

Valley Voice

Final Thoughts for the Journey

Dear Friends,

Some words of thanks to you, the members of Valley Presbyterian Church, for our time together. Transitions can be difficult especially within the life of a congregation. Transitions are extremely hard on a Transitional Pastor too, especially as one moves on to another ministry field.

On Sunday, August 11, this congregation went through another significant transition, the calling of the Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, along with his wife, Judy, to become your next Pastor. I celebrate with you on his calling to lead and serve among you.

Many thanks for the farewell reception for Judy and I on my last Sunday with you. Our journey over the past two years and a few months has brought us to a new place. Many folks have recognized that this congregation is in a far better place than it was when I first arrived.

- Thank you to those who have invested time and effort in the process of the Journey Ahead Group as a way of being integral in the solutions for moving forward.
- Thank you for allowing me to be your Transitional Pastor and to walk beside you as we served our Lord Jesus.
- Thank you to the search committee that diligently worked to find the Transitional Pastor who moved this congregation from one difficult place through a process and now to a time for further transitions.
- Thank you to the many Ruling Elders who faithfully worked to see that the church remains dedicated to its mission and ministry. The committee's process is much stronger now and together moves forward in connecting ministry with the Mission Statement that many of you helped to refine.
- Thank you to the Deacons and Congregational Care as you have stepped up and continue the compassionate ministry to the members of the church. Thanks to Chris for her constant care for all.
- Thank you to the support staff past and present, Gay, Laurie, Carla, Suzanne, Jamie, Wes, Ray, Bob, Isaiah, Joel, Wendy, Danielle, Drew and Steve, as they have served the church and its ministry.
- Thank you to the members of Valley Presbyterian for the opportunity to serve among you and to get to know you in your journey of life and faith. I wish you well. Please forgive me if I was not able to see you and say goodbye. I entrust you into God's care.
- Thank you to Tommy and Lee Ann Calhoun for allowing me to stay in their casita for the last few months. I appreciate your generosity.
- Thank you to my lovely wife, Judy, who has been a God send. I appreciate tremendously her presence with me on this Arizona journey.
- Thanks to the God who has brought us together and now calls me to another ministry in a different community.
- Thank you and may God bless you every day with love, hope and peace.

My ministry has always been for Christ and to do my best in following him in life and faith.

The following "Ten Best Statements about Ministry" comes from Warren and David Wiersbe's book called *Making Sense of the Ministry*. These statements will give you a wider perspective on how I have followed my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in ministry.

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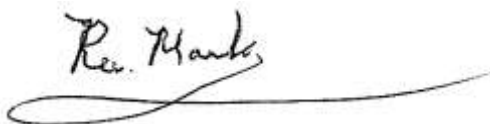
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1. The foundation of ministry is character.
2. The nature of ministry is service.
3. The motive for ministry is love.
4. The measure of ministry is sacrifice.
5. The authority of ministry is submission.
6. The purpose of ministry is the glory of God.
7. The tools of ministry are the Word and prayer.
8. The privilege of ministry is growth.
9. The power of ministry is the Holy Spirit.
10. The model for ministry is Jesus Christ.

So, as I end my ministry with you on August 31 and begin to engage in the ministry of Church of the Covenant in Cleveland, Ohio, please know that God is with us no matter where we go in life and faith. The promise I look at is the one Jesus gives to his disciples in Matthew 28:20b: And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. This is a promise for you as you serve him.

May God be with you as you move into the future. I continue to pray for you and for the Master's ministry and mission to be first and foremost in your hearts. Blessings to you all.

Yours In Christ,



Rev. Mark A. Medina, Transitional Pastor

Many Ways to Serve

Submitted by Mary Lee Haas

Churches find many ways to adapt to the needs of their members. Yesterday morning my grandson posted on Facebook that he was ready to head out for Mow Journey - Great Men of God. Joshua is in the Navy, stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, home of many military families. While a church member is deployed, this ministry team goes to their home and mows their lawn. Joshua and his wife initially attended this church after hearing about this caring ministry even though they have a longer drive to church.

Our members have different needs. I really appreciate members of Valley Presbyterian Church who provide transportation to various church activities now that I do not drive. This adds to the quality of my life.

There are many ways to serve the Lord!

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

Lessons from the Apple Store

Excitement is building as we await the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey. There will also be curiosity from our community, and many people will visit to check out the new guy. How will we greet the visitors? Below, I have taken excerpts from an article called “10 Things You Can Learn From the Apple Store” by Guy Kawasaki. Additional comments on how the church can apply it are in italics by Steve Gladen. Here you go:

Stop selling stuff. When Steve Jobs first started the Apple Store he did not ask the question, “How will we grow our market share from 5 to 10 percent?” Instead he asked, “How do we enrich people’s lives?” Think about your vision. If you were to examine the business model for most brands and retailers and develop a vision around it, the vision would be to “sell more stuff.” A vision based on selling stuff isn’t very inspiring and leads to a very different experience than the Apple Retail Store created.

