



Our Valley Voice
September, 2021



Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

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 and In person.

Taize Services

1st Thursdays of each month.

PLEASE NOTE DAY CHANGE

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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

August 29 Noisy Offering	Mark 7: 1-23	Pastor Craig
September 5 Labor Day Weekend, Communion and Food Bank Sunday	Isaiah 35	Pastor Craig
September 12	Mark 8:27-38	Pastor Craig
September 19	Mark 9:30-50	Pastor Craig
September 26	Esther 4:1-14	Pastor Craig
October 3 WELCOME BACK GRAND RE-OPENING Communion and Food Bank Sunday		Pastor Craig



Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor Head of Staff

What is normal? Was 2020 normal, with a total of 3.12 inches of precipitation and over 100 days of over 100 degrees? Was this summer normal with more rainfall than ever recorded, nearly 3 times as much as the year before? Do we budget compared to COVID 2020; compared to Interim Pastor Mark Medina 2017-19; compared to the Presbytery imposed austerity budget; compared to 2016 with Pastor Larry and the Administrative Commission; compared to when we had 3 full-time pastors plus a full-time Administrator?

Reading the Bible, I perceive no reference to “normal”. Jesus changing water into wine and walking on water, are assumed to not be regular occurrences. But the focus is always on the here and now, rather than how much precipitation did Noah’s family endure the years before the 40 day and night flood; or what was life like before 3 years of drought.

In recent days, my bride Judy and I have enjoyed much needed 2 weeks of vacation and the celebration of our 40th anniversary. In the world today, 40 years with one another is a major accomplishment. We have just taken one day at a time. You folks do set a very high-bar, as around those married 50 and 60 years, 40 years just makes us “Newlyweds.” I guess this means that if anyone asks we are “Honeymooning in Green Valley!”

August 27-30, we will be upgrading all of the Sanctuary lighting to LED lightbulbs. Not only will this provide far longer-life to the bulbs (the choir will not be counting how many burned out bulbs are in the Chandeliers), decreasing energy use to 1/8% what was previously used. But while flame shaped bulbs just like the previous, at full power these will be the equivalent of 120 watt bulbs, or able to be diminished as needed. The Chancel Choir will also receive new LED lighting. This means our Choir returning for our Grand Re-Opening October 3rd will have new ability to hear the Worship Service and listen to the Sermon, their own new microphones, new theater lighting on the Chancel and also new overhead lighting. All we need is more of you in the choir!

Pastor Craig

Rev. Diane Christopher Pastor of Discipleship

In the last several months, I have received emails from various ministry organizations asking the following questions as churches start up again:

- Do we do ministry the way we have always done it?
- Do we hit the ground running as the new church year approaches?
- Or, do we take the time to learn how to re-set the table together?



One email said, “We have the chance to enter a more sustainable rhythm and to choose our focus instead of running in so many different directions. We have the opportunity to re-think when, how and why we gather and to let go of that which no longer fits. Will we embrace what this moment is offering us or fearfully resume a flutter of activity?” (*Hitting the Ground Running* by Susan Rogers)

Another email gave these suggestions:

Do less and go deeper. There is a common held belief in churches that the “business” of the church must be taken care of first, and then if there is time, invest in spiritual vitality. But what if we invest more time and energy in things like faith, hope, and love?

Less program orientated ministry. Churches have many programs, but seldom ask why they are done. What if the church invested in more ministries that nurture faith, meet community needs, and move people into deeper discipleship with Jesus?

As we look at our church, what should we do? What adventure is God calling us to? We have already done some things differently. We recorded worship services, and now have developed live-streaming. Not because everyone else is doing it; rather, so those outside our doors can worship with us. Faith Formation discovered Zoom for classes, and now offers many classes over Zoom. What a wonderful discovery for now winter residents can join us all year long.

(Cont’d)

I encourage you to look at your ministries and evaluate them. Are you going to go back and do it the way you always have? For some ministries, this may be the best thing. Can you find ways to improve the way you do your ministry? Or, start over? Or, do something totally different? Be creative and seek where God's spirit will lead you and your ministry area.

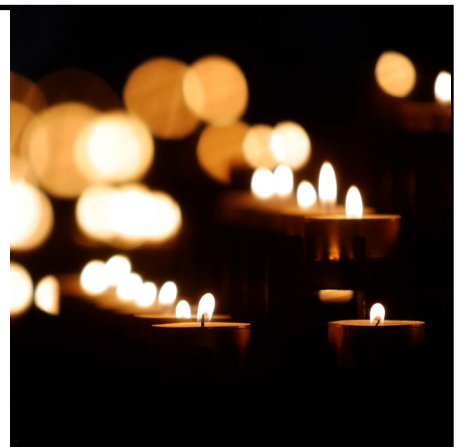
I know for me personally, I came back from Greece with a renewed call and passion for Jesus Christ in my ministry. To point to Christ. To uphold Christ in all I do. I know that I do not want us to be a social club, but a place where people's lives are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. I want to invest in ministries that nurture faith, meet community needs, and move people into deeper discipleship with Jesus. This is my continuing adventure.

