

THE VALLEY VOICE

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2024



We Have Heard You and Responded

Submitted by: Pastor Craig

Four years ago, only half of one of our speakers worked in the Sanctuary and often with reverberation. When COVID happened, within the week we began broadcasting worship! Months later, we invested in a Live-Streaming system. Throughout those first years, there have regularly been complaints that the volume was not loud enough and that when a soprano hit a high note the broadcast became staticky.

Over a year ago, we ordered a new soundboard of the latest technology, which was backordered. Recently this arrived and it has taken several weeks to get everything connected correctly and dialed in. Simultaneously, this year, after 45 years, we were able to get a revolutionary kind of speaker system for our Choir to be able to hear worship and each other singing. Finally, everything appears to be working as it should with better volume than ever before. At times it appears that for every two steps we make forward, there is a backward step, but we do make progress!

Thank you for bearing with us and praying for us.

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Adult Bible Class

Game Day Fridays

2800 S Camino del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
Telephone: (520) 625-5023
vpc-office@valleypres.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 servanthood.

Valley Presbyterian Church

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Green Valley, AZ 85622

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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. Joe Hawkins,

Pastor Emeritus



Sunday Worship
Traditional Service of Worship

9:30 a.m.

Online and in Person

www.valleypresbyterian.net

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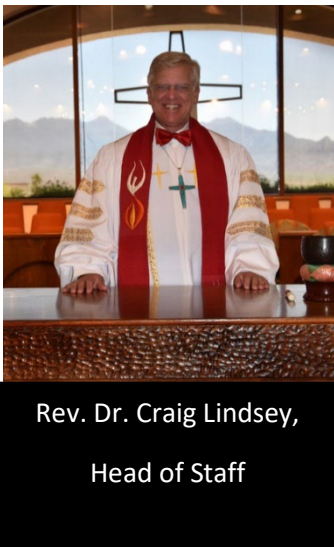
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OUR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

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 Alice Sanchez- Nursery Attendant.....vpc-office@valleypres.net

SUNDAY Worship Schedule and Other Happenings

June 2 9:30 a.m.	Mark 2: 23-36 “The Sabbath was made for man not the other way” Communion Sunday, Food Bank Sundy	Pastor Craig
June 9 9:30 a.m.	I Samuel 8: 4-11 “Give Us a King” Mark 3: 20-35 “A Kingdom Divided” Nogales Crossroads Sundy	Pastor Craig
June 16 9:30 a.m.	I Samuel 15 “Samuel Anoints David” Mark 4: 26-34 “Parable of Seeds” Father’s Day Sunday, Crossroads Mission Sunday	Pastor Craig
June 23 9:30 a.m.	I Samuel 17 “David and Goliath” Mark 4: 35-41 “Jesus Calms the Storm” Special Send-off for Sophia St. John Youth On Their Own Sunday	Pastor Craig
June 30 9:30 a.m.	Noisy Offering for Hands of a Friend, 4th of July indoor Picnic	Chuck Ramsay



From Pastor Craig

Among the most important changes that have occurred in recent years, I believe, has been an increase of our trust in one another and clarification of the role our Session plays. This is very subtle, yet vitally important, both in the smooth leadership of our Church as well as preventing possible conflict and misunderstanding.

In most regards, our Church is highly ecumenical; those who grew up Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian or Non-Denominational, feel welcome and comfortable (which is what we desire). We are also fairly laissez faire, with committees making recommendations as decisions, which are routinely accepted unanimously as our Session does not want or need to micro-manage work researched by committees of our Session.

