



Our Valley Voice
September
2020



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

OUR MISSION

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

The principles we will follow to accomplish this are:

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

Valley Presbyterian Church

2800 S Camino Del Sol

Green Valley, AZ 85622

(520) 625-5023

vpc-office@valleypres.net

www.valleypresbyterian.net

Member of Presbytery de Cristo in The Synod
of the Southwest,

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey,

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Diane Christopher,

Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Joe Hawkins,

Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Worship
Traditional Service of Worship
9:30 a.m. Online

Taize Service
1st Wednesday of the Month
5:00 p.m. Online

In This Issue

Table of Contents

Our Valley Presbyterian Staff	1
A Word from Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor/Head of Staff.....	2-4
A Word from Rev. Diane Christopher, Pastor of Discipleship.....	5-6
Finance	7
Church Officers Nominations.....	25-27
Birthdays for September 2020.....	9-10
Capital Campaign for Solar System.....	7
Casa Vida Nueva	12
Crossroads Mission.....	13
St. Andrews Clinic.....	18
More Blog Readers Wanted.....	15
Bob and Kristi Rice	15-16
Dave & Pam Lovett	11
Music.....	8
Parish Nurse.....	22
Photo Directory Update.....	20
Stephen Ministry	23-24
Library News	17
Valley Assistance	19- 20
Youth on Their Own	21- 22



Taize Worship

Wednesday, September 2

5 p.m. online

In such tumultuous times as these, we invite you to our Taize worship to hear about God's promises through beautiful music, scriptures, candles and quietness. Let it calm and feed your soul. You can find the Taize worship service on our website: valleypresbyterian.net on Wednesday, September 2.

Staff

Pastor Craig LindseyPastor/Head of Staff pastorcraig@@valleypres.net
Pastor Diane Christopher...Pastor of Discipleship.....dianechristopher@valleypres.net
Jamie Reed Director of Music jamie@valleypres.net
Wes MoultonOrganist/Accompanist wes@valleypres.net
Chris EricksonParish Nurse..... parishnurse@valleypres.net
Suzanne MandevilleBookkeeper suzanne@valleypres.net
Laurie AllenExecutive Secretary..... laurie@valleypres.net
Carla GoingsAdministrative Specialist carla@valleypres.net
Joe SnowLead Custodian custodians@valleypres.net
Ray EsparzaCustodian custodians@valleypres.net
Bob Lopes.....Custodian custodians@valleypres.net
Alice Sanchez.....Nursery Attendant vpc-office@valleypres.net
Gee-Gee SmithValley Voice Editor tubacgee@gmail.com

Covid Testing Aug 14 & 15 was a big success!



Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey
Head of Staff



FROM THE PASTOR

What I strive for in leadership as your Pastor is as described by the OT Prophet Amos: “I Am A Herdsman and Dresser of Sycamore”. Kings ruled from Palaces. Warriors fought Armies. Shepherds sat atop hillsides, throwing rocks at wolves and thieves. Herdsmen lead from among the midst of the herd; at times out front, at times tending to the needs of stragglers, most often affected by what effects the herd. Sycamore trees are notorious for growing crossed branches, which need pruning and training in other directions to grow because left unattended the branches will hurt one another in a storm. Most of us can handle our normal routines and even brief, small amounts of conflict and crisis. So when Pandemics settle upon the world for months at a time, the purpose of leadership is to plan for and manage the excesses of stress, so the rest of us can go about life as normal routine. A recent example of “Leadership as a Herdsman” came from our Sound Engineer, who described “You are ‘Old School’, most

Pastors today would not lend their tools, consult volunteers for their ideas and opinions, or be the first one in and last one out on a project.”

While everyone is anxiously wondering if COVID 19 will become our new normal, and when will we get to return to what we enjoy in life (?), I hope to be leading us through these several months, reducing anxiety, until stability and sanity and health can be restored anew albeit differently. While I have enjoyed a great number of experiences in Medical Missions, I cannot cure this disease. I can only give you a mask, companionship, a cup of cold water and pray, and these will be sufficient. I guess that is the underlying message I want to plant with us this month: We have survived hoarders emptying the shelves of grocery stores, locking ourselves away for months at a time, breathing through layers of fabric, washing our hands while saying the Lord’s Prayer; these will be sufficient until creation is healed and life restored. We are no longer “The Nation’s Hot Spot” at least for infections; temperature is a different matter. As to all the other business of the church, being led by Session, Committees and Volunteers, please read this edition of the Valley Voice. See you in Church.

Craig Lindsey

FROM THE PASTOR con't

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATES

Dave Appleton stopped in last week, to give the Pastor “a tour of what the Pastors never knew”. What a gift, both in the decades of leadership Dave has provided this church, and the wisdom and support he continues to offer. Thank you Dave! July 21 – 25, Skip Berry, Joe Snow, Ray Esparza, Bob Lopes and Pastor Craig, assembled the new speaker units into two ten-foot tall

columns, determined how to mount these columns deciding on attaching to 2 x 6 boards, then elevated and mounted these boards and speaker columns to the Organ

Speaker Cabinet / Chancel Wall 25 feet off the ground; how to discretely wire the new Speakers to power sources and the Sound Mixer Board; remove the two 150 pound old speakers from the rafters; and also install wiring above the ceiling over the offices along with a new WIFI Distributor into the Sanctuary. Special thanks to Jim Luhring, who figured out that, the circuit breaker for the speakers was not in the Circuit Breaker Boxes or Electrical Room, but instead inside the Sound System. We now have clear projection of the spoken word everywhere in the Sanctuary, with no reverberation! The Sound Engineer now needs to return to “aim” the 150 individual speakers inside these columns, which is designed to make the whole system even better; as well as to work with Jamie Reed in hanging new Choral microphones above the choir loft. Then, we need worshippers to return to worship, the congregation to congregate, the listeners to hear!