Translation: Stop worrying about membership and about whether people will join – the church’s equivalent of selling stuff. Instead, ask people why they’re here, why they’ve come, what they’re looking for, and how this congregation can aid them in their walk with God.

Enrich lives. The vision behind the Apple Store is “enrich lives,” the first two words on a wallet-sized credo card employees are encouraged to carry. When you enrich lives magical things start to happen. For example, enriching lives convinced Apple to have a non-commissioned sales floor where employees feel comfortable spending as much time with a customer as the customer desires.

Translation: Strengthen faith. Set your congregation the vision of imagining that every aspect of their life – worship, education, facilities, newsletter, and all the rest – is intended to help people strengthen their faith and grow in their lives as disciples. What would it mean if before each action, decision, or vote you asked the question, “How will this help strengthen the faith of the people who come here?”

Hire for smiles. The soul of the Apple Store is in its people. They are hired, trained, motivated, and taught to create magical and memorable moments for their customers. The Apple Store values a magnetic personality as much, if not more so, than technical proficiency. The Apple Store cares less about what you know than it cares about how much you love people.

Translation: Statistics show that visitors to churches make up their minds within the first two minutes whether they’ll be back (way before they hear the sermon!). The most important factor? Whether they feel welcome and believe people are genuinely glad they’re there.

Keep these in mind as you see visitors on Sunday mornings, and greet them warmly in the name of Jesus Christ.



Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship

Gifts & Memorials

The Gifts & Memorials Committee has two vacancies. Terms are for three years and consecutive terms may be served. The Committee receives and acknowledges all gifts and memorials given to VPC. Requests for the use of undesignated gift and memorial funds are evaluated by the Committee. Requests over \$1,000 approved by the Committee require Session authorization. If you are interested in serving contact George Curtis at (520) 625-2394 or through the church office.

Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee to The Congregation of Valley Presbyterian Church

In December 2018, the members of Valley Presbyterian Church elected the Pastor Nominating Committee, consisting of seven members and two alternates. We began meeting in January 2019 on a weekly basis. The JAG Report was accepted by the Presbytery to serve as the Church Mission Study and this saved the PNC months of intensive work. Our initial task was the preparation of our Ministry Information Form (MIF) that informed potential candidates about Valley Presbyterian Church and what we were looking for in a new Pastor/Head of Staff. That task was completed the end of March and we began receiving Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from potential candidates. Each member of the committee read and rated every PIF as it was received. Then, as a committee, we reviewed each PIF again. Many candidates did not meet the qualifications we had set forth, some were given additional review and we listened to sermons online, and there were some that warranted further consideration. However, in the end, only one candidate seemed to be the person God had chosen to be Pastor/Head of Staff of Valley Presbyterian Church. We had an interview with him via video conference, spoke with references, and invited him and his wife to Green Valley for a second interview. While they were here we arranged for him to preach in a neutral pulpit in Tucson. The PNC offered him a call and he accepted.

The Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to present to you:

Rev. Dr. Craig Jonathan Lindsey

Pastor/Head of Staff of Valley Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Lindsey comes to us from Skaneateles, NY where he was the Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles for 22 years. He also served congregations in Battle Creek, MI and Milwaukee, WI. He graduated from the College of Wooster, OH, the Union Theological Seminary, NYC and received his Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary, GA. While Rev. Lindsey was at the Skaneateles church, he was very active in the Presbytery Cayuga-Syracuse, serving on the Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery Nominating Committee and served as Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee.



As the Pastor Nominating Committee prepared the Mission Information Form, we identified key characteristics we were looking for in a new Pastor/Head of Staff:

- A person who could engage the congregation with a Biblically-based preaching style.
- A strong leader and administrator to work with and alongside our staff, the Session, Board of Deacons and the congregation.
- A pastor who would provide congregational care, compassion, and love to our members.
- Comprehensive experience in Family Systems Theory and conflict resolution.
- Someone with strong mission and outreach experience.
- A pastor who would motivate and revitalize this congregation to action.
- A person who has experience in budgeting and stewardship.

Have we found this person in Rev. Lindsey? The PNC is confident that he “checks all of our boxes.” Rev. Lindsey describes his preaching style as “Biblically-based, with creative sermons and delivery.” Others describe his preaching as “articulate and engaging and he brings scholarly study to his sermons, but not in a way that turns the sermons into a lecture.”

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Rev. Lindsey has 35 years of strong administrative and leadership experience. He is a "people person" and is very caring of the people of his congregation. He told the PNC that he has a "passion for mission" both locally and abroad. Rev. Lindsey enjoys motivating people to action and involvement in the community. And lastly, he "loves stewardship." The Parable of the Talents is his favorite.

On a personal note, Rev. Lindsey has been married to his wife Judy for 38 years. Judy has a BA from the College of Wooster in History and a Masters in Public Health from Columbia University. Her primary career has been as a Health Planner focused on adult services including Hospice and Home Care. They have two sons - C. Michael lives in Brooklyn, NY and works in Urban Agriculture, and Nate will be graduating with a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences and Engineering from UC Berkeley this year with a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Stanford. Rev. Lindsey shared that he and Judy are the pets of Annie, a springer spaniel.

