and suffering, these faithful people persevere. The church hosts Good Shepherd Primary School in its building – 2000 students study in clusters around the large sanctuary, without any barriers to block the noise or teaching of the class next to them. Several of the members serve as voluntary teachers, wanting their children to get some education. Pastor Peter has lobbied to try to get a separate building for the school, but has not yet found the funds and permissions.

As we prepared to leave, Pastor Peter expressed his appreciation to us for coming to worship with them. He said that our presence is a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten. We know that many of you far away are interceding for South Sudan, advocating for peace, and even contributing to efforts like education in the midst of the displacement. It is our privilege, in being present in South Sudan, to represent and communicate the concern and prayers of many of you. So, of course, we felt that Pastor Peter deserved our appreciation even more, for inspiring us with the faith and perseverance of these Christians, who gather to worship and seek God together in the midst of suffering.

Solar System Status

Submitted by Donald Brooks

Now that we have two full months of documented power production (June and July 2018), we can see if the solar system is performing as advertised. The GOOD NEWS is; YES, the system is performing well.

Production: So far, production is exceeding our expectations. The company that installed the system, Technicians for Sustainability (TFS), estimated the system would produce 105,235 kWh of power/year. Based on the June and July power production, the system is on track to produce 136,188 kWh/year, which is about 29.5% more than what was initially projected.

Power Costs - 2018 vs 2017: Combined power costs for June and July 2017 were \$3,905.47. The combined power costs for June and July of 2018 were \$2,836.23. This reflects a reduction in our electric bill of \$1,069.24, nearly a 28% reduction.

The plan is to purchase this system after five years of usage under our current leasing arrangement. So far, there is no reason to change that plan.

Noisy Offering for St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic: Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate Help!

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

On October 13 – 16 of this year, St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic will journey to Hermosillo for the Annual Cleft Palate/Cleft Lip Mission. This will be their 14th year of bringing life-changing surgery to children living in Mexico. Please help continue this Mission by giving generously at the “Noisy Offering” on Sunday, September 30.



Abel first came to the clinic at the age of six months (photo on the left). He has received several surgeries and continues to get speech therapy in the Clinic. The Clinic provides orthodontic work that is needed for children like this with cleft palate. The photo on the right is of the same child after many interventions provided by St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic. Your financial support will be a rich blessing to God’s children who need and deserve a happy smile.




Promoted to Glory


June 22	Chuck Moore
July 27	Nancy Blanton
August 26	Carol DeLeo

Stay Vertical

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

Remember the commercial with the lady who falls and says, "I've fallen and I can't get up!" This commercial repeatedly played over again. Maybe this commercial should have said, "I'm about to fall, now what will happen?"

Every second of every day an older adult falls in the US, making falls the number one cause of injuries and deaths from injury among older adults. Every 11 seconds, an older adult is seen in the emergency room (or department) for an injury that is fall-related (about 2.8 million people). Just in our area of Green Valley there are 120 – 150 falls each month that are reported. If all falls were to be reported, there would be about four times as many.

According to the CDC, one in four older adults (age 65 and older) fall each year, but less than half of all these falls are discussed with healthcare providers.

Most of these falls happen in the home, and may change our quality of life. Mobility issues, socialization, and emotional challenges may occur with any fall and its injury. There are also factors such as medical costs/bills, time in a hospital, and rehab, if an injury is sustained from a fall.

Most falls are preventable.

A local fall prevention program called SHiM®, Safety and Health in Motion, has been working to increase the awareness of falls, promote fall prevention, and reduce risks for falls in our community since 2011.

On Monday, September 24 join us in the Spiritual Life Center and Fellowship Hall to recognize National Fall Awareness Day. This day will include a fall prevention awareness program, Stay Vertical, from 9 a.m. until noon, an interactive presentation to learn about falls and how to prevent them. Local healthcare providers, and other organizations, will present information on fall prevention and health, and fall risks and awareness tips. In Fellowship Hall, there will be demonstrations on exercise and health and balance screenings, as well Green Valley Fire Department programs, and information on fall prevention resources from our community.

Stay vertical & watch for "Stay Vertical Vern" around our community.