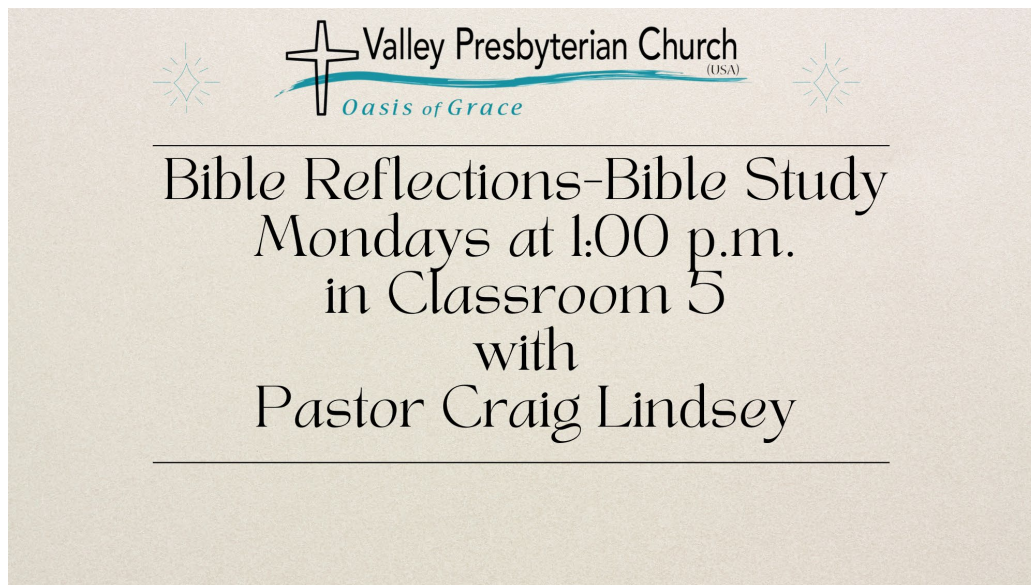
There are however specific responsibilities, where our Church must be thoroughly Presbyterian, following procedures to ensure what Presbyterians call “decent and in good order”. Most often, this means that the Pastor(s), the Session and our Clerk, the Personnel Committee, or higher-level governing bodies within the Church need to be trusted to speak and act for us, as our congregation’s elected, ordained, installed leaders.

The last week of June through the first week of July, this year, Judy Aguayo and I have been elected by our Presbytery to serve as the two Presbytery Commissioners to the General Assembly meeting of the {PC(USA)} Presbyterian Church (USA). That is the equivalent of our serving as The Council of Bishops or the Vatican Council! Similar to those, we will be acting on recommendations regarding the Environment, Sexuality Issues, Wars, etc. As Commissioners, we pray and listen and act as GOD personally leads us. While we/you may agree or disagree with decisions of the General Assembly, as Commissioners our responsibility is then to represent those decisions fairly and appropriately when we come home. We vote as instructed by GOD alone, yet we represent the General Assembly to you & Presbytery when we return.

In the PC(USA) whenever a pastor retires/leaves, a Mission Study is done. Ordinarily, this cannot begin until that pastor is off-site and lasts for 2-3 years! Because I was the Chairperson of a Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry for 12 years and on COM in this Presbytery for 3 years (and I am not going anywhere), our Church was able to start that process at this time of year in 2023. Also, because of the dedicated hard work of our volunteers and the current health & vitality of our congregation, they researched and wrote this report in one year! The Mission Study is very thorough and I believe accurate. Now, that report goes to our Session, who need, to add to it from Session’s knowledge of our Church; as well as how to implement our Commission’s recommendations according to the goals the Session establishes. Then, that Session version of the report will go to the Commission on Ministry of our Presbytery, who may add to the report as well. All of this is like going to your Internist, who sends you for a thorough set of tests, who then sends the results to a specialist, who makes a referral to another specialist. The goal is to have as thorough and accurate a set of findings as possible. At which point, the final report will be shared with our full congregation. The good news is that because we are doing this now, and the congregation is so healthy, we will not need to go through an interim or upheaval for probably another decade or more.

Recently, our committees were asked to send funding requests for special projects to our Gifts & Memorials Committee, who then presented the first collection of these to our Session. Rather than simply approving this as usual business, our Session, with good fiduciary responsibility stopped to ask that we pray and come back to this at a special meeting in a few weeks.

We trust GOD and trust one another, confident everything is in good hands and functioning well!



Bible Reflections continues throughout the summer!

This is a different kind of Bible study, one that spends as much time as we need with each chapter and book. We will try to give background that is helpful and offer ideas about interpretations (even pronunciation of names), but what is most important is what you hear in the text.

You don't have to attend every class and you may join at any time.