DUCKS FLYING AWAY FOR AUGUST

Last Spring, we discovered that a broken valve in the Fountain had caused the Fountain to overflow, burning out the pump. When repaired, the plumber poured a sealant goop over the exterior of the joint. For a more effective and permanent repair, our staff have drained the Fountain to take apart and repair the connection with plumbers Teflon tape sealing the threads of the pipes. In order to make these repairs during the month of August, we have drained the Fountain and put the ducks away. It is anticipated that come September/October new plantings will be planted replacing the dead ones around the Fountain, the water will be refilled, and as happens seasonally throughout the world, the ducks will return.



HAVE YOU REMEMBERED VPC IN YOUR WILL?

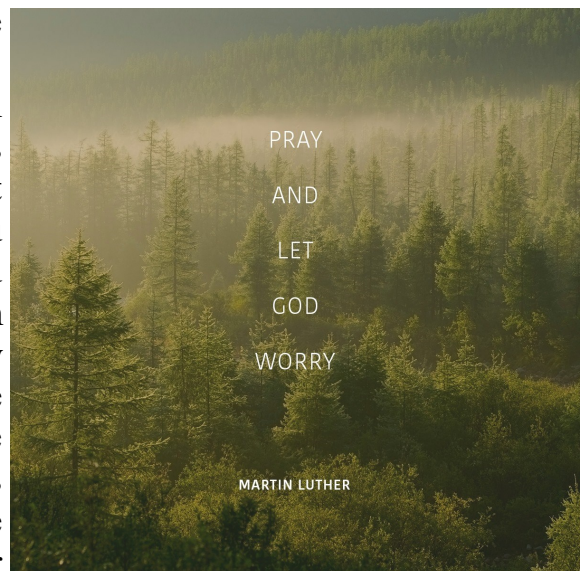


One of the many things we do when relocating to Arizona is to update our Wills and Estate Plans. Great work has been done over the years in membership, as well as in providing the Columbarium for members, but a topic we often neglect is to remember the church in our Wills. Throughout our lives in Green Valley, VPC has been an important part of our community, not only on Sunday mornings, but with our NOC, Stephen Ministry, Bereavement Support, Bible

Study, Missions and Patio Sale. It is easy enough to add a simple codicil to our Estate Plans. Having a donation to the church, continues the support we have provided during our lives, long into the future. Years ago, there was a woman who died, and at her passing there was nothing left in her Estate; however, at some point she had listed the organizations and missions she had planned for her life to support. Whether any actual money changed hands was less relevant, than that she had stated for the world to know these were the ministries, people and activities important to her, she wanted to have continue.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH

Yesterday we started with our Staff Meeting reading Jonah as a devotional, and ended the workday with Bible Study of Matthew 6. Perhaps in Bible Study we brought our own concerns and issues to the text, but Jonah is dealing with his own depression and constant complaining, ultimately God responding "You know I am a God of Compassion and Forgiveness!" Jesus' Sermon on The Mount in Matthew affirming "Be not anxious." By worrying you cannot change the color of one hair upon your head! Yet God provides for the birds, and not even king Solomon in all his splendor was ever adorned as beautiful as one of these. Being alone, not having control over where we can go and what we can do, has filled us all with anxiety. Be at peace, trust God.



Rev. Diane Christopher Pastor of Discipleship



The other day, while online, I came across the song “The Prayer” sung by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli:

I pray you'll be our eyes
And watch us where we go
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know
Let this be our prayer
When we lose our way
Lead us to a place
Guide us with your grace
To a place where we'll be safe

As I listened to these words and the beautiful melody, I began to weep. Before long, the weeping turned into an all-out crying session as I lamented for our country in the midst of a pandemic, racial injustice, divisions among

people. I couldn't stop, doubled over my desk, and I prayed these words to God over and over again: Guide us with your grace.

There are days like that, aren't there? All the news of the world during this pandemic is causing weariness and depression. We need to get the emotions out. This is where lamenting comes in. A lament expresses grief and loss, frustration and anger. As I wrote in an email blast several months ago, the Bible is filled with laments, especially the Psalms in which one third of them are laments.

Our faith offers us lamenting. It is not a weakness, but a gift. To come to God in honesty with all the emotions that humans exhibit. Lamenting gives us permission to be bold before God, to not only express emotions, but to demand that God act now. That was my prayer the day I cried “Guide us with your grace.” All of this leads me to the women's Bible study (Women's Circles) this year. In March of 2017, a pastor named Lynn Miller submitted a Bible study plan to the Presbyterian Women's Board. It was about lamenting. They chose to use the lamenting Bible study for this coming year. I see it as the providence of God - God working ahead saving this study for a time such as this. A time when we have been in isolation for 5 months. A time when we need to lament, cry out, get it out. To God. The study is called “Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament” by Rev. Lynn Miller.

So I encourage you (if you are a woman, that is) to join a women's circle this year, to learn how to lament and study its relationship to scripture. I believe it will help us cope as we (prayerfully, hopefully) come out of the pandemic.

So how will we do this study? We are taking it month by month. For now, this is our plan:

Save this date: Tuesday, September 29, 11:30 a.m. You will have two choices on how we study together. You can come to the Fellowship Hall on September 29, and bring a brown bag lunch (in other words, bring your own). We will sit four to a round table. After we eat together, I will introduce Lamenting and go over lesson one. When not eating, we ask that you wear a mask.

At this event, you can purchase a study guide for \$11 (large print is \$15). The study guide is well worth the price. The author not only wrote the lesson, as an artist she also did all the art work in the study guide. The art is stunning. If you are not part of a circle (a circle is just another name for a small group Bible study), you can sign up at this time.