Rev. Lindsey preached at Valley Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 11. A Congregational Meeting convened following the worship service, at which time a vote was taken approving his nomination and Terms of Call.

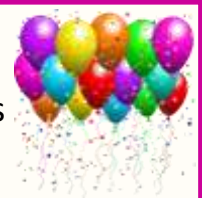
Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Tommy Calhoun, Co-Chair	Carmen Nylund, Co-Chair
Eloise Fredrickson	Dick Horn
Sue Horton	Steve Larson
Jim Rusk	Martha Ashton, Alternate
Lynne Szabo, Alternate	



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Special birthday greetings to Nancy Langsdale (9/1) as she celebrates her 90th birthday this month.



Thank you from Seth



Thank you to everyone who has helped me on my journey to college!

I am excited to take this next step in life and I am eager to find the opportunities it has in store for me. Since 2008, not only have you been my second family, but most importantly, you have been the teachers who have taught this soon-to-be college stud all of his most important life lessons, and for that I cannot thank you all enough. I can only hope that I have kept you all as youthful and excited as you have kept me humble and focused even through the most trying of times.

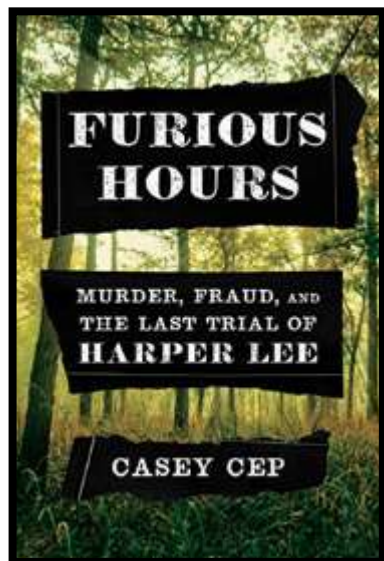
I'll see you all soon!

Seth Delong



Valley Readers

**Monday, September 23
2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1**



One of the unresolved questions regarding Harper Lee is why she didn't publish more books. Casey Cep tackles this question in her account of the research that Lee did about a serial killer for a book intended to be in the same vein as *In Cold Blood*, by Truman Capote. Lee had helped to research Capote's book and wanted to follow up with her own true crime story. Cep's narrative recounts the stories of an Alabama preacher who probably killed several family members for insurance money, the attorney who defended the preacher, and the preacher's killer. Cep also describes Lee's struggles to write the book. Join Valley Readers for a discussion of this fascinating work led by Eloise Fredrickson. Please contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.

Women's Ministries Program Year About to Begin

Tuesday, September 24 at 11:30 a.m. at La Posada

Submitted by Janice Potter

The 2019-2020 program year holds some changes from past years. This Gathering will not be at the church. On September 24, we will hit the road and meet with the La Posada Bible Study Group at the Recreation Hall on the La Posada Campus.

We like to call this community building. The luncheon time is the same, 11:30 a.m. The first program of the year will feature Pastor Diane Christopher introducing us to the 2019-2020 Bible Study, *Love Carved In Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*.

For those who might be new at Valley or have been inactive in Women's Ministries for a while; know that you are welcome to join one of our four circles, attend the Gathering Programs, or join both. Our Women's Ministries table (during fellowship time after Worship on Sunday mornings) is the place to go to get answers to your questions.

We want to thank all who have been so generous with their contributions of school supplies for Valley Assistance Services and Youth on Their Own. The drive for these organizations will continue until the Gathering on September 24.

Mission Quilters 2019-2020 Schedule

**1st, 3rd, 5th Mondays of each month in Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**October 7, 2019 through April 20, 2020
(Except March 2 & 16 due to Patio Sale)**

Submitted by Patti Bright

After resting during the long, hot summer days, the Mission Quilters are itching to get together and start stitching again. We invite anyone, whether a member or friend of the church, who gets joy from contributing their talents in a joint effort in blessing another less fortunate person with a gift from a stranger.

Our efforts bring a double blessing: we get the fun and fulfillment of creating and seeing the happiness of the agency who receives our gifts and these agents are blessed with the joy of giving and seeing the surprised happiness of the recipient of our talents.

A snack is furnished by participants. Any questions, call Patti Bright 520-305-3275.



Opportunity to Help Children with Cleft Palate

November 7, 10:00 a.m.

St. Andrews' Clinic is gearing up for the Cleft Palate Clinic on October 5-9. Laura and her staff are busy making plans and fundraising. Children needing surgery will be taken to Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico where trained and skilled doctors will perform the necessary surgeries for 50 to 60 children. After initial surgery and healing, more surgeries are required to re-construct the mouth and jaw. Mexican children suffering from this birth defect can look forward to a happier smile and acceptance in the community. If you want to donate to this mission project, contact St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, PO Box 67, Green Valley, AZ 85622-0067. Or, you may contact Kay Brouwer at the phone number or email address below.