To join by zoom, go to <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 294 281 2414

Password: Heaven

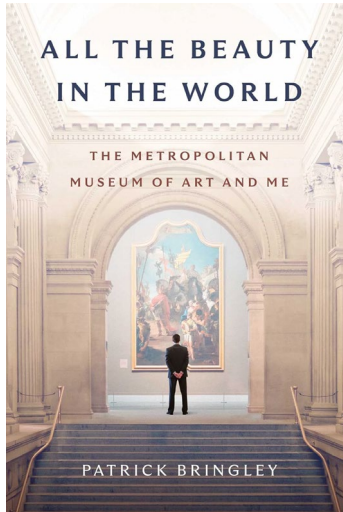
Previous classes are recorded and can be viewed on the church's website:

valleypres.net

Valley Readers

2:00 PM – Monday, June 24, 2024

Classroom 1



After his brother was diagnosed with terminal cancer, Patrick Bringley quit his job as a staffer at *The New Yorker* and fled to the most beautiful place he knew, the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He obtained a guard position and stayed for 10 years. *All the Beauty in the World* is his meditation on grief, the wonderful art works that he encountered, and the fascinating background culture of the guard staffers who are an entertainingly diverse crew. Bringley's memoir was named one of the year's best books by NPR and the New York Public Library, among others, and is available in the church library as well as the local public library. Please join us for a discussion led by Liz Haynes. Contact Anne Morrison for additional information at 520-399-0762.



I'M SO EXCITED!

General Assembly 2024

Judy Aguayo, GA Commissioner

The 226th General Assembly is meeting this month beginning June 30th through July 4th. I was selected Vice Moderator of the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee. I will be going to Salt Lake City early on June 24th to conduct Committee meetings. Look for updates in the E-Blasts!

“Morning Has Broken”

Adult Bible Camp

July 16, 17 & 18

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Linda Freeman

Adult Vacation Bible School in now **Adult Bible Camp!**

Recommended for ages 55+

Save the mornings (9 to noon) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday July 16, 17 and 18 for this summer’s Adult Bible Camp. We are calling it *Morning has broken ~ Every day is a fresh experience!*

We think adults our age - should have the opportunity to step away from their usual routine and nurture their faith journey. There will be stories, crafts, activities, games, songs, snacks and lots and lots of fun!

Registration will be Sunday, July 7 and 14 after worship. You can also register by contacting the church office. There is no charge.

This is open to everyone – so feel free to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome!





Movie Ministry

A Man for All Seasons

Thursday, June 6, 2024

1:30 p.m. in the

Spiritual Life Center

Winner of 6 Academy Awards, including best motion picture. From the play by Robert Bolt of the same name.

This 1966 movie takes you back to the 16th-century. Paul Scofield who plays Lord Chancellor of England who refused both to sign a letter asking Pope Clement VII to annul Henry VIII of England's Marriage to Catherine of Aragon and to take an Oath of Supremacy declaring Henry Supreme Head of the Church of England.

Facilitated by Linda Freeman who will introduce the movie and then will have a brief discussion after the film.

This is a free event, and all are welcome, bring your friends and neighbors.



CLERK'S CORNER

MAUREEN RAMSAY, CLERK OF SESSION

The Clerks Corner is taking a summer hiatus and will return in the fall!

stephen MINISTRY®

Submitted by: Jana Honermann, Stephen Leader Team Coordinator

The Caregiver's Compass "Christ-Centered"



Stephen Minister trainees learn about the Caregiver's Compass in their very first lesson. The Caregiver's Compass provides direction for the journey on becoming a Stephen Minister and at the end of every lesson the trainees are asked to relate what they had learned in the lesson that relates to each "direction" of the Caregiver's Compass. This month I will talk about the center of the compass.

The symbol in the center of the compass is a Chi-Rho (pronounced kai-row), which is an ancient symbol representing Christ. Chi and Rho, which look like an X and a P, are the first two letters of the Greek word Christos, which means "Christ." Ever since the early days of Christianity, people have used these two Greek letters as a symbol for Jesus Christ. The Chi-Rho is at the center of the Caregiver's Compass because Jesus is the focal point of Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers use the compass to remind them to be compassionate, full of faith, skilled, trustworthy, and Christ-centered in all that they do. More specifically, how do Stephen Ministers keep Jesus at the center of their caring relationships?

- they keep Jesus at the center of their own lives, which places him at the center of their caring relationships as well.
- they pray for their care receivers—including praying with them when their care receivers welcome it.
- they trust Jesus to bring healing and wholeness to their care receivers—they don't believe they have to cure or change their care receivers.
- they use distinctively Christian caring tools, such as the Bible and forgiveness, in sensitive and loving ways that care receiver's welcome.

Christ is at the center of Stephen Ministry. Jesus is the destination for any caregiving journey—and the road Stephen Ministers use to reach that destination. It is Christ's care that Stephen Ministers bring to care receivers. The way to help care receivers find healing and hope is to put them in touch with Jesus, the one true source of what they need.