For those of you who are not ready to be around a group of people, I will record the lesson and show it on our website (valleypres.net). You can watch it at the same time we are doing it at the church, or at another time that fits into your schedule. To obtain a study book, you can purchase one from me in the church office. You can sign up for a circle if you are not already in one. You can also contact Liz Haynes to register for a circle: 601-606-1738; ehaynes@netdoor.com.

Lamenting to God gives us hope. Joy and strength arises when we lament together. Will you join us?

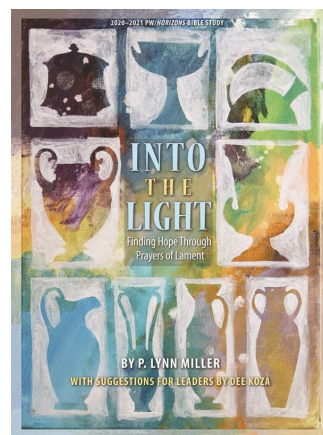
Pastor Diane



New! Phone Devotions We are aware that a certain percentage of our people do not use computers. Thus, they do not have access to our daily email blasts and worship services. We have been sending them Valley Voice newsletters and Sunday bulletins. But what else can we do to help our people grow spiritually?

Introducing phone devotions! If you call after office hours and press 4 when prompted, Pastor Diane and others will be reading email blasts for that week and from past months.

If you know someone who does not have computer access, please let them know about this opportunity. And remember, the devotions are only available when the church office is closed. (The church office is open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.)



Finance Committee



The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, August 19th to review the current financial activity through July. We received the SBA PPP Loan on May 6th and we have completely used the funds for payroll and related expenses through August 5th. The \$101,000 is not recorded as revenue, but as a note payable. We will apply for forgiveness of this loan and if the loan is waived, we will recognize it as income at that time.

We continue to remain in a positive position. In the following report we have defined “Giving Support” as contributions for current operations and “Other Support” as Patio Sale Fund or other Fund transfers in support for

operations, investment income, fees for services (memorials, events, concerts etc.):

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Giving support	\$410,500	\$445,489	(\$34,989)
Per Capita support	8,944	10,500	(1,556)
Other support	<u>45,104</u>	<u>44,971</u>	<u>133</u>
Total support	464,548	500,960	(36,412)
Expenses	<u>429,696</u>	<u>455,582</u>	<u>(25,886)</u>

Capital Campaign for Solar System

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

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

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

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

Dear Valley Presbyterian Family,

When churches are able to join together for worship, some people never sing the hymns. They stand there respectfully while others sing. When I was a young church musician this worried me. Through the years, though, I've noticed that most of the people not singing do one of two things. They either stand silently, often with their eyes closed, listening and soaking it in, or they follow every word, as they are sung, in the hymnal. I have come to appreciate this method of worship. I believe that those silent parishioners' connections with the acts of corporate worship are every bit as valid as the singers around them. They are as involved with the meanings of the texts of the hymns, and the feelings created by the musical notes as surely as if they were singing.



I bring this up because recently two congregants have shared with me that though they are thankful for the recorded services of VPC, and they find them worshipful, they don't sing the hymns when they are home alone. That's okay! It isn't always easy or comfortable to sing when one is alone. Rather, though, than feel discouraged by this situation, let me encourage you that you can use this opportunity to connect, worshipfully, in a slightly different way from what most of us are used to doing. We can focus on the texts of the hymns as poems of worship. While reading the texts, let the music in the background shape your feelings. You can even pause the video to take a moment to reflect on the text of the hymn, read it more than once, really internalize what the text is saying to you. We are blessed with pastors who give a great deal of thought into which hymn texts compliment the message of the day. I am also blessed to work with a colleague, Jamie, who gives an equal amount of thought into making the musical feelings of each service support the service as a whole. It gives me comfort to think of the VPC family worshiping together through the treasure trove that is our tradition of Christian hymnody, even if we are in different places.

Let me close with this quote from *Now Thank We All Our God*:

"O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!"

The words to this well-known hymn were penned by a Lutheran minister, in 1636, while he was serving the town of Eilenburg, Saxony during a plague epidemic. He, at times, performed over 50 funerals a day, officiating more than 4000 in 1637. Let us be comforted by his words, 384 years later, as we face the perils and difficulties of our own time.

Please know that Jamie and I miss you and look very forward to being with you, in person, when circumstances permit.

Thank you, Wes

Birthdays for September,



Dorothy Foucher	09/01
Margaret Kuhn	09/03
Sally Ruschmeier	09/03
Edie Allan	09/05
Jane Groendyk	09/05
Bill Lemman	09/06
Dale Parker	09/06
Charles Ashton	09/06
Jim Chervenka	09/08
Sara Hennigar	09/09
Richard Bolin	09/09
Donald Du De Voire	09/11
Sherry Darrah	09/11
Sonya Larsen	09/12
James Nelson	09/12
Candy Nelson	09/12
Jane Selbie	09/13
John Busman	09/13

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

Special birthday greetings to Dorothy Foucher, Margaret Kuhn, Edie Allan, Bill Lemman, Sonya Larsen, Jane Selbie, Virginia Baird, Nancy Lamphere, Marguerite Nelson, and Jane Bond, as they celebrates their 90⁺ birthdays this month.



Rudy Sweisfurth, Jr 09/13

James Collins 09/14

Lois Dierken 09/14

Donna Frisch 09/15

Robert Puttock Jr 09/16

Walter Stevenson 09/16

Linda Jorn 09/16

Alicia Wood 09/18

Mabel Acri 09/19

David Elsner 09/21

Virginia Baird 09/22

Nancy Lamphere 09/23

Marguerite Nelson 09/23

Joan Larson 09/25

Jane Bond 09/26

Mary Lillie 09/27

Carolyn Stevens 09/27

La Vicie Runkle 09/30

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES!