Join our **November 7** trip to see, firsthand, the wonderful mission happening In Nogales, Arizona at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. On the first Thursday of every month, volunteer doctors, nurses, and helpers will examine, diagnose, and treat children for whom care in Mexico is not available or affordable. The tour will start at 10:00 a.m. and will last about 1 hour. To sign up for this Mission Trip, contact Kay Brouwer 573-552-2313 or kkbrouwer1942@gmail.com. More about this tour will be in the next Valley Voice.



Supper Clusters

By Carmen Nylund, Organizer

We hope that your Supper Cluster has had time to get together this summer, and if not, that you 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, winter residents, 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 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.



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

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

Sign Up for the Next Trip

September 14

Submitted by Reed Olson - Mission Committee



The next trip to the Home for Children in Nogales, Sonora, MX will be September 14.

See Reed Olson after church in Fellowship Hall September 1 or 8 to sign up and received the trip's details.

You may also contact Reed to sign up early: 520-269-7829 or email: olsonr1@cox.net.



Faith Formation

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.

The Return of "Turning the Gem"

**Your teacher: Pastor Diane Christopher
Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in Classroom 5
Beginning October 2**

Two years ago, I taught a 7-month class called "Turning the Gem." After taking a year break, it is time to bring it back. What is the gem?

In the Jewish tradition, Rabbis talk about scripture having seventy faces. Just like a gem, when you turn it, or allow the sun to shine through it, you will see something new and unexpected.

We will look at the Bible as one big beautiful story. We will zoom in on the smallest detail. We will look deeper at new levels found in the passage. We will turn it and see it from another perspective.

I like the way Rob Bell says it in his book *What is the Bible?*: "You dance with the Bible...We read it, and we let it read us, and then we turn the gem, again, and again, and again, seeing something new over and over and over again."

I will review some old lessons with new insights and introduce many new topics as well. Will you come dance with me?



Faith Formation

Men's Weekday Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

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

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

The second group, with about six to thirteen men attending each week, meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. They meet 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 John's Epistles 1, 2, and 3. 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. **This group will resume meeting September 11.**

The Inquisitors













The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience










Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in Classroom 1 beginning September 20

Join the Inquisitors as we watch and discuss "The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience," one of The Great Courses. Here, award-winning scholar and practicing neuroscientist Dr. Andrew Newberg, Director of Research at the Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, presents lectures that explore the new and exciting field of neurotheology, a discipline aimed at understanding the connections between our brains and different kinds of religious phenomena.

Questions addressed include, how do religious experiences originate? What is their meaning? And why does religion play such a huge role in human experience? In this captivating course, you will peer directly into the seat of all human thought and action as you experience a leading researcher delve into the relationship between brain function and spirituality.

Throughout The Spiritual Brain, Dr. Newberg examines not only the neural activity of the religious brain, but also the effects of various religious beliefs and practices on human mental and physical health. There are literally hundreds of studies that show religion has a measurable effect on health. Dr. Newberg evaluates fascinating research involving both believers and atheists showing the ways in which your beliefs actually determine how you rationalize - as well as mistake - the world around you. Join us for this fascinating course which begins Friday, September 20.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 Communion Food Bank Collection 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship & Communion at LaJoya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Dorothy Foucher, Nancy Langsdale	2 LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED	3 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 8:30 WM Coordinating Team 9:30 Prayer Ministry 10:00 Membership Committee 11:00 NOC Meeting 2:15 Joyful Spirit Ensemble  Peggy Kuhn, Sally Ruschmeier	4 8:00 Ministry of Presence 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class
8 Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Jim Chervenka, Jane Lee	9 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 AAUW Baord Meeting  Dick Bolin, Sara Hennigar	10 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 2:15 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	11 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Deacons Meeting 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 5:00 Taizé  Don Du De Voire
15 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Worship at La Joya 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship 10:45 Blood Pressure Screening  Rene FitzSimons, Donna Frisch	16 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Fellowship Committee  Linda Jorn, Bob Puttock Jr	17 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 2:15 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	18 8:15 Crossroads Mission 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Finance Committee  Alicia Wood
22 Just Coffee 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship  Gini Baird	23 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stay Vertical 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:00 Valley Readers  Nancy Lamphere, Marguerite Nelson, Dan Schroeder	24 8:00 Men's Bible Study (Silver Springs) 8:15 STAFF MEETING 9:30 Prayer Ministry 11:30 Women's Ministry Gathering 2:15 Joyful Spirit Ensemble	25 9:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 2:00 Card Making for  Joan Larson
29 8:30 Adult Sunday School 9:15 Kids Room 9:30 Service of Worship	30 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  La Vicie Runkle		

