
The Messenger

Valley Community Presbyterian Church August 2016

Sundays at Valley

Adult Education Class, 9:00 a.m.
Early Coffee in Library, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Nursery, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

August

7 Communion

**Congregational Meeting,
10:00 a.m. worship**

**14 Session Meeting with New
Members, 11:15 a.m.**

**21 Dining for Women Meeting,
11:30 a.m.**

28

September

4 Communion



Pastor Nominating Committee Holds Orientation Meeting

By Shannon Pratt

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) held an orientation meeting July 19, 2016. Present were PNC members David Jimerson, Amy Dee, Shannon Pratt, Cathy Bernhard and Wendy Jenkins. Also present were Lisa Snodderly and Alita Jernigan representing the Church Leadership Commission of the Presbytery. Absent were Jim Sandberg and Birgitta Carlson.

David Jimerson agreed to be committee chair and I agreed to write short articles for the newsletter to keep the congregation informed of the PNC progress. The PNC's first task is to complete a Mission Information Form (MIF), which describes things like the church mission, church size, ethnic makeup and qualities sought in a pastor.

The MIF needs to be approved by the Valley session and the Presbytery. Then it goes out and is the primary means of soliciting candidates. Members of the PNC welcome input to the MIF from members of the congregation, and also suggestions for the pastoral candidates.

New Valley Christian Preschool Director



Anne Scarce

Valley Christian Preschool welcomes new Preschool Director, Anne Scarce. Anne was on VCP's staff in the past as a Preschool Teacher and as Interim Director and is enthusiastically returning to join the wonderful VCP team.

Anne and her husband David have two children, Sophia, a sophomore in college, and a son, Ty, who is a sophomore in high school. The Scarce family has a dog named Louie and two cats, Zoey and Jazz, as well as a frog named Smoothie. Anne shares, "We are passionate about nature

and animals in our family; we love birds, bugs, frogs and even snakes!"

Anne graduated from Willamette University and worked in marketing and advertising for 15 years. For the last seven years, Anne has held the positions of Co-Director and Administrator for the Portland Upward Christian Basketball League and brings much experience working with families and building strong children's programs.

"Valley Christian Preschool has continuously been one of the premiere preschool options in Portland, and I am proud to be a part of the program. The preschool years are pivotal for children and it is an honor and a priority to ensure these years are affirming and fun-filled for children and their families. Many of my family's life-long friendships began with the families we met in preschool." -Anne

It's Summer, and Things are Changing!

As one person recently observed, "The Holy Spirit is messing with our church!" So true, and here's how:

- Our "Building in Christ" plan is changing our building and we will see more changes in the coming weeks. Siding is being replaced on the south and east sides and soon we will see a dramatic facelift on our entryway. More improvements will follow!
- We have had an outstanding summer program for children and youth. Our young people have been growing in spirit and service: mission trips, family fun nights, triennium journey, arts exploration camp, music and drama camp, Camp Mission. Whew! What a busy summer for our children and youth and our adult leaders!
- Our preschool program joyfully welcomes Anne Scarce as the new director. Anne is taking the reins from Kristina Kurtz who has led so capably for four years. We will have some new teachers in place by fall as we continue to serve our preschool families and neighborhood.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee is now meeting and will keep us posted as we conduct a global search for new pastoral leadership. (See article on p. 1.)
- The Youth House Revivify project has produced some dramatic changes in the interior of the Youth House and more changes are in the works.
- We had a major landscaping facelift that has enhanced our beautiful surroundings, freshened our community image, and provided a ship-shape environment for our festive church picnic!

All of this while we continue to provide ongoing service in our community and join each Sunday for meaningful, spiritually nourishing worship accented by spectacular music. We are truly blessed by the Spirit!

One more thing: when new things are happening, even good changes can be unsettling. Whether the change is integrating church into your family lifestyle, or whether the change is embracing new initiatives. What gives us strength and enthusiasm to navigate the new is *being rooted in God's unchanging love*. And we are.

In God's Grace,

Ben Paroulek

THE MESSENGER

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

8060 SW BRENTWOOD ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355
503.292.3537

FAX 503.292.4272

www.valleycommunity.org

Email: mail@valleycommunity.org

PASTOR

BEN PAROULEK

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY
AUGUST 15 FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
messenger@valleycommunity.org

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF RETAINS
PERMISSION TO MODIFY SUBMISSIONS
FOR CLARITY, SPACE, CONTENT AND
STYLE.