How can Stephen Ministers put care receivers in touch with Jesus? The Holy Spirit works in and through Stephen Ministers to touch those in need. By getting in touch with God through the Holy Spirit, Stephen Ministers find the true source of the compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness they bring to others.

Would you like a Christ-centered companion to walk beside you through a difficult time? Call Linda Piotrowski or Bob Lillie who would be happy to talk with you to find out whether or not a Stephen Minister is appropriate for you.

Or maybe you would like to learn more about how to become a Stephen Minister to provide compassionate care to others. Please talk to Patti Bright who will explain more about the training process and the responsibilities Stephen Ministers have. We plan on having a Stephen Minister training class in the beginning of 2025 and we will be providing more information on it in the fall so that you can make a well-informed decision.

Blessings to all!



PATIO SALE NEWS

Submitted by Carmen Nylund

CHANGES HAVE COME TO PATIO SALE

Furniture at Patio Sale - After 43 years of Annual Patio Sales, it was the Coordinating Team's recommendation to Session that "we no longer accept household furniture as donations, and we do not include furniture for sale as part of the Annual Patio Sale effective May 1, 2024." The Session approved the recommendation.

There were two main concerns that were instrumental in leading us to this decision – financial and the human resources aspect. First, for the last two years, the furniture department has lost money due to the cost of storage units, tent rental and the cost of moving the furniture from storage to the church. Secondly, our volunteers are getting older, and we have a concern for our trucking crew when it comes to lifting the heavy furniture, not only once at the time of pick up, but again, moving the furniture from the truck into the storage unit. We feel it is only a matter of time until there is a serious injury or damage to someone's property. We will still take donations of outdoor patio sets, chaise lounges, etc. We have been doing a number of Estate Sales and we expect the income from those sales will off-set the income furniture sales generated.

We are aware that some of you, our volunteers, supporters, and shoppers from around the community will be disappointed, but we feel strongly that this is the right decision at this time.

Estate Sales – These sales are fairly new for our Patio Sale Team and have been very successful. This came about when homeowners wanted to donate everything in their home to the Patio Sale. In the past, we would pack it up, load everything onto the truck and take it to storage. Now, we have a team headed by Nelda Lobb and Chris Schorr, who sell everything on site. The cost of doing an Estate Sale is minimal - \$50 per sale for a newspaper advertisement. These sales are not limited only to homes of church members, but to anyone who wants to donate all of the proceeds of the estate sale to the Patio Sale. If you are interested in our Estate Sale program, please call the Patio Sale phone line and leave a message.

Donation Bin - Have you recently dropped off donations in the Patio Sale Bin? If so, you may have noticed that donations are only being accepted Monday through Friday instead of every day of the week. This change was made for two reasons – to try and discourage people from dropping off items that they cannot sell and that we cannot sell at the Patio Sale either. Most of those items end up in the dumpster. Reducing the number of days also reduces the amount of time our volunteers, and sometimes our custodians, spend emptying the bin. Thanks for responding to this change by leaving your donations on weekdays and for spreading the new hours to your friends and neighbors.

If any of you have questions on any of these changes or want to share concerns or new ideas, please contact any of us on the Coordinating Team.

Carmen Nylund Chris Schorr Nelda Lobb Jim McDougall



From the Children's Contingent

Sunday School Lessons in

June

"The Fruit of the Spirit"

Submitted by Pam Karbowsky



Galatians 5: 22-23

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (NASB)

This scripture passage shows how the Holy Spirit applies the gospel in our character.

LOVE is a fruit of the Spirit and a command from God.

When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." (ESV)

So....what is love?

How would you define it?

JOY is a fruit of the Spirit.

Psalm 43: 4

"Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God." (ESV)

God is our Joy, and we experience joy through his word.

Can joy be present at the same time as sadness?

Peace is a fruit of the spirit and is made possible through God.

The peace the world offers only lasts a short time.

But Philippians 4: 7

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

What does peace feel like?

Patience, a fruit of the Spirit modeled by our God and made possible through Christ.

Colossians 1:11 tells us that God's glorious power gives us strength to be patient. Not only does God give us strength to be patient, but He also shows us how to be patient.

What were times when you had to be patient?

How did that work for you?

The remaining fruit will be our August lessons.



Caring for those in our Congregation

Faith & Health/Parish Nurse May 2024

Submitted by Parish Nurse, Chris Erickson



Join us at Cardio-drumming; this class has just a few more openings. Cardio drumming begins at 9 am on Tuesdays and is once a week; a 30-minute exercise program for health, stress, and balance. Please email parishnurse@valleypres.net for more information and/or for registration. Keeping active helps to stay positive and healthy and strengthens ankles and quads which can prevent falls.