**Special birthday greetings to Martha Jenkins
who celebrated her 90th birthday last month.**



Pam & Dave Lovett

One of many Operation Mobilization's (Pam and Dave L's agency) practical projects in north and south Bangladesh with a nationwide COVID-19 lockdown is distribution of virus protection supplies with 2500 food packets. Each packet, costing \$25 USD, contains nine food items and protection supplies. In Cox's Bazaar, a fishing port, tourism center, and district headquarters in southeastern Bangladesh, unregistered Rohingya refugees receive no government food help. Before the pandemic, they worked outside the refugee camps as day labors; now, thanks to the lockdown, having no work means almost no food at home. The Cox Bazaar OM team helped 50 families suffering from food shortages, one being Fatema and her teenage son. In 2017, her husband and daughter died in Myanmar when the army burned their village. Fatema, unemployed because of the pandemic, received an OM food packet. The team shared the Good News with her which opening her heart to listen to God's Word. The OM team continues to build a relationship with the family and will continue visiting her family.

supplies.



Food and COVID-19 protection items: rice, dal, oil, salt, and protection supplies

Casa Vida Nueva para Niño's, A.C. Home for Children (Orphanage)

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

Submitted by Reed Olson



Great news! The Home for Children (orphanage) had four students graduate from high school. This is the first mass graduation. Three of the students are going on to college: Edgar Median (going into Marketing); Sebastian Ramirez (going into robotics); and Carolina Ramirez (going into

nursing). The other student who graduated, Ana Laura Almaza has decided to go live with relatives and help them cope with living with their COVID 19 environment. These four children would not have been encouraged to graduate from high school and motivated to attend college without the funding support and love from people within VPC, the Green Valley community and RISE Scholastic Achievements. This is a great success story. Bless you all for your support.

The Home for Children currently has the same challenges as the children in the USA regarding what to do while staying at home and staying safe during the summer /



COVID-19. Last month, I reported on their new in-ground

swimming pool that is being fully utilized. Another donor recently came through with a real basketball court that will be finished by the end of the month. Another activity is baking. Yup the children are being taught how to bake.



If you would like to continue helping the children during this time, please request your VPC donations go to the orphanage, or you can donate to the children's educational funding by requesting your VPC donations go to RISE Scholastic

Achievements. For more on this mission please visit VPC web site, Missions, Casa Vida Nueva para Niños <https://www.valleypresbyterian.net/mission.html> or visit RISE Scholastic Achievements web site: www.risesa.org



CROSSROADS MISSION, NOGALES, ARIZONA

Submitted by Joan Bolin

I had a telecon on Friday, August 14, 2020, with Ben Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, and received the following information:

Ben is recovering from his June 12th shoulder surgery with lots of rehab. He also has a treatment to do every six hours for his breathing problem (nothing to do with COVID-19).

Ben has hired two school teachers on a temporary basis to help at the Mission during the virus pandemic. He has also hired two guys, who have graduated from the Mission's recovery program, to work Wednesdays and Fridays at the Mission taking care of the Mission's properties. Ben was excited that these two guys completed the recovery program and are now able to work at the Mission.

A mother and her 16-year old daughter, plus another lady, moved into the Mission's women transitional house August 15, 2020. Since many of the occupants of this transitional house come from domestic abuse or violence, the property is surrounded by fence. One side of fencing is 8-foot with barbed wire on the top. Ben said a \$500.00 camera system will be installed to keep the women and children safe. The inside of the house is furnished with donated furniture, and has a play room with white boards for the children to use. Landscaping of the property still needs work.

Chapel services are not being held at this time due to the virus. For people that come to the Mission for food, a hot lunch is packed in a clamshell container for take-out, also a bag of produce and bakery items is handed out. There is one lady from the Mission that prepares the simple take-out lunch. NOTE: Because of the virus pandemic Valley Presbyterian Church has not sent people to the Mission to prepare hot lunches since the middle of March 2020.

The Mission is in need of food (rice, pasta, potatoes, canned foods are especially needed). Make a run to Costco or Safeway or Fry's...it will make you feel good knowing you are helping the needy. All the donated food stays in the Mission's pantry to use in preparing hot lunches. Call Ben at 1-520-264-8434 for more details. Monetary donations are needed for food, and to keep the Mission's properties in good running condition.



Please stay safe and healthy.

Medical Minute: National Fall Day is in September. Remember 75 percent of falls can be prevented. There are several risk factors to look for both environmentally and medically. One is that rugs should be taped down or removed.





COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

2020 VIRTUAL

Hunger Walk

*Stand with us
to end hunger!*

Saturday, September 12th

communityfoodbank.org/HungerWalk



Betty Kiesle-Yoder will be our leader for the Community Food Bank walk again this year. We will walk at the Canoa Park on Camino del Sol.

September 12 @ 7:[30.am](#). Mask required. Please register under VPC online and then hit join a team. Or email me for instructions. Bkiesle@cox.net 307-4915.

Mission

More Blog Readers Wanted

More Bloggers wanted (15 and counting) Note #15 blogger
A blogger is anyone with access to a computer who can type in
bobandkristi.blogspot.com. Have you

ever wanted to read a missionary's diary? Consider blogging the real life story of Bob and Kristi Rice who share on a weekly basis the story of God working in their life.



[Bob's Dissertation Journey](#) **Research Proposal Accepted**

On Tuesday, July 14th, the Research Committee of the Department of Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology at Stellenbosch University in South Africa met to review my research proposal for a doctoral program. Dr. Retief Muller, my research advisor, was part of that meeting. Dr. Muller wrote me following the meeting later that day to inform me that things "went rather well." He said that members of the committee were

"overall complimentary" of my proposal. They accepted my proposal with encouragement to make a few changes and improvements, including changing the title. I feel blessed to have reached this stage in my dissertation journey! Below is the title and the "abstract" (short introduction) which I would like to share with you.