With love,

Pastor Diane



Taizé is back!
First Thursday of the Month
In the Spiritual Life Center
at 5 p.m.
Begins September 2



Taizé is a beautiful, half-hour meditative service of song and candlelight, scripture and prayer. If you have not been to a Taizé worship service, we invite you to come and have your soul filled with peace and joy.

Exploring Membership Class

Saturdays: October 9, 16, 23

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

And

Thursday, October 28, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

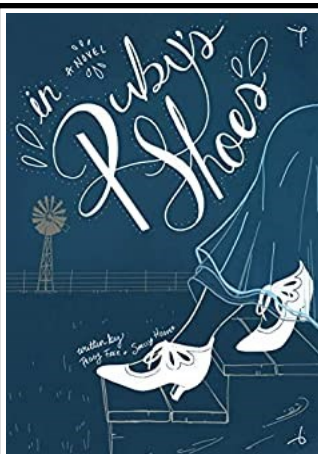


Do you want to learn more about Valley Presbyterian Church? Are you wondering how you can be more involved? Perhaps, you are thinking about becoming a member. The Exploring Membership Class is designed to answer your questions and take you through the steps toward membership.

In this class, you will explore the wonderful reasons to join a church, and what it means to be Presbyterian. You will discover all the different service opportunities this church has to offer. You will meet the pastors and leaders, and many others who give their time and talents to serve Christ through Valley Presbyterian Church

You can become an affiliate member (whereby you keep your main membership with your church back “home”) or an active member (full membership here at Valley Presbyterian).

Contact Pastor Diane Christopher to register (520) 625-5023.



Valley Readers

2:00 PM – September 27, 2021

Classroom 1

In September we will be discussing *In Ruby's Shoes*, a novel by Peggy Free and Shelly Hoover. Loosely based on the life of Peggy's mother, the story covers one woman's lifetime as she lives through enormous social and technological changes during the twentieth century. Peggy Free, who is Moderator of Presbyterian Women in our Presbytery, will be with us to talk about the book and the experience of writing with her daughter, the co-author. Martha Ashton will be our facilitator. Please join us for what is sure to be an interesting afternoon. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at (520) 399-0762.

Following the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul

**With Katie Sayre and Diane Christopher
Starting Wednesday, Sept. 15
1 p.m. in Spiritual Life Center**

During the month of June, Pastor Diane and Katie took a trip to Greece following the footsteps of the Apostle Paul as he preached the Gospel throughout the countryside. Their trip included visits to Thessaloniki, Philippi, Berea, Athens and Corinth – all stories captured in the biblical book of Acts. You will experience the monasteries built on the pillar cliffs of Meteora, the ruins of the Crusades, and the beautiful island of Santorini. We will stop at Patmos, the place where the Apostle John received the words to the book of Revelation.



Diane and Katie are offering a 4-week class on their studies in scripture, the culture of Greece and how it affected Paul, and of course, lots of pictures. Another highlight was the food of Greece, and each week Diane and Katie will give you a taste of some of their favorite Mediterranean food.

Join us for an adventure!



Being Presbyterian – *Directory of Worship*

By Linda Freeman



By now you have figured out that the Presbyterian denomination does not have a service book with a fixed order of worship and collections of prayers. Our *Directory of Worship* does describe the theology that underlies our worship, outlines forms of worship and highlights the connection between worship and the Christian life. Since God has poured out the Holy Spirit on all flesh, each congregation is encouraged to reflect its individual traditions and responses in forming the content and form of worship within its community.

A key concept is the fact that people *gather* in worship. Yes, God is worshiped by individuals in private. But isn't there something special about a group of people who gather for the purpose of glorifying God? Meaningful worship demands the active participation of the whole body of Christ, with heart, mind, soul, and strength. The order of worship should provide for and encourage the participation of all; no one is to be excluded.

It is awe-inspiring to gather in worship in a setting different from your weekly worship. I remember of the richness of services at General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery meetings. I looked around and saw unfamiliar people singing with me, praying with me and reciting a statement of faith together. My soul is revived, and my faith is renewed. And the feeling lingers following the benediction.

Take a look at our Sunday bulletin and note the major parts of our Sunday service. Whenever and wherever we gather in Jesus' name, we join the praise and prayer of the people of God in every time and place.

Next month: *Favorite Phrases from the Confessions*

MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Mission Outreach Committee researches, reviews and evaluates those ministries and organizations which receive, or are applying for, our financial support.

If interested in serving on this committee, please contact Doug Clark via email at Douglasclark68@me.com, or (520) 207-4104.

OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

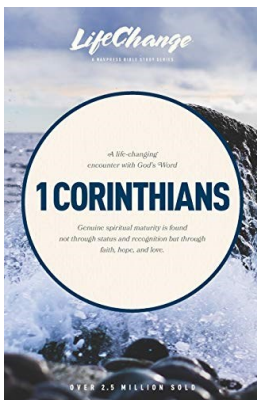
We have exciting news regarding our children's ministry. In the last year, our children have been in the Nursery/Kids' Room on Sunday Mornings. However, we have noticed something! Right before our eyes, our children are growing up, and therefore, it is time to bring back Children's Sunday School.

On Sunday mornings, grade school children will be in classroom 5 having a Bible lesson. Children under grade school will remain in the Nursery with Alice.

We are looking for Sunday School teachers who will teach once a month.

We provide the curriculum, a Sunday School assistant and excited children. Will you help us with this important ministry to bring our children up in the Christian faith?

If you are interested, contact Pastor Diane for more information:
(pastordiane@valleypres.net; (520) 625-5023.



**Men's Weekday
Bible Study Resuming
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.**

***The church-sponsored men's group will resume meeting
Wednesday, September 15 would be glad to
have you join the discussion!***

With about six to thirteen men attending each week, the group meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. They meet at the church for one hour in classroom 1. The group is facilitated by Larry Phillips (520)777-8027, but focuses on group discussion. They use the NavPress Life Change Series study guide. They will begin studying Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. 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. The study guide is available from Amazon or Christianbook.com.

PATIO SALE NEWS

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

We are in-between Patio Sales for the next two months, but come the first week of November, we will be in Sale mode again. Being in-between doesn't mean we are sitting around twiddling our thumbs. The Amigos and Department Heads and their teams and the Truckers are keeping busy receiving donations, having monthly Pack & Sort and anything else that comes our way.



It takes a lot of volunteers to sort and pack donations, get ready for the sale, set up and be at the Sale – more than 200 volunteers are needed throughout the year. And, you could be one of them! You may ask “how can I help?” Well, what is your area of interest – picking up donations, sorting donations, being part of a Department Team, working in the kitchen, setting up for the Sale, working at the Sale, being a cashier? The list is almost endless.

Right now, we could use help in several departments – Art, Linens, Books, Tent, Clothing and Computers & Electronics to name just a few. Some of these Departments are self-explanatory; however, Computers & Electronics encompasses a wide variety of items – anything with an electric cord or items that run on batteries - Computers, TVs, sound systems, radios, vacuum cleaners, telephones, small kitchen appliances, hair dryers. The list goes on. And our truckers could really use your help. Picking up donations has increased over the past year and the Patio Sale Truck is often out several days a week, not just on Friday.

The Patio Sale has been in existence for 40 years and it grows every year. And the need to support missions increases every year as well. So please consider sharing your time and talents and become a Patio Sale Volunteer. If you have any questions, please talk with one of the Amigos – Eloise Frederickson, Dick Christensen, Pat Nau or Carmen Nylund. We would love to talk with you about Patio Sale.

Joyful Spirit Ensemble

Rehearsals

Tuesdays, 2 pm

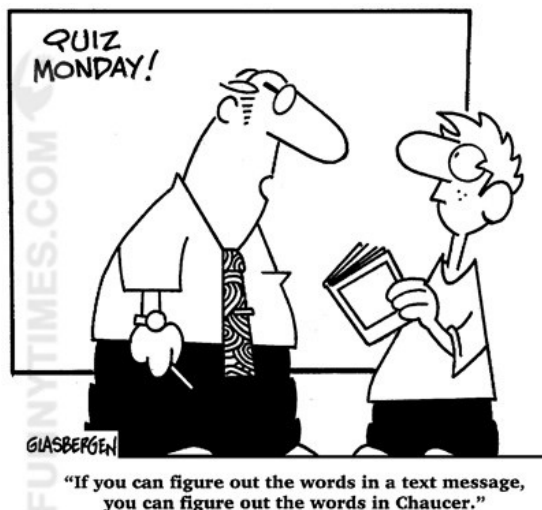
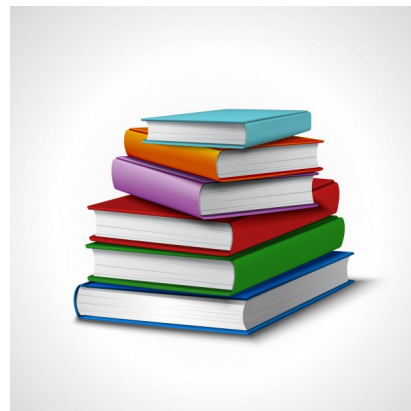
Joan Dakin jbelldakin@yahoo.com