Session Highlights

July 12, 2016

- Finance Statement through June 2016 was distributed and reviewed.
- Steve Bird will present a brief update on the building projects during worship.
- Reports on July activities for every age group indicated a very busy time in July.
- More than 80 attended the intergenerational Hops game, and strawberry shortcake was served to about 40 in the rain.
- **Motion Passed: A congregational meeting was called for Sunday, August 7, to elect a new elder and install officers who were not present at the previous installation.**
- The next Session meeting with potential new church members is **Sunday, August 14 following Worship.**
- **Deacons Report:** Janet Adkins was elected as Moderator for 2016-17; Deacons reported that several church members were served Communion in their homes.

Session Special Meeting

July 10, 2016

A special session meeting to receive new members was held on Sunday, July 10, 2016.

- **Motion:** It was approved to receive Estella Massingill as an active member of Valley Community Presbyterian Church via letter of transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem, Oregon.

Church Picnic Fun for All

We continued our “Journey with Paul” during our All Church Picnic on the front lawn of the church following worship on July 17. The partly cloudy, not-too-hot weather was perfect for the 120 congregants who stayed to enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship. There was plenty of chicken, salads, picnic sides and desserts. Games were played by the young and the young at heart. Sharon Bird planned and ran the games with Steve Bird encouraging participation. We also enjoyed the new and colorful canopies that brightened the scene. Thanks to Ed Sanders for arranging for the new canopies that will be available for many years to come. Thanks also to the Scouts for their great work setting up and taking down the tables, chairs and canopies. The picnic is just one of the annual fellowship events that we enjoy each year.



The weather was perfect at the annual All Church Picnic.



One of the traditional games is trying to eat a donut on a string without using your hands.



Valley's annual All Church Picnic was well attended and enjoyed by all!



Thank you for sending your check for **\$30.00**
for the **2016 Per Capita (for wider church expenses)** for each Valley member.
For more information about what per capita is, and how it helps, go to:
oga.pcusa.org/percapita



Valley Group Attends Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Theme: Urge Youth to 'Go!'

Valley's group of 10 youth, along with advisers, joined about 65 from Cascades Presbytery and more than 5,000 youth in Purdue, Indiana for a week-long exploration of the theme, 'GO!' They attended the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) that occurs every three years.

This five day event is focused on equipping young people to be transformational Christian leaders and seeks to join the home churches of the attendees to help call young people into deeper discipleship in Jesus Christ. The Youth Triennium is a high energy, biblically infused and focused, youth friendly conference.

On their return Valley's attendees participated in Valley's Youth Sunday and shared some of their Triennium experiences:

Message from Birgitta Carlson at Youth Mission Sunday

The theme of our mission trip was "Unfeared" and the Triennium theme was GO! I struggled to find a connection between these two themes and figure out how to apply them in my life after these experiences.

When I started to reflect on what I learned at Triennium and on our mission trip it became shockingly apparent. How can we go and make disciples of all nations if we are controlled by fear? I realized that in order to go and fulfill God's message, we need to overcome our fear of judgment for our faith.

As we shared our faith with others in safe environments on the mission trip and at Triennium, I realized the only way to overcome that fear is to remember that we are children of God, and God will protect us and keep us safe. So my plan for after these trips is to go, be unfeared because God is in my heart, and share my faith with those around me.



Adult Education

During August, the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Adult Education classes continue to meet in Armitage Hall to view and discuss the Great Courses videos on Great People of the New Testament. All are welcome to join.

The classes are half-hour video lectures and give many helpful and interesting insights into New Testament people.

August 7 and 14 - Paul

August 21 – Jesus of Nazareth

August 28 – The Christ of Faith

September Adult Schedule—9:00 a.m. Sundays

September 4 – No class

September 11 – “Advanced Directives, Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.” Guest speaker Valerie M. Jimenez is Executive Director of the Oregon POLST Program.

September 18 and 25 – “Beyond our Differences” DVD: Multi ethnic discussion of our interdependence and common needs despite diversity of religious tradition.

Gamble Library News



Have you visited the church library recently? In addition to all the excellent materials, children’s stories, Bible study helps, and fun reading, the DVD collection has had several new titles added. Why not examine the collection and find something of interest to you or to use as a program for one of your groups.