This class will continue through the summer.

Drink plenty of water when you are exercising or are outside doing activities. Be careful of dehydration especially in these hot summer months.



Blood pressure screening will be by individual appointment.

Save the Dates for blood drive at VPC:

American Red Cross blood drive is here at VPC in 2024.

Thursdays July 25th, from 9am – 2pm. 44 appointments are available.

Our next blood drives will be:

July 25th, and November 21st.



Watch for more information on future eblasts, bulletins, and flyers throughout the church. Registration is through the American Red Cross website. If you would like to volunteer at this event to welcome those arriving, please contact the Parish Nurse.

Medical Minute: June is National Safety Month. Rattlesnakes do not always rattle before they bite. If a snake bites you, call 911 immediately, move as little as possible.

June is National Safety Month

Submitted by: Chris Erickson, VPC Nurse



June is National Safety Month. We often think of heat, bike, and sun safety. There are a lot of issues with safety including mediations and insects, spiders, and snakes. Arizona has a lot of spiders and other insects, especially after the large amount of rain during the monsoon season.

Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center is located in the University of Arizona and is a resource for all 24 hours a day. Their number is 1-800-222-1222 and their website is azpoison.com

Insects such as mosquitoes, bees, wasps, flies, and gnats are out in abundance after the rains. Take proper care to keep coverage, avoid bees/wasps, use insect repellent when needed, and watch for any signs of bite reactions or illness after a bite. Please contact your healthcare provider to have further evaluation. Toads are also out right now, please be careful that pets avoid these creatures.

This Center has information about dangerous stings and bites as well as sting first aid from spiders (Black Widow, Arizona brown, and Brown Recluse), and snake and gila monster bites. Call 911 immediately with any snake bites, swelling of mouth/lips or breathing problems.

Poisonous products do not always come in a visible hazardous bottle. These can be cleaners or chemicals used in cleaning the household, make-up products such as nail polish remover or mouthwash, medications, car products such as anti-freeze, gasoline, car cleaning/maintenance chemicals, many different plants, toads, and of course the Arizona creatures listed above. Please check labels carefully before using any product and use the product the correct way. Certain plants can be poisonous to humans but also to our pets. For more information, please check the website azpoison.com before planting new plants if you have pets.

Flyers from the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center are located outside of the Parish Nurse office here at Valley Presbyterian Church. Information on these topics helps prevent dangerous events.

Other safety concerns of the summer months are the sun, heat, and dehydration. Please be careful with the heat. The temperatures are climbing into the 100's and dehydration can happen very quickly. Many do not know they are even dehydrated. Carry water with you. Use sunscreen. Move your walks to early morning hours to avoid the heat.

The Valley Galley Lunch Program

Submitted by Maureen Brealey



The second free lunch for those in need was served May 10th at Valley Assistance Services parking lot. Volunteers Mary Horn, Linda Jorn, Sue Horton and our trusty driver Ron Darrah greeted guests at VAS, and a lovely lunch of chicken tortilla soup, corn muffins and a peach crisp was provided. Volunteer drivers arrived to deliver lunch to those not able to attend. VAS has tables all set for guests to use inside, and also offers their services as needed. The Valley Galley Lunch program has been a wonderful collaboration between VAS and this outreach mission project of the church.

The lunch is available to *anyone* in need, but most especially targeting seniors at risk, those living alone on limited income,

or perhaps with medical issues. Besides the food, the opportunity to socialize and share a meal is a gift we can give.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal and a couple to come and serve. The next lunch will be Friday June 14th. We will prep the meal on Thursday for a couple of hours and bake and serve on Friday. *Any* volunteer time is appreciated. Please contact me at (760) 898-4448 or Maureen.brealey@outlook.com to sign-up, or for any questions.

This is a truly rewarding experience for all!



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
SPRING GATHERING 2024

Our Presbyterian Women's' Spring Gathering was a success due to many willing hands.

- Special thanks to the members of the Joyful Spirit Ensemble who led us in music.
- Thanks to the communion preparers Jana , Mary and Cheryl.
- Many helpers in the kitchen led by Anne Morrison, prepared the luncheon which was served by our loyal tuxedo shirted men.
- Several of our women volunteered as greeters, communion, and offertory servers.
- Thanks to Pastor Craig, Cindy Brown and the custodial team led by Steve Hart.