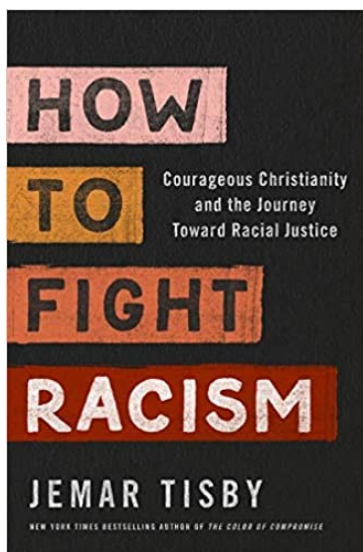


BOOKS TO SUPPORT THE PRAYER IN THE NIGHT STUDY

Available in the VPC Library

- *Book of Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*. Shane Claiborne. (264 CLA).
- *The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church*. (264.03 BOO).
- *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of The Lord's Prayer*. John Dominic Crossan. (242C88).
- *Morning and Evening Prayers*. Cornelius Plantinga. (242 PLA).
- *The Prayer Wheel: A Daily Guide to Renewing Your Faith with a Rediscovered Spiritual Practice*. Patton Dodd. (242 DOD).
- *Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus*. John Indermark. (242 In2).
- *Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer*. Vicki Black. (264 BLA).





How to Fight Racism

A study on what we can do to create an equal and just world.

A 10-week class in two 5-week sessions

Thursdays from 1pm-2:30pm

Oct 7- Nov 4 **AND** Jan 6 – Feb 3

This fall and winter, we will study Jemar Tisby's second book, How to Fight Racism. It is a 10-week class that we will complete in two 5-week sessions. We will meet on

Thursdays from 1pm-2:30pm. The plan is to meet in person but also provide a Zoom link so that those who have not yet returned to Green Valley will be able to participate. The two periods of study will be Oct 7- Nov 4, and Jan 6 – Feb 3. All are welcome, whether you took The Color of Compromise course or not. It would be helpful if you read TCofC before starting How to Fight Racism, but it is not required. It is our hope that we will be able to develop a list of concrete actions to recommend that our church can take to actively work toward reconciliation.

There is a book and workbook. You will need both. Books can be purchased from Pastor Diane Christopher in her office, or, online.

Mark your calendars now to reserve the time for this study.



Oops! Our poundage and monetary donations were a tad down in July but we know we can do better. Canned fruits and veggies as well as peanut butter and cereals are always needed.

Food Bank Sunday is September 5, 2021 and October 3, 2021

The Hunger Walk on Sept. 11th is getting both registrations and support donations for which we thank you. Our

Registration Table will be in the Fellowship Hall during August and until the actual event.

Thank you again for your participation and support.

Your VPC team.

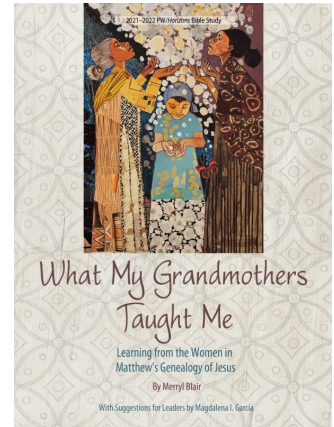


Women's Ministries Gathering Luncheon and 2021-22 Bible Study

By Liz Haynes

Women's Ministries will have their first Gathering Luncheon for the new study year on September 21st at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Diane Christopher will introduce this year's Bible study and cover the first lesson as the program. Reservations will be taken before and after Worship on Sunday, September 12th and Sunday, September 19th at the Women's Ministries table by the entrance to the Spiritual Life Center. The cost will be \$11.

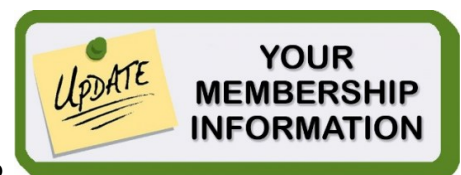
This year's Bible study, entitled *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*, by Merryl Blair, will be for sale at the Women's Ministries table starting September 5th. The cost is \$11.



Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?

Have you thought about Jesus' grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or would you like to update your information with the church? Maybe you'd like to add your name to our daily E-Blast to keep up on what's happening at the church?



Call Cindy Johnson or Linda Hester at the church office (520) 625-5023 and we will be happy to make any changes or corrections for you. We like to keep our records up-to-date so you won't miss anything.

Parish Nurse: Chris Erickson, BA, RN

Caring for those in our congregation

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse News

August 2021

Coming soon: Cardio-drumming will begin September 14th at 9 am as a once a week 30 minute exercise program for health, stress, and balance. Please email: parishnurse@valleypres.net



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment. Blood pressure screening clinic may resume in October.

Connections, during this time, are also essential for those to receive socialization and to know others care. Keep communications with friends, neighbors, and family during this time. Please let us know any concerns or needs that we may be able to help with.



Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy. We are hopeful for exercise programs to resume and/or start here at VPC.



By My Side, a support and uplifting chorus, uses the irrepressible power of singing to move people with Alzheimer's (or other dementia diagnosis) and their care partners to rediscover themselves, make new friends, laugh together, learn together, empower and support, and create something unique together. The priority is to engage and embrace people with Alzheimer's/dementia and their care partners who live at home and who have fewer opportunities to socialize and contribute. We are hopeful that this chorus can begin again in the fall.

Please watch for more information coming soon.

By Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson, BA, RN



Slips, Trips, and Falls



Every second of every day an older adult falls in the US, making falls the number one cause of injuries and deaths from injury among older adults (36 million each year in the US). Every 11 seconds, an older adult is seen in the emergency room or department for an injury that is fall-related (about 2.8 million people). Just in our area of Green Valley there are 120 – 130 falls each month that are reported. If all falls were to be reported, there would be about 4 times as many.

According to the CDC, one in four older adults (age 65 and older) fall each year, but less than half of all these falls talk to their healthcare providers about it. Most of these falls happen in the home and may change our quality of life. Mobility issues, socialization, emotional challenges may occur with any fall and it's injury. There are also factors associated with falls such as medical costs, and time in a hospital and rehab if an injury is sustained from a fall.

A few questions to ask:

- Have you reviewed your medications with your provider?
- Do you exercise (improve your balance and strength)?
- Have you had your eyes and feet checked yearly?
- Are there fall risks in your home?



Most falls are preventable and are not a part of aging. September 22nd is the National Fall Awareness Day. During the month of September, information on falls, prevention and aging without injury will be sent out via E-blast and be available on a Faith and Health table on Sundays. Please watch for future presentations on fall prevention at VPC in the future.



Medical Minute:

How safe is your home? Are there rugs and cords on the floor that might be fall risks?

Watch for more information on falls on the VPC E-blast and at the Faith and Health table.



More Bloggers wanted (17 and counting)

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.

Saturday, August 7, 2021

Reunions

John Akwan

After Kristi and I finished our run on an early Sunday morning, we walked it off through our Hai Malakal neighborhood. Suddenly a young boy collecting plastic bottles standing in the middle of the road fifty feet ahead of us made a loud shriek as he saw us coming. He stood there, transfixed. He stood there in recognition. He stood there in silent surprise. The woman sitting at her corner shop shouted to silence the boy until she was arrested by the unfolding scene.

"Simon?" I asked, tentatively.

"John Akwan," the boy asserted, standing in the road half-naked in the lightly falling rain. Yes, I said to myself. Of course, it is John Akwan. It was the meeting of souls long estranged, a poor discarded child in the heart of a war-ravaged land and two white persons of privilege from a far off place. We exchanged pleasantries and I explained that we had returned to Juba. I moved towards the boy and grasped his arm in fellowship and loving concern.

John responded, "Ana gait" (I am here, I am around).

Con't

Bob & Kristi Con't

As we turned to walk on, the eyes of the woman at the corner shop turned towards the ground. “John Akwan, you are alive!” I whispered to myself. “You are here,” I thought. Praise the Lord! I wondered then about the others, particularly Grovener and Simon. These lost boys who live off the streets of Juba live in my heart. Thank you, Lord, for John Akwan.

Daniel Mawer

My phone rang. I answered it. The other side felt garbled, difficult to distinguish voices which seemed somehow in conversation with each other and not with me. Suddenly, I heard my name. Then I heard the voice on the other end identify its owner, “I am Daniel Mawer.”

“Daniel Mawer?” I answered in grateful surprise and joyful recognition. Daniel was at a loss for words. Nuer men do not cry, but it seemed that my former student was choked up. I gave him a moment to recover.

“Teacher, you are back in Juba.”

Yes, I replied. Daniel gave me a short update on his life. Though our conversation did not last more than ten minutes, I walked away from my phone feeling blessed, reconnected to the life of one of my dear students. Over the next few hours, I recalled special memories I shared with Daniel – my first meeting with Daniel at the



college in 2017, going with Daniel to visit his pastor in the hospital, getting caught together in a massive rainstorm and huddling together under a large Neem tree, visiting Daniel’s church and Daniel treating me afterwards to a Nuer specialty called “Wal Wal” at a local eatery.

Daniel shares about the challenges of life in Juba, October 2017

Con't

Stephen

Stephen was one of my first students. Classes had become a challenge for Stephen, being separated from his family. The then Acting Academic Dean and I, along with other faculty members, were sympathetic to Stephen's plight. Stephen faced many challenges but pressed through them all. On graduation day, Stephen's smile remains indelibly imprinted on my heart.