	Thu	Fri	Sat
	5 9:30 Congregational Care Leaders 1:00 Worship Committee 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 3:45 Choir Practice  Edie Allan, Jane Groendyk	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class  Charlie Ashton, Bill Lemman, Dale Parker	7 8:30 Communion Prep 2:00 Memorial Service for Fred Steinbach
Lunch Prep	12 8:00 Patio Sale Sorting 9:00 Faith & Health Committee 1:00 Personnel Committee 3:45 Choir Practice  Sonya Larsen, Candy Nelson, Jim Nelson	13 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed. 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Gratitude Affirmation Prayer 10:00 SM Peer Supervision Groups  John Busman, Jane Selbie, Rudy Sweisfurth	14  Jim Collins, Lois Dierken
Lunch Prep	19 1:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 3:45 Choir Practice  Mabel Acri, Carla Goings	20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 10:00 Parkinson's Board Meeting 1:30 Inquisitors - The Spiritual Brain	21  David Elsner, Fred Folberth
YOTO	26 8:00 Session Meeting 3:45 Choir Practice  Jane Bond	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Parkinson's Exercise 9:00 Stephen Ministers Continuing Ed. 10:00 Chair Exercise Class 1:30 Inquisitors - The Spiritual Brain  Mary Lillie, Carolyn Stevens	28

September 2019

More Blog Readers Wanted (13 and Counting)

Submitted by Doug Clark

A blog reader is anyone with access to a computer who can type in "bobandkristi.blogspot.com." Have you ever wanted to read a missionary's diary? Consider reading the real-life story of Bob and Kristi Rice, who share, on a weekly basis, the story of God working in their lives.

Friday, August 9, 2019

Newsletter, Nile Theological College

We have enjoyed the last month here in the United States, visiting family, visiting churches, and participating in a few conferences. We have also enjoyed being "reacquainted" with the beauty of our homeland, especially driving across the rolling green hills of Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia.

Before leaving South Sudan, our Media Team produced our second newsletter for Nile Theological College. Enclosed you will find insightful articles from faculty and students, and pictures from our 2018 graduation and Easter Retreat. If you haven't had the chance to read it, here is your chance. Follow this link – https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hael1lmW6zMcPJqFaW8tO3h6_MVHa0Th/view?usp=sharing. Enjoy the final weeks of summer!

Bob and Kristi

(This news letter is amazing, well worth the read.)

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

Prayers for Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA Missionaries)

Submitted by Doug Clark



We want to share a significant challenge in our lives right now and ask for your prayers. On August 10, Bob broke both his hip and his elbow in a bad fall on a spontaneous ride on a skateboard. He had surgery to put a 'hip nail' in to stabilize the hip bone. After a few days in the hospital, he was released and we are now at my parents' home in Illinois, slowly recovering. Bob's arm is in a brace for a few weeks. The surgeon told us that it will be six weeks of recovery and therapy before Bob can travel or walk without a walker. We welcome your prayers for healing, relief from the pain, and encouragement to persevere.

We are very grateful for the gift of life, that the injuries were not worse, and that Bob's recovery is going well so far. It is amazing how life can change so quickly! With both an arm and a leg out of commission, the simple daily-life tasks that we do without thinking are now much more challenging. God has been very faithful to us in this challenging time, and we pray that God teaches and grows us through this for His glory. One verse that has been significant to us in the past is becoming even more real in this time of being forced to stop everything and be still: "For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken." (Ps. 62:5-6)

Patio Sale News

By Eloise Fredrickson

Every organization that relies on people to get things done needs a succession plan. That's a plan that would ensure someone was in place to take over a job if the person who held the job didn't want it or couldn't do it anymore.

The Patio Sale has four leaders, affectionately called Amigos. I have served the longest, and, because I am the only Amigo here in the summer, I am in charge of every aspect of the sale. During the rest of the year, we all work together wherever needed, but Dick Christensen is responsible for the tents, Lorna Kitchak is in charge of the cashiers, and Steve Setterlund has been in charge of the truckers and the transporting of our goods. Steve recently notified us that he was resigning from his responsibilities for personal reasons, so we need someone who is here year-round to help with this task.

Both Dick and I are ready to retire. Two women have agreed to learn my job so they can take over for me after this year. We are looking for someone to step up and work with Dick this year in order to be ready to take over Dick's job next year. We need someone who is here all year so that so much responsibility doesn't lie with one person in the summer, as it has the past several years. If you have even the slightest bit of interest, please let me know. We need to think about the future of the patio sale and the funds it contributes to the Mission Committee.

Now for a little story that shows the impact we have on the community. Last year a man from the community came to our sale in March and was impressed both by its size and by the fact that our proceeds support our missions. Early in August, he called and asked if we could come that day and pick up some furniture from his house. When he was told we only picked up on certain Fridays during the summer, he asked if he could bring it to us. He ended up bringing us four pickup loads full of good furniture that he and our custodians loaded directly into our truck. It completely filled the truck, with more going into the barn and the patio sale room. We are so grateful to him for thinking of us.