Hospitality was great, said many of the attendees.
Again, my sincere thanks to you all.

Judy Lindsey, Moderator of Presbyterian Women de Cristo



Game Days Back

This Summer

Submitted by: Liz Haynes



Come join us for an afternoon each week of fellowship and games. We'll have a variety of games, including card games, dominoes, and Mexican Train that can be enjoyed in a cool and friendly space. Game Day will begin on June 14th and will be held every Friday (with a couple of exceptions) through August 16th. The time will be 1:00 – 3:30. Please come join us and bring your friends – everyone is welcome.

GAME DAY

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

FRIDAYS, JUNE 14 - AUGUST 16
1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

MORE INFO
520-625-5023

June 2024

Laura Romero sent VPC thanks for the generous Easter gift of \$11,300. The Clinic is most grateful for our help in making miracles happen for the handicapped children being served.

On May 2, as usual on the first Thursday of the month, staff and volunteers started setting up the Clinic at about 8:00 a.m. Families cross the border and start arriving about 9:00 a.m. Professional volunteers began seeing the children at 10:00 a.m. All were busy: active children, concerned, helpful parents, staff, and volunteers.



A parent assist a child as he learns.



The staff & volunteers wait to take children to appointments.



A doctor speaks with mother and child.

Six collectible dolls from The Animal League were given to St. Andrew's Clinic. Laura found a perfect child recipient, a doll collector, who was thrilled to receive the 6 lovely dolls.



Casa Vida Nueva Para Niños, Children Home

Submitted by: Reed Olson, Mission Committee Liaison

RISE Scholastic Achievements - First College Graduate

In 2017, RISE Scholastic Achievements was created to help fund the cost of high school and college education for abused and abandoned children at Casa Vida Nueva para Niños in Nogales Sonora MX. At that time, none of the orphaned children were in high school; none had any aspirations of going to high school or college; and there was no money to pay for it. RISE developed an inspirational / motivational program that promoted the importance of higher education which encouraged all children to stay focused on what their future could look like with a good education. It was a struggle for these abused and neglected children to understand what RISE was offering. Since then, 7 students have graduated from high school, four went on to college, but sadly three dropped out. What happened to the remaining student?

Last Friday, May 17, Carolina Ramirez Renteria became the first student to graduate from college with a degree in nursing. Reed Olson, from VPC Mission Committee and a member of RISE, attended the graduation ceremony in Nogales, Sonora, MX: it was a wonderful event. Carolina overcame all odds from her orphaned beginnings and proved SHE COULD DO IT if just given the opportunity. Now she's become a role model for the other children who see her as proof that there is hope if one stays in school. Currently, there are two more students attending college as sophomores. RISE Scholastic Achievements wants to thank everyone at VPC who has supported these children through RISE with very generous donations. Carolina is proof that with your continued support, love, and God's encouragement, we are making a huge difference in the lives of these wonderful children. For more information on RISE visit: www.risesa.org

Please see the pictures of Carolina's Graduation on page 17



Class of 2024



Carolina Ramirez Renteria, accepting her diploma



Carolina Ramirez Renteria



End of ceremony celebration!

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

More Readers Needed!

Bob and Kristi Rice are our supported missionaries to South Sudan. Their communication tool to our congregation is through their blog- bobandkristi.blogspot.com- which they write twice per month. Only a portion of their inspiring story can be shared in the Valley Voice. Join VPC members who promise to pray and follow the blogs.

Submitted by: Doug Clark

Pastor Idris & the Wedding of His Daughter

When Pastor Idris Nyalos Kida invited Kristi and I to the wedding of his daughter, along with a special invitation to a family luncheon the week before the wedding, I was thrilled! Pastor Idris is the center of my third case study of my PhD research, so any chance to spend time with him is a wonderful opportunity.



We expected the family luncheon to be a simple affair at the home of Pastor Idris and his wife Mary. When we arrived at the petrol station near his home, Idris gathered us up into his vehicle and drove us to the event. When we approached the area of his home and I saw the tents outside, I knew that the event was much bigger than what we had anticipated, but it also felt very South Sudanese.

As we stepped down from Idris' Landcruiser, we were met by Pastor Zechariah who directed us to a protocol person who directed us to another protocol person who seated us near the front. As elder family members and dignitaries arrived, the women ululated and the joy was palpable; we ourselves were greeted with this same joyful response. A young man and a young woman emceed the outdoor event, which was punctuated by traditional dancing led by the family of the groom-to-be, who are of the Acholi tribe. I joined in the dancing, and it was clear that connecting with one's cultural roots during these occasions brings great pride and joy for the gathered families and community.