When our current Academic Dean mentioned the name Reverend Stephen as the one we were picking up on our way to church last Sunday, I wondered, "Is it same Stephen?" Sure enough, it was my former student. Stephen packed into the car and we enjoyed exchanging greetings. Stephen leads a ministry to street children at a new church plant on the outskirts of Juba, teaching the children about trauma healing and giving them simple instruction which they would otherwise miss, not being in school. Stephen leaves his home every day at 6am, Monday to Saturday, to take three buses across town to go and minister to these abandoned children.

Various people support Stephen in different ways. Stephen expresses gratitude to now have his family with him in Juba, and he expresses profound gratitude for the gifts given to sustain him and his family and his ministry. I am humbled by Stephen. I stand in awe of his posture of service and his heart of gratitude.

Of course, there are many other "reunions" I could recount since our return, but may these three serve as a sampling. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good. Amen!

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



Stephen Ministry

Psalm 145: 14 The Lord helps the fallen and lifts up those bent beneath their loads.

“Unloading groceries, I carried as many bags as possible to avoid making a second trip. My neighbor was walking past and immediately came to assist me. I thanked him but *insisted I could manage on my own*. When bags began to slip from my grasp, I accepted his help. It was a relief to be freed of the heavy bags even though it had been my choice to carry them.” (Gloria Doty)



What heavy burdens are you carrying? Loneliness from the isolation of COVID? Estrangement from a family member? Newly diagnosed illness or a chronic one that is wearing you down?

We are Jesus' hands and feet in this world to help carry the burdens of others. Your Stephen Ministers at VPC are ready to help carry the load by listening and walking with you through your fears and anxieties. *To request a Stephen Minister to talk with*, please call the church office (520) 625-5023. One of our Stephen Ministers will be in touch. You don't have to go it alone!

If you are feeling called to help bear the burdens of others, we invite you to join our next Stephen Minister training in January. Please call Patti Bright (520-305-3275) for more information.

STEPHEN LEADERS 2021-2022

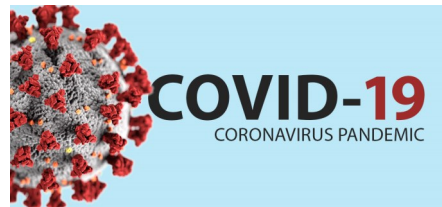
Recruiting Coordinator	Patti Bright	(520) 305-3275	patti.bright1@gmail.com
Referrals/Men	John Dunham	(520) 399-9066	jrcactusaz@cox.net
Referrals/Women	Carolyn Hill	(520) 409-2491 (c) (209) 581-1998	carolynehill@bellsouth.net
Supervision	Jan Honemann	(520) 393-8849 (c) (303) 731-9123	jannahonemann@gmail.com
Coordinator	Helen Phillips	(520) 877-8027 (c) (520) 282-1783	lphillips41@cox.net
CE	Gee-Gee Smith	(610) 212-1172	Tubacgee@gmail.com
Training	Ted Smith	(610) 213-5460	tubacted@gmail.com
Pastor	Dr. Craig Lindsey	(520) 625-5028	revdrcraiglindsey@gmail.com

Nogales, Arizona

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

Submitted by Kay Brower

Laura Romero, the executive director at St. Andrew's Children's Clinic was extremely disappointed to announce the cancellation of the September and November mission trips to the Hermosillo Hospital with children who need Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate surgeries. There is too much risk due to the increase in COVID cases. The St. Andrew's board, staff and volunteers want to take no chances of exposing the children to this virus and the Delta variant.



Getting adequate vaccinations has been a problem in Mexico. Families are worried and effective shots are not easily available. Arizona is making an offer to help get more reliable vaccines to the people of Sonora, Mexico.

St. Andrews hopes to conduct very small clinics later this year. The Border Patrol will allow children to come across for appointments at St. Andrews. The doctors and support staff are looking forward to providing medical help to the children as soon as it is safe.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Nogales, Arizona has agreed to serve as a Clinic each month. COVID has been a challenge for this mission. Above all, they certainly need **the prayers and support of Valley Presbyterian Church.a**





OPERATION MOBILIZATION

Bangladesh Partnership Update

Operation Mobilization (OM) Bangladesh continues church planting in five northern and southern districts, this is challenging during the pandemic; but, God has opened many doors for sharing the good news. Currently, 135 attend church services in our seven churches. We established 16 new fellowships that welcome 190 to openly share Jesus and teach scripture.

Another way to show the love of Christ is through education to those who have no money. OM in 2021 started 22 schools in which 660 poor students' study. One, Farhana, is five years old, with a brother and two sisters. Her father is a fisherman with not enough money for education, so he enrolled her in an OM tuition-free school in the village. The curriculum includes learning the Bangla and English alphabets, singing, dance, and playing games.

The OM schools provide an excellent opportunity to build relationships with parents. The OM team visits children's homes monthly and conducts parent meetings at school. This is a great way to share the good news of Christ. Pam and Dave L oversee and advise on activities in Bangladesh.