Book Group

The Book Group will meet for its monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 26, in the Fireside Room. The book for discussion, *A Man Called Ove*, is by Fredrik Backman. This is a “feel good” story about an angry old man whose life changes when a young couple with two young children move in next door. Everyone is welcome to Book Group, especially newcomers. Just bring your own coffee.

Valley Mission Endowment Fund Awards Spring Grants

Mission Endowment funds totaling \$10,500 were awarded to nine recipient groups. Those groups will serve the needs of people in our local area as well as Europe, Africa and Latin America in the fields of health, education, housing and mission. In the last 18 years, the Mission Endowment fund has awarded over \$370,000 in grants.

- **Nerds Abroad Inc.** – funds to develop a program to provide free technical assistance to low-income community members using in-house software and student volunteers.
- **Corvallis Sister Cities Association** – funds for the purchase of appliances for a supported-living housing unit serving disabled adults in Uzhgorod, Ukraine.
- **United National Foundation Nothing but Nets** – financial support to provide chemically-treated mosquito bed nets as part of the Million Nets Pledge.
- **Open Arms International** – funds for the purchase of pharmaceutical supplies and medicine for a mobile medical camp servicing Somalian refugees in Eldoret, Kenya.
- **Seeds of Learning** – scholarship funds for students in Nicaragua who come from rural villages to attend universities and give back to their communities upon graduation.
- **Impact NW** – funds for the operation of Richmond Place, a transitional house facility in SE Portland with on-site case management and skill-building services for low-income families.
- **YWCA of Greater Portland** – funds for the Yolanda Project providing support services for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, referred from six Portland shelters.
- **Ignite the World** – funds to purchase 28 solar-powered audio bibles to reach non-reading people in remote regions of NE India.
- **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** – training funds for a university student in founding and growing a ministry serving international college students in Berlin, Germany.



'Dining for Women' Learns About India

Travel to India this month at the Dining for Women at Valley meeting on Sunday, August 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Learn about the Ashraya Initiative for Children (AIC). This nonprofit is dedicated to improving the lives and shaping the futures of vulnerable children in Pune, India by advancing educational opportunities, nurturing holistic development, and building healthy, empowered communities.

Trailblazing Girls Project aims to help girls from Denotified Tribe communities in India (*National Geographic* recently referred to the DNT as "the biggest human rights crisis you've never heard of.") pave the way toward brighter futures through academic support, extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities, professional skills development and increasingly supportive home and community environments.

Join us on August 21 for potluck lunch, an interesting program and the opportunity to let your dining out dollars help change the world one meal at a time.

Choir Season Begins in September

The Sanctuary Choir Season at Valley is about to begin. We start with rehearsals from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. on September 8. The usual Sunday morning call is 9:15 a.m. to prepare for Worship at 10:00 a.m. We are always ready to welcome new singers in each section.

Our major work for the year will be *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré. We will be using the John Rutter orchestration which research proves is very close to the composer's original intention. In addition to the Fauré, we are planning to offer the *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saëns in worship during Advent.

Remember: If you plan to sing in the "Heavenly Choir," choir practice is at Valley Community Presbyterian Church on Thursday evenings!

David Jimerson, Minister of Music



Valley Scrapbook

Right: High School youth are commissioned during worship before heading to Triennium.



Friends and family of Valley attended a recent Hillsboro Hops Game and even caught the game winning ball!

Valley's Summer Camps

Right: Campers and youth helpers tell about their fun-filled week of helping others during Camp Mission.



Children learned about drama, music, and art during the Arts Exploration Camp.



Above and right: Summer Family Fun Nights (formerly VBS) included water activities, crafts, outdoor games, and other fun ways to celebrate the Lord and all his creations.



Valley Notes

Opportunities

Refugee needs: This summer Valley will collect new and gift-quality used item by August 16 for newly arriving refugees through SOAR, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, and affiliate of the Church World Service, in partnership with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. See the July issue of The Messenger for more details.

Produce Table: As summer unfolds, so do gardens within the Valley community. Visit the Produce Table each Sunday during coffee fellowship to see what green, fresh, crunchy and tasty treats have been pulled from the earth and have been brought to the church for your enjoyment. The box on the table is for your generous donations, all of which go to the Oregon Food Bank at the end of the growing season. Please donate abundantly!