The formal occasion did not last long; we were all directed to various local homes where we would eat the special meal. Kristi and I joined a pastor couple and another pastor, all of whom serve the largest Pentecostal church in Juba and who would officiate the wedding the following week. We had a grand time connecting and enjoying the festivities together. Looking after our every need, Pastor Idris took us out from an inner room to an outdoor area where the air was cool and we could feel more comfortable.

At these types of events, one always feels extra special when the host spends time with you. Pastor Idris came and sat with the five of us; we enjoyed hearing stories from the other guests of the many and varied men and women whom Pastor Idris had led to Christ and disciplined over the course of three decades and more. One story highlighted a man who had come to faith through the ministry of Pastor Idris, but who had turned away from God and had turned back to alcohol after his wife died. While driving his motorcycle from Torit to Juba, this man heard an audible voice repeatedly saying to him, “If it was not for Idris, you would not be here,” meaning, if not for Idris’ influence in your life, you would not be alive. The man, his name Martin Elijah, was shaken to the core. He immediately turned his life back to God. Today, he plants and leads churches among the Lotuko people of Eastern Equatoria State in South Sudan.

Many other fascinating stories were told that evening as we sat outside of the home of Idris and enjoyed the joy of the occasion. I did not realize it during the event, but the groom-to-be and bride-to-be were not present. The following week we would see them in all of their matrimonial glory. On that day at Juba Christian Center (JCC), while others were going forward to offer well-wishes to the bride and groom, I seized the opportunity to go forward, bend down, place my left arm over my right arm (a gesture of respect), and offer my hand in congratulations to Pastor Idris Nyalos Kida on this great occasion, the wedding of his daughter, Hannah Idris Nyalos.



Bride and Groom and their families ~
Pastor Idris in front row, left, tall, wearing beige suit

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.



Nogales Crossroads Mission

By: Alejandra Martinez, Director of Crossroads Mission

Close to Victory!

Help Us Reach Our Food Van Goal

We're thrilled to announce that we have raised \$3,660 so far!

We're incredibly close to our goal, with just \$1,340 more needed to save our good van. Your donation will directly maintain the van and ensure meals for those in need.

Please help us spread the word to make an even greater impact.

When making a donation, kindly note that the contribution is for the food van. Your donation today will help us continue feeding the hungry in our community.

Together, we can save the food van and make a lasting difference in the lives of those who rely on us. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Donate Today and Make a Difference!

GOAL \$5,000



\$4,000
\$3,000
\$2,000
\$1,000

To contribute, you can scan the QR code, send a check, or donate online.

SCAN ME



LIVES YOU TOUCH THIS MONTH

-  Safe shelter for **over 800** individuals each night
-  **More than 3,000** meals served for hungry men, women and children
-  **Over 900** families received food baskets
-  **Referrals** to other agencies

Items can be turned in at the Crossroads table on the second Sunday of the month or dropped off at the Missions collection table in the corner by the Custodian Office.

visit Crossroads website at
crossroadmissionnogales.org



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



Submitted by: *Kylene Joplin, Mission Committee Liaison*

To date the folks at Valley Presbyterian Church have contributed \$2,533.45 to the Green Valley and Amado food banks plus 191 pounds of food. Thank You!

Everywhere we look we are reminded of the poverty experienced locally. It seems stranger when we all have affluence around us, BUT it's there and it is here in Green Valley and the surrounding areas.

Packaged fruits and vegetables, soups, healthy proteins like canned meats, beans, rice, pasta and sauces are needed.

Every \$10 will provide four meals.

Your contributions are genuinely appreciated!



Artwork by Isaiah, age 6

"Me growing some vegetables and I give them to people."