Prayer from the OM Website:

Thank You, Father, for Bangladesh, with its waterways and green fields. Thank You that the people haven't lost their hope despite poverty and catastrophes. Thank You that they are instead eager to learn, to improve their situation and that they are always open to discuss matters of faith. We pray that You will use disasters as opportunities to show Your love and mercy, and that the seed scattered by Your people will fall on fruitful soil in the souls of the Bangladeshi.



Currently the Home has 51 children and 7 adults – all are healthy. Two students are attending college and 4 are attending high school together at the same location – see photo to the left. All costs associated with education – including lap tops, school supplies, tuition are paid for with your donations to RISE Scholastic Achievements. The two children attending college (Edgar and Carolina) still live at the Home and have taken

on adult responsibilities of cleaning the home and looking after the younger children.

Shown in the other photo (below) is Julio and Bertha Durazo of New Life Church for God with four young girls who just turned 15. They were given a special celebration party for this milestone. Shown left to right are: Nubia, Fernanda, Janeth, and Melani who are all attending junior high school. Bless you all for making a difference in the lives of these young people. To learn more, go to: www.risesa.org





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES



Updated Stats have recently come out for Youth on Their Own! Here are some numbers that give a good picture of how YOTO is helping kids!

- 2,176 - Homeless Youth served (2019-2020)
- 6 % - Increase over previous year
- 377 - High School Graduates
- 84% - Graduation Rate for YOTO seniors
- \$2,500 - is the amount it costs to serve one YOTO student for a full year

The Complete Annual Report 2019-2020 is on the Youth on Their Own website! (www.yoto.org) Choose the tab "ABOUT US" and you will find lots more helpful information about the organization!

INSPIRATIONAL CARD MAKING

We will meet at church in late September to make Inspirational Cards for Youth on Their Own students! PLEASE JOIN US! Time and date will be posted in the Sunday Bulletin!

Submitted by Mary Horn, Mission Committee Liaison to YOTO

Crossroads Mission, Nogales AZ

Submitted by Joan Bolin

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, I texted Bert Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, and received the following information:

Health Report on Ben Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission. Ben has had health problems the past few years because of a fall, which has sent him in-and-out of hospitals and rehab facilities in Phoenix and Tucson. Ben fell in 2018 and bruised his brainstem and cerebellum of the brain. Bert was happy to report Ben will be coming home July 15, 2021, after months of rehab. Ben is still having problems with his right arm and his body still shakes. His left arm has a steel plate from the elbow to the wrist. Ben's arm will heal but the shaking will get worse. He has months of rehab in front of him. Please pray for Ben, and Bert also.

On a happy note, Crossroads Mission celebrated Father's Day on Saturday, June 19, 2021. A luncheon of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, beans, bread and cranberry sauce was prepared and served to the 40 people who attended. Each man also received a cake, toiletries and working gloves.

There currently are 3 women and a 6-year-old child living in the women's shelter houses.

Help Needed: Men to frame and finish a small area with cement. I don't have any more information, but any person interested in this project, please call or text Bert, 1-520-470-3860.

Crossroads Mission's Stats for the month of June 2021:

- Shelter Guests - Men: 79
- Shelter Guests – Women: 17
- Shelter Guests – Children: 16
- Total Meals prepared on-site: 1191
- Produce Bags Handed Out: 616
- Chapel Attendees: 951



Crossroad Mission's main building which houses the men's shelter and the chapel.

Con't

Crossroads Mission Con't

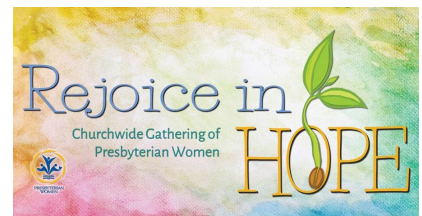
Bert again gave thanks for the quilts she received from Valley Presbyterian Church's quilting group 5-months ago for use in the Missions women/children's shelter houses. A BIG thanks goes to our quilting ladies of the church.

Monetary gifts are always needed to keep the Mission running and the facilities in good condition. Canned food is also needed to keep the Mission's pantry stocked so meals can be prepared on-site for people who arrive at the Mission in need of a meal. Deposit all donated canned food in the container labeled "Crossroads Mission" in Fellowship Hall.

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

Women's Ministries

Seven of us met at the church and joined with women across the country as we watched the virtual Plenary Session and Worship Service for the Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women. We were challenged to confront the social justice issues that our nation and world face as the body of Christ and we celebrated Communion with our sisters in PW. Judy Lindsey had to leave early so is not in the picture. Gee Gee Smith and Joyce Lambert could not join us but watched at home. Left to right: Esther Grimsley, Anne Morrison, Judy Aguayo, Martha Ashton, Chris Fleischmann, and Liz Haynes.