I believe I have had a credit card number stolen at least two times over the past few years. Last time, when I was at the bank getting a new one, the person helping me said credit card theft had become ridiculously common. Two of the ways I suspect mine may have been stolen are in a restaurant and at a gas station. Waiters/waitresses often takes our cards away from us to process payment, and we think nothing of it. However, this time away gives dishonest employees an opportunity to use a device to "skim" your credit card info. In other cases, any unmanned machine that you can insert a payment into (gas stations, video rentals, vending machines, etc.) can have illegal skimmers attached to them, and they are not at all easy to spot. In both cases, once these skimmers capture your info, that info can be used to generate fake credit cards (or simply used to make purchases over the phone or online). Sadly, these aren't the only way criminals are stealing numbers, so it's pretty hard to really protect yourself.

Fortunately, in my experiences the bank caught it right away. I have no idea how they could tell since some of the stuff seemed like they could have reasonably been purchased by me, but the bank's system seems pretty effective. Legally, people can't be charged for purchases they did not make if the person has possession of their card, so the bank took the losses, not me.

Since I still don't know for sure how my numbers were stolen I haven't changed any of my behaviors to avoid it in the future, but if you want to be a bit more proactive, the experts say to monitor your card activity frequently, and pay attention to which companies have been breached or hacked, so you know if your information may have been compromised. The cards with chips are much harder to hack into, and are therefore safer, but I suspect it's temporary as the banks come up with a way to stop the crooks, and then the crooks come up with a way to defeat the new preventative measures, rinse and repeat.

Caring for Those in our Congregation: Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News



Blood Pressure Screenings: will return in October and will be twice a month after Worship Services.

Movement & Exercise:



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

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



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

Medical Minute



What is your Vitamin D level? Not spending a lot of times outdoors, staying in areas where the sun is limited, or using sunscreen to prevent harmful rays during sun exposure and other risks, can lead to a low Vitamin D level. Talk with your healthcare provider to see if you may need a 25-Hydroxy Vitamin D level blood test.

Food Bank News

Submitted by Betty Kiesle-Yoder



Mike and I delivered 156 medium jars of peanut butter to the Green Valley Food Bank, and Margaret Moore delivered 120 jars to Amado. This was possible thanks to our congregation, which donated \$502 during a noisy offering. When Walmart found out why Mike was ordering 276 jars of peanut butter they gave us an additional \$100, bringing our total to \$602 - yea!

It was so much fun delivering all that peanut butter, and to see so many happy faces. Doug Clark wanted to know where the jalapeños were, and Drew Weaver wanted to know where the jelly was located. Maybe next time around.



Valley Presbyterian Church

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www.valleypresbyterian.net
is a member of Presbytery de Cristo
in The Synod of the Southwest,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastors

Rev. Mark A. Medina,
Transitional Pastor
Rev. Diane Christopher,
Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Dr. Linda Lloyd
Interim Pastor of Care
Rev. Joe Hawkins,
Pastor Emeritus

Staff

Joel Pierce,
Director of Music
Chris Erickson,
Parish Nurse

Mission Statement

*To know Christ and
make Him known
through word and deed.*

Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship

9:30 a.m. in the VPC Sanctuary

Communion served on first Sunday of each month

September 2	The Heart of the Matter	Rev. Dr. Linda Lloyd
September 9	What Is the Form of Your Faith	Rev. Diane Christopher and Linda Freeman
September 16	The Paths We Take	Rev. Mark A. Medina
September 23	The Life of Humility	Rev. Mark A. Medina
September 30	The Ways of Reconciliation	Rev. Mark A. Medina

La Joya at La Posada

9:00 a.m. at La Joya

Communion served on first Sunday of each month

September 2	Rev. Mark A. Medina and Helen Phillips
September 16	Rudy Sweisfurth
September 30	Doug Clark

Taizé

September 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK OR COMMENTS TO THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE, PLEASE SUBMIT AN ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM AT WWW.VALLEYPRESBYTERIAN.NET/WORSHIP (OR CLICK ON THE WORSHIP TAB FROM ANYWHERE ON OUR WEBSITE). THE FORM IS IN THE BOTTOM-RIGHT CORNER OF THE WORSHIP PAGE.

Campus Ministry News

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

Submitted by George Curtis

The next Presbyterian Campus Ministry fundraiser at Gaslight Theater will be "Scrooge." This is their Christmas Show.

Gaslight has increased the ticket price to Campus Ministry from \$17 to \$22.27. As a result, we will be raising our price from \$30 to \$35.

Valley Presbyterian has been allotted 50 tickets. If you wish to reserve tickets for this fundraiser, please call George Curtis at 520-625-2394, or e-mail crtkar9@gmail.com. Reservations will be made in the order received.