June Birthdays

First Name Last Name Birthday

<i>Bernie</i>	<i>Nicholson</i>	<i>June 03</i>
<i>Peggy</i>	<i>Preston</i>	<i>June 03 Over 90</i>
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Puttock</i>	<i>June 03</i>
<i>Chuck</i>	<i>Ramsay</i>	<i>June 03</i>
<i>Diane</i>	<i>Garnett</i>	<i>June 04 Turning 90</i>
<i>Annie</i>	<i>Stitt</i>	<i>June 04</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>Bentley</i>	<i>June 06</i>
<i>Lee Ann</i>	<i>Calhoun</i>	<i>June 06</i>
<i>Beverly</i>	<i>Carey</i>	<i>June 06 Over 90</i>
<i>Kara</i>	<i>Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>June 06</i>
<i>Dick</i>	<i>Hill</i>	<i>June 06</i>
<i>Donna</i>	<i>Reimer</i>	<i>June 06 Over 90</i>
<i>Linda</i>	<i>Raybern</i>	<i>June 07</i>
<i>Steve</i>	<i>Setterlund</i>	<i>June 08</i>
<i>Karen</i>	<i>Pitts</i>	<i>June 09</i>

June Birthdays

First Name Last Name Birthday

<i>Patricia</i>	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>June 10</i>
<i>Edwin</i>	<i>Kroon</i>	<i>June 11 Over 90</i>
<i>Eileen</i>	<i>Vella</i>	<i>June 12</i>
<i>Jim</i>	<i>Brownlee</i>	<i>June 13 Over 90</i>
<i>Karen</i>	<i>Holthofer</i>	<i>June 13</i>
<i>Joe</i>	<i>Hawkins</i>	<i>June 14</i>
<i>Leona</i>	<i>Aardema</i>	<i>June 15</i>
<i>Sara</i>	<i>Pedersen</i>	<i>June 16</i>
<i>Gee-Gee</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>June 17</i>
<i>Steve</i>	<i>Ball</i>	<i>June 18</i>
<i>Gretchen</i>	<i>Pyburn</i>	<i>June 18</i>
<i>Yvonne</i>	<i>Frash</i>	<i>June 19 Over 90</i>
<i>Bob</i>	<i>Kern</i>	<i>June 19</i>
<i>Bob</i>	<i>ZaueI</i>	<i>June 19</i>
<i>Jeanne</i>	<i>Cochran</i>	<i>June 20</i>

June Birthdays

First Name Last Name Birthday

<i>Judy</i>	<i>Richards</i>	<i>June 21</i>
<i>Ed</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>June 21 Turning 90</i>
<i>Chriss</i>	<i>Bell</i>	<i>June 22</i>
<i>Elsie</i>	<i>Ophorst</i>	<i>June 22</i>
<i>Dave</i>	<i>Stepp</i>	<i>June 22</i>
<i>Richard</i>	<i>Luce</i>	<i>June 23 Over 90</i>
<i>Peggy</i>	<i>Babcock</i>	<i>June 24</i>
<i>Lana</i>	<i>Adrian</i>	<i>June 25</i>
<i>Jim</i>	<i>Rusk</i>	<i>June 27</i>
<i>Dick</i>	<i>Barney</i>	<i>June 28</i>
<i>Tommy</i>	<i>Calhoun</i>	<i>June 29</i>
<i>George</i>	<i>Gibson</i>	<i>June 29 Turning 90</i>
<i>Bernie</i>	<i>Tameling</i>	<i>June 29</i>

Valley Presbyterian Church June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00am Communion Prep
2 Food Bank Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Memorial for Cikanek	3 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 9:30am Mission Quilters 10:00am Fellowship Committee 1:00pm Bible Reflections	4 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:00am Women's Cord. Team 9:30am Prayer Ministry 1:30pm Buildings and Grounds	5 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise	6 1:30pm Movie Ministry	7 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise	8
9 Nogales Crossroads Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	10 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections 2:00pm Gifts and Memorial	11 8:45am Mission Committee 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Faith Formation 9:30am Prayer Ministry 1:00pm Patio Sale Coordinating Team Meeting	12 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:00pm Session Meeting	13 8:00am Patio Sale Sort 9:00am Valley Galley Lunch Prep 10:00am Personnel Committee Meeting	14 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 9:00am Stephen Ministry 9:00am Valley Galley Lunch Prep 1:00pm Game Day	15
16 Father's Day YOTO Sunday 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	17 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections	18 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	19 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercise 10:00am Chair Exercise 12:30pm Worship Committee 1:30pm Presby Nom Meeting	20	21 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Game Day	22
23 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School	24 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Bible Reflections 2:00pm Valey Readers	25 9:00am Cardio Drumming 9:30am Prayer Ministry	26 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 10:00am Chair Exercise	27	28 9:00am Parkinson's Chair Exercises 1:00pm Game Day	29 2:00pm Wedding
30 Noisy Offering- Hands of a Friend 9:30am Worship Service 9:45am Children's Sunday School						