Patio Sale Dates for 2019

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

Sorting: September 12, October 10, November 7, December 19

Holiday Sale: November 22 & 23 (set-up November 20-21)

Dave and Pam L./On the Move/Back to India

Submitted by Doug Clark



Operation Mobilisation (OM) has been asking Pam and I to go back to India for the past few years and help pioneer a new ministry to reach the hundreds of unreached Muslims of North India. After much prayer and thought, I finally went back and was surprised to realize our potential national partner was someone Pam and I met and worked with back in 1983-1985. It was a joyful reunion! The mother had taught Pam how to cook Indian food back then. Please pray for wisdom, open doors, workers, and protection from the evil one as we go forward to start this new outreach in the coming years. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.



News of Note

By Jamie Reed



Greetings! July was my first article and Wes followed with August's article. So, why not come together for September's article called the "Getting to Know You Collaboration!" If you can't already tell, Wes and I get along splendidly, both making music as well as outside of church. I thought it would be fun to throw some questions at each other and see where this goes! Enjoy!

Jamie's Questions to Wes:

Jamie: What is your favorite hymn and why?

Wes: This is a difficult question for me to answer. It's like asking someone with a sweet tooth what their favorite candy is. I love hymns. I love studying the texts, I love learning the tunes, and most of all, I love when hymns can be meaningfully incorporated into worship services. There are two hymns, though, that stand out above all the rest as my favorites. One is "O God Our Help in Ages Past" (tune: St. Anne). My organ teacher used this hymn to first expose me to the tools of improvisation and modulation as means to enhance worship. We spent an entire semester writing and rewriting introductions, interludes, and modulations based on this tune. I fell in love with this piece of music during that time. Also, when there have been dark moments in my life, I have been comforted singing through the text in my mind. My second favorite hymn is "O Day of Peace" (tune: Jerusalem). It is my favorite hymn to play and sing. Its rousing melody perfectly fits the text. Unfortunately, it is a melody that is not known by many people in this country. I try to change that any chance I get.

Jamie: How have you grown the most in your time at Valley?

Wes: When I came to VPC, I hadn't played the piano in any real way in years. Playing choral accompaniments on the piano has been my biggest challenge, but also one of my greatest personal rewards. Though I still have more skills to revive and refine, I can tell a large, positive difference in my piano playing in the last three months. I look forward to continuing this trend.

Jamie: When you can step away from the music for a bit, how do you spend your time?

Wes: I am a person who loves to stay busy. Besides work at the church and the pharmacy, I spend as much time as possible doing the things I love: gardening, acrylic painting, reading, and most importantly, spending time with friends. As many of you may have found out, I love to visit with people! Give me time with a friend, new or old, and a cup of coffee over anything else any day! I believe that people enrich our lives, and in that way, I feel truly wealthy and blessed.

Jamie: If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where and why?

Wes: England. I am a bit of an anglophile. I would love to see the great historical sites in England, attend a service in Westminster Abbey, hear Evensong in St. Paul's, see the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, view the crown jewels in the Tower, spend an afternoon in the green countryside, listen to, and maybe play, the organs Handel played (handle the handles that Handel handled), and on and on. I look very forward to the day I am able to make my way to England.

Wes's Questions to Jamie:

Wes: What musical piece, or work, has the most personal meaning for you, and why?

Jamie: Whenever I need centering I sit at the piano and play! I am always drawn to Enrique Granados's "The Maiden and the Nightingale (Quejas o la Maja y el Ruiseñor)." It is dark and eerie, yet lyrical and beautiful.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

This piano work always takes me back to my undergrad and great memories with my brilliant mentor in college.

Wes: Do you use music, in your daily life, to help you express or work through feelings or events in your life? If so, what are some examples?

Jamie: Being that I have a career in Musical Theatre, people are often surprised that I do not listen to musicals. The only exceptions would be if it's a new work or I am music directing the show. I do spend a lot of time in my car and the music is constant. I enjoy finding new material (via Spotify), making playlists, and listening on repeat. When AJ is in the car, it turns into a singing fest of movie soundtracks.

Wes: What has been your favorite thing about living in Southern Arizona? What has surprised you most?

Jamie: As I write this, today is my official one year anniversary in Arizona and what a year and adjustment! I'm going to start with what surprised me: the breathtaking views! I am constantly in awe of the beauty that is everywhere! My favorite thing would have to be the history, quaintness, and artistic adventures available in Tucson. Every day I find a new place, or view, or art, or kind person, and know that I am home.

Wes: If you woke up on a Saturday with absolutely no plans, how would you fill your day?

Jamie: I do not do this well. This brain of mine never shuts down long enough to let go and separate from music and work. But, since moving to Arizona, I have developed a love of exploring. A road adventure, finding quaint "hole in the wall" places to grab food and drinks, watch a sunset, take in more of Arizona. But I would have to be in bed early because I have church in the morning.

On that note, have a lovely September. Please join us as we have already kicked off choir practices on Thursdays from 3:45-5:30.

Taizé is coming back to Valley Presbyterian!