Title

Reconciling Worlds: A Critical Examination of the Social Interface of the Lifeworld of the Nilotic Peoples of Upper Nile, South Sudan, with the Lifeworld of White Euro-American Christianity

Abstract

The Chollo people^[1] of South Sudan describe God as like the wind or the air. God is ever present. God's ongoing providential care finds expression in all of life. As an African mother would carry her child on her back, nurturing and cherishing that child, the Kiga people of Uganda describe God as Biheko, meaning "He carries everyone on his back" (Mbiti 1989).

While missionaries from Europe and North America made extraordinary sacrifices and accomplishments in Africa over the last two centuries, one African Christian scholar posits that "Missionaries came to Africa with the wrong diagnostics."^[2] Despite Black Africans being "notoriously religious,"^[3] White Euro-American missionaries failed to meaningfully connect the rich cultural and religious history of African peoples with the Christian faith. Problematic was the idea that White European and North American "civilization" was inextricably linked

with the Gospel; to become a Christian implied conformity to White Euro-American cultural values. As missionaries sought to “replicate” themselves in African converts, missionaries did not grasp the deep religious insights of African peoples (Bediako 1999: 234; Mbiti 1989: 56). Thus, this White Euro-American ethnocentrism led to a misguided theology of mission, a theology of mission which failed to perceive how God has manifested God’s Self in unique and specific ways to African peoples. As most White Euro-American missionaries failed to understand the universality of God’s presence among the peoples of the world, ethnocentrism is a significant factor in the story of Christianity in Africa (Bediako 1999: 236).

Seeking a path forward, Kwame Bediako and scores of concerned voices herald their conviction that for Christianity to be deeply rooted and intrinsic to African peoples, we must name this tragic legacy of mission and then meaningfully engage with the thought processes, religious histories, lived experience, and contemporary challenges of African peoples. We must foster deep and meaningful dialogue between African Religion and experience with the Christian faith. This research will assume a posture of listening and learning as we sit at the feet of South Sudanese sisters and brothers. Adopting a creation-centered theology,^[4] this project seeks to understand how the Nilotic peoples of Upper Nile, South Sudan, connect their traditional religion and lived experience with the Gospel message and the Christian tradition. This research will utilize the Sociological-Anthropological Approach championed by Justin S. Ukpog, combining a sociological understanding of culture with anthropological factors, honoring the unity of African thought, that all of life is bound up together. Moreover, this research project will follow the trail set by Justin Ukpog, Emmanuel Katongole, and others concerned with the personal, the communal, and the social ramifications of life in God in Jesus Christ, particularly in terms of personal and communal identity formation and reconciliation with “the other.”

^[1] Chollo is the true name of the tribe otherwise called “Shilluk,” a corrupted Arabic designation meaning “scars”

^[2] Quotation from lunch conversation with Dr. Elisée Musemakweli, Vice Chancellor of the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) in Huye, Rwanda, in February 2019.

^[3] A well-known quote from theologian John S. Mbiti (Mbiti 1989: 1)

^[4] A creation-centered theology sees the world as sacramental, a place where God reveals God’s Self, assuming continuity between human experience and existence with the divine. This orientation stands in contradistinction to a “redemption-centered theology” which assumes culture and human experience need either complete transformation or total replacement...that the world is not a vehicle for the presence of God but that reality and creation distorts God’s reality and is in complete rebellion against it (Bevans 2002).

Congratulation on this journey!

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

NEWS FROM THE VPC LIBRARY SHELVES

THE GREATEST GENERATION

Books and DVDs related to World War II in our library.

BOOKS

Code Girls: The Untold Story of American Women Code Breakers of World War II. Liza Mundy. (940.54 MUN)

Franklin and Winston: An Intimate Portrait of an Epic Friendship. Jon Meacham. (940.53 MEA)

The Greatest Generation. Tom Brokaw. (940.54 Br78)

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz. Erik Larson. (940.54 LAR)

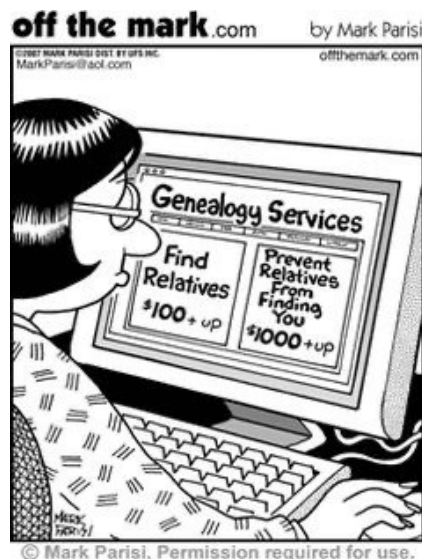
DVDs

Band of Brothers. (DVD 791.45 BAN), *Darkest Hour.* (DVD 791.43 DAR)

Memphis Belle. (DVD 791.43 MEM)



“You obviously have no idea whose great-great-great granddaughter you’re ticketing!”

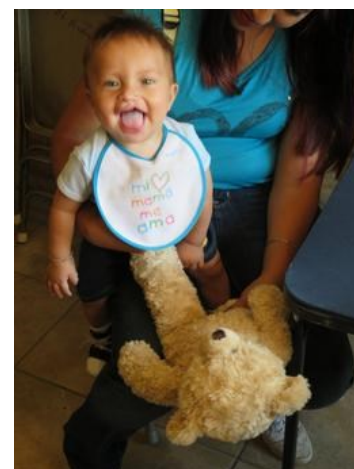


St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brouwer

As of July 31, 2020, the Green Valley location for St. Andrew's Children's Clinic is closed. Equipment and other materials are in storage. Laura is doing her work from her home. The Clinic desperately needs a space for a small office. Please contact Kay Brouwer (573-552-2313/ kbrouwer1972@gmail.com) or Laura Romero (520-648-3242/ 520-980-2649) if you know of any potential space which they can rent.