September 2021

happy birthday



Dorothy Foucher *	09/01
Sally Ruschmeier	09/03
Sylvia Landry	09/04
Nancy Crosby	09/05
Jane Groendyk	09/05
Bill Lemman*	09/06
Ralph Tanner*	09/06
Dale Parker	09/06
Charles Ashton	09/06
Jim Chervenka	09/08
Sara Hennigar	09/09
Richard Bolin	09/09
Ed Hamby	09/10
Donald DuDeVoire	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



- ** indicates turning 90**
• indicates age in their 90's

Rudy Sweisfurth, Jr	09/13
James Collins	09/14
Gordon Johnson	09/14
Lois Dierken	09/14
Ellen Entwistle	09/14
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
Jane Bond *	09/26
Mary Lillie	09/27
Carolyn Stevens	09/27
Charles Willie	09/30

SUPPER CLUSTERS

by Carmen Nylund, Organizer



It has been more than 18 months since Supper Clusters were formed in January 2020. Some Clusters did get together in January or February 2020 and then we all went into isolation to prevent the spread of COVID.

Now it is time to think about Supper Clusters for 2022. We are going to start from the very beginning with everyone signing up for next year. For those of

you who were in Clusters in 2020 but did not meet, there will be space on the Sign-Up Form to indicate you would like to be in the same grouping again if possible.

Some of you who are new to Valley Presbyterian 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, whether full or part time, Regular Attendees, Couples and Singles are invited to be part of a Cluster.

How it Works:

- October – November, sign up to join a Supper Cluster
- In December, the Supper Cluster organizers will review names and form groups of eight to form a Cluster
- In December, each participant will receive a letter with the names and contact information for their Supper Cluster group
- Supper Clusters generally begin meeting in January and go 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.

Watch for sign-up information and a sign-up form in the October *Valley Voice*.

Questions? Contact organizer, Carmen Nylund at clnylund1968@outlook.com or at 520-269-7732.

**Valley Presbyterian Church
Faith and Health Committee
Needs Assessment Survey 2021**



The following survey is to give our Faith and Health Committee a better idea of the areas of interest or concern for developing programs and presentations. Thank you for your participation.

Please check appropriate response(s):

Transportation: ☐ Drives ☐ Need assistance with rides

Living Situation: ☐ Home ☐ Apartment ☐ Assisted Living ☐ Nursing Home
☐ Other _____

Family: ☐ Live Alone ☐ Live with Family ☐ Live with Spouse/ Partner/Significant
Other ☐ Family in Arizona ☐ Family Out of State ☐ No Family

Is your primary healthcare provider local? ☐ Y, ☐ N
If no, where is your primary healthcare provider located? _____

Have seen your Primary Physician in last 6 months? ☐ Y, ☐ N
Do you see a specialist/specialty provider? _____

Please indicate if you have/had or experienced any of the following:

Health Concern

- ☐ Heart disease
- ☐ Alzheimer's
- ☐ Memory issues
- ☐ Blood pressure
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Isolation/Loneliness
- ☐ Diabetes
- ☐ Depression
- ☐ Grief
- ☐ Vision difficulty
- ☐ Hearing loss
- ☐ Arthritis/Fibromyalgia
- ☐ Terminal Illness
- ☐ Chronic Illness
- ☐ Asthma
- ☐ Breathing difficulties
- ☐ Allergies
- ☐ Other: _____

Please see other side

**Valley Presbyterian Church
Faith and Health Committee
Needs Assessment Survey 2021**



Areas/Programs of Interest

- ☐ Alzheimer's/Memory Issues
- ☐ Alzheimer's Choir/Support
- ☐ Faith and Aging
- ☐ Fall prevention/Safety Issues
- ☐ Mobility
- ☐ Exercise classes
- ☐ Blood Pressure
- ☐ First Aid/CPR classes
- ☐ Stroke
- ☐ Walking to Bethlehem
- ☐ Heart Disease
- ☐ Caregiver Support Group
- ☐ Cancer Support Group
- ☐ Other Support Groups: _____
- ☐ Anxiety/Depression
- ☐ Isolation/Loneliness
- ☐ Community Resources
- ☐ Diabetes Prevention/Management
- ☐ Valley Fever
- ☐ Facing Death
- ☐ Medication(s) Info
- ☐ Sleep
- ☐ Living Wills/Directives
- ☐ Nutrition/Labels
- ☐ Scams/Scam Presentation
- ☐ Other Workshops/Presentations: _____

Please indicate any other topics/ interests that you would like the Faith and Health Committee and Parish Nurse to present and offer as classes?

Please contact Chris Erickson, RN, Parish Nurse for any other comments/concerns at 625-5023, parishnurse@valleypres.net , or by appointment.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO HELP YOU!

**Please place needs assessment survey in the collection box located in
the office or welcome Centers.**