Beginning September 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center

On September 11 at 5:00 p.m., we will worship together in our first Taizé service of the season. Taizé worship follows the style of an ecumenical religious community in France. It focuses on simple worship involving the singing of short, repetitive songs, alternating with moments of silence, the reading of scripture and other meaningful texts, and praying.

How do YOU worship in a Taizé service? However you wish and need to worship. You can stand and sing, you can sit and meditate on the text of the songs, you can close your eyes and see where the moment and Holy Spirit lead you, you can find your own way to meet God in a calm and soothing environment.

Taizé services are about collectively having an individual experience in the worship of God. If you have not experienced this type of worship, please join us. It is the perfect time to "be still..." And please remember, this service is not only for VPC members. Invite anyone and everyone to share this special time with us.

Our plan for this fall is to have Taizé services once a month on September 11, October 2, November 6, and weekly during Advent on December 4, 11, and 18.

If you have a desire to take part in leading the music of these services, please contact Wes Moulton at WMoulton@valleypres.net or 325-669-9219.

Financial Update

Submitted by Annie Stitt

(Based on financial data through July 2019)

The Finance Committee met on August 14 to review the result of operations through July 31. We had another positive meeting because, as of July 31, 2019, we are maintaining a positive bottom line of \$55,886 compared to last year's deficit at July 31, 2018 of \$47,320. For both 2018 and 2019 we have seen that July typically shows a loss of about \$10,000.

Year-to-date, the revenues are up a little over 3.5% as compared to year-to-date budget, and expenses are also less than year-to-date budget by a about 5%. For all of you who are non-accounting people, this means we are doing well this year. Results are shown below:

	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenue	\$479,720	\$467,336	\$ 12,384
Expense	\$423,834	\$444,969	(\$ 21,135)
Net income (loss)	<u>\$ 55,886</u>	<u>\$ 22,367</u>	<u>\$ 33,519</u>

The Operating Fund Reserves stand at \$182,405. We will continue to delay any further 2019 budget adjustment proposal to the Session until necessary.

We have started the 2020 budgeting process by sending memos to the committee chairs, along with projected annual expenses, as a start for the various committees to project needs for 2020. We anticipate that we will have a projected needs amount by the end of October to aid in the annual stewardship campaign for 2020.

The solar system buyout plan continues to be discussed, but any decisions are pending.



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Save the Date!

10th Annual HungerWalk

Join the fun!

Be a part of the 10th Annual HungerWalk on September 14.

Enjoy the one and a half mile walk with your friends, family, or co-workers.

Saturday, September 14

Registration 7 a.m. | Walk at 8 a.m.

In Green Valley at La Posada

Betty Kiesle-Yoder will be forming a VPC team. Please see Betty for more information.



Congregational Care

Stephen Ministry

Submitted by Helen Phillips

Our Continuing Education programs this fall may be of interest to everyone. This is an open invitation to all to attend whether you are a Stephen Minister or not.

September 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center will be a program by Gee-Gee Smith on the book *Let's Talk about Death (over Dinner): An Invitation and Guide to Life's Most Important Conversation* by Michael Hebb.

Of the many critical conversations we will all have throughout our lifetime, few are as important as the ones discussing death - and not just the practical considerations but what we fear, what we hope, and how we want to be remembered. Yet, few of these conversations are actually happening. Inspired by his experience with his own father and countless stories from others who regret not having these conversations, Michael Hebb encourages people to pull up a chair, break bread, and really talk about the one thing we all have in common.

Let's Talk About Death (over Dinner) offers keen, practical advice on how to have these same conversations - not just at the dinner table, but anywhere. There's no one right way to talk about death, but Hebb shares time- and dinner-tested prompts to use as conversation starters, ranging from the spiritual to the practical, from analytical to downright funny and surprising. By transforming the most difficult conversations into an opportunity, they become celebratory and meaningful - ways that not only can change the way we die, but the way we live.

September 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center Helen Phillips will present the first of two sessions on *Second Forgetting: Remembering the Power of the Gospel during Alzheimer's Disease* by Dr. Benjamin Mast.

Many people of faith who have related to church communities for decades often feel disconnected and sometimes even feel abandoned when they've needed their church the most as their brain disintegrates. The church can play a critical role in helping maintain dignity, honor and quality of life, but there are many challenging questions:

- How can we help people with Alzheimer's remain connected with their faith and church communities?
- How can we help families find strength and hope while they care for a family member who is moving through the stages of Alzheimer's disease?
- How can pastors, ministry leaders, and church congregations grow in their understanding of people with dementia and serve them well?
- How does God's call to remember him and his faithfulness apply to people with severe memory problems?

This book is especially helpful for:

- Families and friends of dementia people
- Persons concerned with getting dementia or in early stages
- Churches to learn how to support members with dementia

It seeks to communicate hope, grace, and dignity, and is very scripturally based.