As of now, since there is no physical location for the clinic, donations of clothing, blankets, diapers, etc. can still be made. Contact Laura at the above numbers to arrange for a convenient drop-off place such as your home or a parking lot in Green Valley, Rio Rico, Nogales or Tucson. Our Valley Presbyterian Church is a good possibility for dropping off donations. Since many items are coming in for the Patio Sale, St. Andrew's donations must be **clearly** labeled and brought to the door off the back parking lot. There will be a space and/or container labeled for St. Andrew's donations. Another drop off for donations to St. Andrew's Clinic is Valley Assistance Services at 3950 S Camino del Heroe in Santa Rita Springs of Green Valley. For all donations, St. Andrew's Clinic Staff must be contacted (520-648-3242 or 520-980-2649) and the name of the drop off place confirmed. Also, all donations should be labeled with **ST. ANDREW'S CHILDREN'S CLINIC**.



Sadly, the Clinic will be closed September, October and maybe longer until the virus threat is reduced. Laura Romero, the Executive Director is planning to make presentations with Clinic facts and explanation of how services will be provided as soon as possible. She'll set up ZOOM sessions for 2 to 10 people who have provided their email addresses. She hopes to make this presentation soon after Labor Day, in September. If you are interested in joining the session, please send your email address to Laura Romero (ed@standrewsclinic.org) or to Kay Brouwer (kbrouwer1942@gmail.com).

Volunteer doctors and other staff have been serving the clinic and providing advice to families via Video Conferencing or phone conversations. All staff at St. Andrew's Children's Clinic are totally committed to serving the needs of children as they have for the past 45 years. Doctors have offered to make appointments for their services in any possible way. Some have even offered to travel to Mexico to help their patients. Funds are extremely low. St. Andrew's Clinic is making sacrifices to maintain some level of care for children and families. Prayers, money and donations will be very much appreciated.



Chris Erickson, Executive Director

3950 S. Camino del Heroe
Green Valley, Arizona 85614

520-625-5966
www.valleyassistanceservices.org

Combining social services and community health, Valley Assistance Services (VAS) guides seniors, individuals and families to live healthy, resilient and vibrant lives, staying safe and independent. VAS is dedicated to finding solutions for people in this area, many who are desperate for help. We listen to the community, with innovative programs that have historically assisted almost 6,000 people annually. VAS has served Pima and Santa Cruz communities in Southern Arizona for over 50 years

The number of people needing many of our services tripled in 2019 over 2018, and continues to increase even more in 2020 due to the COVID - 19 pandemic.. An increasing number of those persons who are aging in place are challenged to pay skyrocketing cost of medicines and healthcare bills due to health changes. Some are surrounded on a daily basis by loneliness, social isolation, memory loss, transportation issues or overwhelming chronic health issues. Families and single parents are struggling with increased cost of living with layoffs, low wages, or unemployment. VAS has recently seen its ultimate highest levels of needs, scrambling to keep up with providing assistance to this exploding number of those in our area needing help.

VAS has volunteers who help with transportation, grocery shopping, errand running, making phone calls, friendly home visits, and limited repairs by a handyman. Volunteers with financial experience help in our MAP program, teaching clients how to more effectively use their limited resources. VAS also has limited housing/rental assistance available. Training on resume writing, job search and interviewing strengthens and provides confidence to women 55 and over who have been out of the workforce.

Our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program is providing Televisits to over 300 seniors each week, keeping seniors connected during this uncertain time of the pandemic.

VAS has become a hub for other non-profits and health agencies in our community. The Green Valley – Sahuarita Volunteer Clearing House, the Pima Council on Aging's Green Valley Office and Hacienda Home Health Care are all now housed in VAS's building at 3950 S. Camino del Heroe.

VAS has a new Access to Food tab and fillable referral form on our website. We are working closely with the local food banks and other agencies to assist with food access and food insufficiency. In addition, VAS assists with SNAP (formerly food stamps) online applications.

VAS needs your help! Monetary donations and donations of time/talent are desperately needed and greatly appreciated. Volunteers are needed in all areas, but especially drivers and office help. Any contribution can make a big difference for one of your own neighbors. Also, because of the pandemic, all taxpayers can take a \$300 donation to VAS on their 2020 Federal tax return even if they only use the standard deduction. Please consult your tax advisor for specifics.

You can find more detail on all the VAS services under the Missions page of the Valley Presbyterian Church website.

Please take care of yourself during this time. If Valley Assistance Services can help you in any way please reach out to us. If you would like to receive our weekly E-Blast, please go to our website, “www.valleyassistanceservices.org”, then to the “contact us” page and subscribe to our newsletter.

Mission Committee Contact: Steve Larson

Pictorial Directory

Lifetouch (our photo directory company) is slowly reopening! If you have any questions about photos you have already had taken, please call this number: 1-866-756-0281.

In this crazy time, you may prefer to explore having your photo taken at a facility near where you are now. To discover if Lifetouch is in your area, please call this number: 1-888-313-1746. Just don't forget to let Lifetouch know that the photo should be included in *our* directory: Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley, Arizona!

Our next photo sessions will begin in early November. We'll let you know when we begin taking appointments.





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

We can help the students during this Covid-19 Crisis by making donations to their Mini Mall. Below are listed the supplies that are needed. Dick and I will deliver all needed items to YOTO each Monday. If you would like to contribute, please leave your gifts in the church office (labeled: YOTO), or bring them to our house – 930 W. Rio Magdalena, Green Valley). Thank you for remembering these kids in need.

HELP YOTO RESTOCK THE

MINI MALL!