Prayers

We pray for those with health concerns or those who are in need of prayer:

Sophia Bird, Asher (infant grandson of the Rinellas)

We pray for those who mourn:

Family and friends of Ann Hall who died June 4, 2016.

Family and friends of Helen Humphrey who died June 25, 2016.

Family and friends of Dorothy Benson who died July 7, 2016.

Bruce Armstrong and family on the death of his wife, Jean Armstrong, on July 21, 2016.



Presbyterian Women to Gather in Bay Area

The Synodwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women (PW) will be held September 23-25 at the Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA, with the theme, "Out of the darkness...Into the light" (John 1:5). This gathering overlaps with the PW USA Mission Experience (which will be studying issues in the Bay area), and the Saturday program will be shared with the USAME team members and PW Staff. Come to the Gathering and:

- Learn about human trafficking, domestic violence and immigration issues
- Meet and share Bible study "Who is Jesus?," the Horizons Bible study for 2016-17, with Rev. Yung Me Morris, the pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Benicia
- Be in fellowship with our PW sisters from throughout the Synod

The registration form and more information are available at the Cascades PW website: www.cascadespw.org. For more information, contact Connie Brenner 503.690.8933, connstev1@frontier.com.

Valley Christian Preschool on Summer Break in August

Our teachers are soaking up the summer sun and enjoying some well-deserved R & R. Our classrooms will be cleaned this month in preparation for our return. We are anticipating new faces, new friendships, new stories and lots of Learning, Growing and Sharing in God's Love. Please pray for us as we transition to the start of another wonderful school year.

This summer's VCP Play Dates at Raleigh Park have provided great opportunities to reunite with friends and meet new ones. There's one more Summer Play Date 10:00 a.m.-noon Thursday, August 25.

Mandatory Parent Orientation is set for Tuesday, August 30, 7:00-8:00 p.m. This adult-only night showcases our staff and programs, and allows parents to meet one another class-by-class.

Looking forward... Classes begin September 6, 2016. There are still a few openings available. Please contact Anne at 503.292.3537 x 146 or anne@valleycommunity.org. And have a Happy Summer!



VALLEY CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL

Valley Christian Preschool welcomes children ages 2 - 5 years. There's still room for your child to join us for Fall 2016! Contact Anne Scarce at (503) 292-3537 or at anne@valleycommunity.org for more information. At VCP, we Learn, Grow and Share in God's Love. Join us!

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 8:00a Women's Aerobics	2 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting	3 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics	4 10:00a Alanon	5 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics	6
7 9:00a Adult Education Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Congregational Meeting 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	8 8:00a Women's Aerobics 7:00p Girl Scout Troop	9 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Session	10 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics	11 10:00a Alanon 5:30p Worship and Music Committee	12 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics	13
14 9:00a Adult Education Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:15a Session Meeting with New Members	15 "The Messenger" Newsletter Articles Due 8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00a Meals on Wheels 7:00p Girl Scout Troop	16 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting 7:00p Deacons Meeting	17 Church Office Closed 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics 9:00a Staff Retreat 7:00p Emergency Response Meeting	18 8:00a Soup Kitchen 10:00a Alanon 2:00p West Slope Library Reading Program	19 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics	20
21 9:00a Adult Education 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship 11:30a Dining for Women Meeting	22 8:00a Women's Aerobics 7:00p Girl Scout Troop	23 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting	24 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics	25 10:00a Alanon	26 Church Office Closed 8:00a Women's Aerobics 10:00a Gamble Library Book Group	27
28 9:00a Adult Education Class 9:30a Early Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee Fellowship	29 8:00a Women's Aerobics 7:00p Girl Scout Troop	30 10:00a Tai Chi Class 11:00a Staff Meeting	31 8:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Women's Aerobics	August 2016		

THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
8060 SW BRENTWOOD ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



FALL KICKOFF

**Looking for some new opportunities
to enhance your faith?**

**Join us after 10:00 a.m. worship on
September 11.**

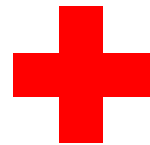


- Sign up:**
- **Information**
 - **Volunteer**
 - **Classes**
 - **Activities**



All are welcome!

**Deacon's Red Cross
Blood Drive
September 8**



**Up to three people
may be helped with
each pint of blood
collected.**



**Please help if you can.
Contact the church office for
more information.**