Peanut Butter Update

Submitted by Betty Kiese-Yoder



The numbers are in, and we pretty much tied last year's amount for Peanut Butter - \$608 dollars. Mike and I were able to buy 168 jars of 40 oz., which are the bigger ones. That's 440 lbs!

We delivered all 168 jars to GV Food Bank. Were they ever happy to see us!

Thank you to all of you guys for your contributions, and to Mike Yoder for ordering it and packing the car. We are still signing up

walkers for the HungerWalk, which is September 14. Anyone that's wants to walk see Betty Kiese-Yoder to join our team for VPC.



Congregational Care

Faith & Health and Parish Nurse News

Free information and free lunch! **Join us on Monday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. here at VPC in the Fellowship Hall, Spiritual Life Center, and Charter Halls for the Stay Vertical Fall Prevention Day.** Keynote speakers, a Physical Therapist, exercise and health screenings will be presenting information. Lunch is provided and created by our own Valley Galley. Reservations are needed for lunch. Please call Valley Assistance Services at 520-625-5966.

Blood Pressure Screenings: You may have your blood pressure taken during the week by appointment with the Parish Nurse. Please make appointments through the church office. **The Sunday blood pressure screening clinics will resume on September 15.** Blood pressure clinics are done right after Sunday worship services in the Sweet Family Room.



Movement & Exercise Classes Here at VPC:



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

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



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

The Message of the Prophet Amos

From the Peace and Justice Committee

Amos was one of the strongest spoken prophets in calling the Lord's people back to the way of justice. He reminded them that their worship and rituals did not please him because of their wrong-doings. They oppressed the poor and robbed them of their grain.

Amos 5:11a, TEV.

He encouraged them: But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Amos: 5:24.



Congregational Care

Stay Vertical

Monday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

Have you ever slipped, tripped, or fell? Most of us have. In fact, one in four people aged 65 and older does. One in four restrict, or do not attend, activities because of the fear of falling. Falls can cause severe injuries and could even be fatal. A local, free, fall prevention program, SHiM®, Safety and Health In Motion, helps us look at the prevention side with a team of professionals: a nurse and a Green Valley Fire Corp volunteer. This team visits and educates on health and medical risks, as well as fire education and home safety. Matter of Balance is another fall prevention program offered at different times of the year for a small fee. National Fall Awareness Day is on the first day of fall which is September 23, and here at VPC we are filling up the Fellowship Hall and Spiritual Life Center with lots of good fall prevention information.

Join us on Monday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. here at VPC to learn more about falls and health, including Parkinson's disease and different types of exercise. The flu clinic will also be here, as well as many other health agencies and providers. There will be two keynote speakers from Phoenix to talk about health, falls, and the memory loss which is a risk factor for falls. Exercise instructions will demonstrate different forms of exercise, chair exercise, movement, and others. This program and lunch are free and provided by a community grant to Valley Assistance Services from the National Parkinson Foundation. Our own Valley Galley will be serving a delicious lunch. Call Valley Assistance Services to register for lunch. There will also be a table of information on Sundays from September 8 - 22 in Fellowship Hall.

Rugs, cords, and uneven surfaces are high risks for falls.



Medical Minute:

One in four people restrict their activities because of the fear of falling. This includes going to church. Join us on September 23 to learn how to overcome this fear.



Valley Presbyterian Church

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

Pastors

Rev. Diane Christopher,
Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Joe Hawkins,
Pastor Emeritus

Mission Statement

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

Sunday Worship

Traditional Service of Worship

9:30 a.m. in the VPC Sanctuary

Communion served on first Sunday of each month

September 1	Untamed Hospitality	Rev. Diane Christopher
September 8	Double the Challenge, Double the Fun!	Rev. Brad Munroe
September 15	Encountering God Together	Rev. Diane Christopher
September 22	The Heart of a Servant	Rev. Diane Christopher
September 29	Tying It All Together	Rev. Diane Christopher

La Joya at La Posada

9:00 a.m. at La Joya

Communion served on the first Sunday of each month

September 1	Rev. John Dunham and Marti Long
September 15	Carol Wilking
September 29	Helen Phillips



Promoted to Glory



May 26	Allen Moore
July 25	Beverly Guinn
July 26	Susan Smotherman
July 28	Arlis Lundell
August 16	Fred Steinbach

Did You Know...?

Submitted by Doug Clark

- 80% of current PC (USA) pastors will likely retire in the next decade.
- VPC provides monthly support to the Theological Education Fund which supports future pastors.
- We have 10 Presbyterian seminaries nationwide, plus two which are closely affiliated.
- Annual enrollment is 3,100 students - average age of 41, one-to-one male/female ratio, all races, and all socio-economic backgrounds.
- Master of Divinity is a prerequisite to becoming an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian church.
- Our seminaries report that 85% of graduates go into parish ministry.
- It cost our Presbyterian seminaries an average of \$78,600 to educate a Master of Divinity student for three years.
- Most funding comes from endowments, grants, and annual contributions from the Theological Education Fund.
- Average graduate borrows more than \$35,000.

For generations to come!