- Affordable & Easy**
 - Ramen (packs or noodle cups)
 - Canned chunky soup
 - Canned mixed veggies
 - Fruit cocktail or other canned fruit
 - Dry pasta (e.g. spaghetti)
 - Canned pasta sauce
- Student Favorites**
 - Canned pastas (e.g. Chef Boyardee)
 - Mac n' Cheese
 - Canned chili
 - Pinto or refried beans
 - Healthy snacks like jerky, granola bars, or fruit cups
 - Flavored rice packs (Rice-a-Roni or Knorr Rice pouches)
- Pantry Essentials**
 - Peanut butter and jelly
 - Oatmeal
 - Cereal
 - Canned chicken
 - Canned tuna
 - Shelf stable (boxed) milk
- Basic Hygiene**
 - Shampoo and conditioner
 - Toothpaste and toothbrushes
 - Deodorant
 - Soap
 - Feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons)
 - Razors
 - Body lotion
- Household Essentials**
 - Toilet paper
 - Laundry pods
 - Dish soap
 - All-purpose cleaner

We kindly ask that you only donate items from this list as these are requested most often by students.

Donations will be accepted by appointment only on Mondays. Please email our Development & Marketing Coordinator, Rachel Pollack, at rpollack@yoto.org to schedule your appointment.

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING



KUDOS and THANKS to Doris Steffy for sharing 100 A-MAIZE-ing Corny Jokes for YOTO students. They will enjoy the laughs! (Example: Why did the Physics teacher not get along with the Biology teacher? There was no chemistry!)

Our next inspirational card making event will be Wednesday, September 23 at 1PM. We will be RE-STARTING after many months, and I will plan to be in contact with our regular card makers the week of September 14th about our meeting location. If you would like more information, or would like to join us, please call (520-282-1390) or email me (mmhorn@me.com).

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO



Caring for those in our congregation: Congregational Care

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News September 2020

This Parish Nurse section has information needed during this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please stay home – you are important to us!
If you are sick with fever, please contact your healthcare provider.

At Valley Presbyterian Church, I will be updating you on information from the church and increasing emails. During this time of COVID-19 classes and support groups have been canceled (suspended) and are observant of the Pima County, Arizona State and National regulations. Congregational Care is creating ways for our church to continue its care to others and to address the needs we are seeing. One example is making sure that those have enough food and essential supplies during this time of health crisis. Another is the available supply of face coverings. Connections, during this time, are also essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care during a time of no contact. If you have suggestions or know of someone who needs more connections or has concerns please contact the Parish Nurse through the church's office at 520-625-5023 or email parishnurse@valleypres.net.

Please continue to be updated with regulations by www.cdc.gov
the Arizona Department of Health Services website at www.azdhs.gov
Pima County Health Department at https://webcms.pima.gov/government/health_department
and local news.

Stephen Ministry

Is God calling you to become a Stephen Minister?

In Stephen Ministry, members of our congregation are trained and equipped to meet once a week, one to one, with someone going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers provide a caring presence, a listening ear, and comforting words—supporting care receivers throughout their journey.

There are many reasons people become Stephen Ministers. Here are a few to think about as you prayerfully consider whether Stephen Ministry is the right place for you to serve.

As a Stephen Minister you will...

Make a real difference in the lives of people who are hurting.

Stephen Ministers walk alongside people going through life challenges like grief, a medical crisis, job loss, and more. They offer care, support, and encouragement, *connecting hurting people with Christ's healing love* during some of the hardest times in their lives.

Help our congregation ensure that no one suffers alone.

Caring for one another is a hallmark of the Christian faith. As a Stephen Minister, you will play a crucial role in *helping our congregation carry out that mission* so that, even if we can't take away their pain, those who are suffering know our church truly cares.

Learn what to say and do—and what *not* to say and do—to care effectively for people who are suffering.

Stephen Minister training teaches highly practical caregiving and relational skills that equip and empower you with *everything you need to effectively care for others*. In addition to preparing you for caring ministry, these skills can help you deepen and enhance relationships in all facets of your life—with family, friends, coworkers, and others.

Be involved in meaningful ministry that uses your spiritual gifts.

Serving as a Stephen Minister gives people an opportunity to put their spiritual gifts into action—gifts such as faith, mercy, compassion, and encouragement. Ministry that draws on your gifts is *personally fulfilling and touches people's lives in powerful ways*.

Deepen your faith as you see God at work through your ministry.

Providing care while trusting in God is at the core of Stephen Ministry. *Stephen Ministers regularly say how their faith is strengthened* through the training experience, by learning to use distinctively Christian caring tools, and as they witness God at work the lives of care receivers.

Be part of a group of caring Christians who support each other as they care for those who are hurting.

One of the blessings of being a Stephen Minister is *being part of a community of people who care*, all of whom lift one another up as they strive together to provide

the best possible ministry. The strong relationships you'll form are both rewarding and a great source of support.

Join a worldwide tradition of caring ministry.

Congregations all over the world use Stephen Ministry—and have trained hundreds of thousands of Stephen Ministers who have gone on to care for millions of hurting people. It's this ongoing tradition of *“Christ caring for people through people”* that you'll join as a Stephen Minister.

“Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Gal 6:2

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.” 1 Thes 5:11



Dear members, staff, and friends of Valley Presbyterian Church.

I want to give all of you a special thank you for the love and support you have given me since losing my “other half” on July 30th. The prayers, the cards, the food, the phone calls, and the virtual hugs mean so much and are helping me to move forward after this shocking loss. Grant and I love all of you and ask that you hold your loved ones close each and every day. Be safe and be well during these trying times!

Blessings and love, Annie Stitt

2021 CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Valley Presbyterian Church Nominating Committee is seeking church members who will accept God's call to serve as Ruling Elders or Deacons for a 3-year term of service beginning January 1, 2021.

RULING ELDERS serve on the Session, the principal decision-making body of the church. The Session is primarily responsible for the overall mission and government of our church. In addition to attending monthly Session meetings, each Elder provides leadership for at least one of the church's committees or ministries, shares in serving communion, and assists wherever needed.

DEACONS serve on the Board of Deacons, the loving heart of the church, which has oversight of congregational care. This includes responsibility for all of the Congregational Care committees, preparing church communion, and administering to the homebound through extended communion. Deacons attend monthly meetings of the Board and provide leadership to one or more of the Congregational Care committees.

If *you feel called to serve* as a Ruling Elder or as a Deacon, please submit the Suggestion Form to the Nominating Committee. If you would like to *suggest a church member* for one of these important leadership positions, please complete the Suggestion Form and send it to the Nominating Committee.

Suggestion Forms are available in the Valley Voice, E-Blasts, and at the Welcome Desks in the Narthex. **Please submit your Nomination Forms to arrive by August 31st :**

email: vpc-office@valleypres.net
U. S. Mail: Judy Aguayo, Elder
Valley Presbyterian Church
2800 S. Camino Del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 8562

Hand delivery: Place in the drop box on the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.

2021 Church Officer Nominating Timeline:

- * August 1 - 31: Submission of Suggestion Forms to the church
- * September: Nominees will be contacted and interviewed by members of the committee. The Nomination Committee will then meet to discuss the candidates and prepare the slate of nominees to present to the congregation.
- * October: Congregational meeting to select 2021 Church Officers. The slate of nominees for Ruling Elders, Deacons and 2021 Nomination Committee will be presented. Nominations from the congregation may be received for consideration. The congregation will vote.

Thank you for supporting the leadership of VPC.

Judy Aguayo, Chairperson 760-401-4545
Gail Gesell, Elder
Peggy Babcock, Deacon
Jana Honermann, Deacon
Jeane West, Charter Member

NOMINATION PROCESS AND INFORMATION

The Nominating Committee of Valley Presbyterian Church is seeking to identify men and women to accept God's call to serve as Elders and Deacons for 3-year terms of service beginning January 1, 2021.

- **ELDERS** serve on the Session, the principal decision-making body of the church. Session is primarily responsible for the overall mission and government of the church. In addition to attending the monthly Session meeting, each elder provides leadership for one of the church's committees or ministry teams, shares in serving communion, and assists as needed.
- **DEACONS** serve on the Board of Deacons, the loving heart of the church, which has oversight of congregational care. This includes being responsible for all of the Congregational Care committees, preparing monthly church communion, and ministering to the homebound through extended communion. Deacons attend monthly meetings of the Board and participate on one, or more, of the Congregational Care Committees.

YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUESTS SUGGESTIONS FOR THESE IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

Members should also feel encouraged to propose themselves for positions in which they would be willing to serve. Please use the Suggestion Form on the reverse side of this page.

The completed Suggestion Forms need to be returned to the Welcome Desk on Sunday, November 24, or to the church office before that date. Thank you for your response to this matter.

NOMINATION PROCESS AND INFORMATION

The Nominating Committee of Valley Presbyterian Church is seeking to identify men and women to accept God's call to serve as Elders and Deacons for 3-year terms of service beginning January 1, 2021.

- **ELDERS** serve on the Session, the principal decision-making body of the church. Session is primarily responsible for the overall mission and government of the church. In addition to attending the monthly Session meeting, each elder provides leadership for one of the church's committees or ministry teams, shares in serving communion, and assists as needed.
- **DEACONS** serve on the Board of Deacons, the loving heart of the church, which has oversight of congregational care. This includes being responsible for all of the Congregational Care committees, preparing monthly church communion, and ministering to the homebound through extended communion. Deacons attend monthly meetings of the Board and participate on one, or more, of the Congregational Care Committees.

YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUESTS SUGGESTIONS FOR THESE IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

Members should also feel encouraged to propose themselves for positions in which they would be willing to serve. Please use the Suggestion Form on the reverse side of this page.

The completed Suggestion Forms need to be returned to the Welcome Desk on Sunday, November 24, or to the church office before that date. Thank you for your response to this matter.

SUGGESTION FORM FOR NOMINATIONS OF CHURCH OFFICERS

(Please see information on back of form;
use a separate form for each suggestion.)

Since the Nominating Committee will consider many more candidates for office than there are vacancies at this time, suggestions that include thoughtful and specific comments about a member's particular fit for service will be particularly helpful to the Committee.

I suggest the Nominating Committee consider

Name _____

for nomination to become (*check one or both*)

☐ an Elder ☐ a Deacon

and draw the Committee's attention to the information below about his or her gifts, abilities, and experiences that I believe may be relevant to the discernment of God's call to service:

Personal qualities: _____

Education: _____

Church Involvement and Christian discipleship: _____

Special Interests: _____

I believe he/she is willing to serve at this time if elected (*check one*):

☐ Yes ☐ Not sure

SUGGESTION FORM FOR NOMINATIONS OF CHURCH OFFICERS

(Please see information on back of form;
use a separate form for each suggestion.)

Since the Nominating Committee will consider many more candidates for office than there are vacancies at this time, suggestions that include thoughtful and specific comments about a member's particular fit for service will be particularly helpful to the Committee.

I suggest the Nominating Committee consider

Name _____

for nomination to become (*check one or both*)

☐ an Elder ☐ a Deacon

and draw the Committee's attention to the information below about his or her gifts, abilities, and experiences that I believe may be relevant to the discernment of God's call to service:

Personal qualities: _____

Education: _____

Church Involvement and Christian discipleship: _____

Special Interests: _____

I believe he/she is willing to serve at this time if elected (*check one*):

☐ Yes ☐ Not sure